

**BELMONT SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES
BELMONT HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM
MAY 9, 2017**

Present: Dr. Lisa Fiore, Chair
 Ms. Susan Burgess-Cox, Secretary
 Mr. Thomas Caputo
 Mr. Murat Bicer
 Ms. Kate Bowen
 Ms. Andrea Prestwich
 Mr. John Phelan, Superintendent
 Ms. Janice Darias, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction
 Mr. Anthony DiCologero

1. **OPENING BUSINESS**

1.1 Call to order

Dr. Fiore called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

1.2 Pledge of Allegiance

Dr. Fiore led the Pledge of Allegiance.

1.3 Citizens' Concerns

There were no citizens' concerns.

1.4 Adjustments to the Agenda

1.5 Chair's Report

Dr. Fiore updated the School Committee on the following events:

- Chamber Music Concert – May 19 – Chenery Middle School
- Author Festival – May 11 – Chenery Middle School
- Belmont High School POPS Concert 1.0 – May 12 and 2.0 – May 13
- Chenery Middle School Musical – May 18, 19, 20
- Rally for Public Education – May 20 – Boston Common

1.6 Student Representative Report

There was no student representative in attendance.

1.7 Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Phelan reported on the recent two-day visioning workshops. Over forty students, teachers and community members discussed their views on teaching and learning in a new high school building. Education Facilitator Frank Locker was the presenter for both days and also met with the School Committee, Board of Selectmen and Belmont High School Building Committee on the evening of Thursday, May 4, 2017. Superintendent Phelan expressed how helpful it is to receive input from different groups of people.

The Belmont High School Building Committee has hired an Owner Project Manager and is now preparing to hire a Design Architect.

Assistant Superintendent Darias announced the formation of a Committee to conduct a feasibility study for the Community Education Program. Belmont resident Marsha Semuels offered her services to look into what people want from a Community Education Program and how to improve it.

2. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

3. MAJOR BUSINESS

3.1 Trip Proposals

China Trip Proposal – Exhibit A-1 (vote)

Peru Trip Proposal – Exhibit A-2 (vote)

Disney World Trip Proposal – Exhibit A-3 (informational)

Dr. Fiore reminded the School Committee they had received copies of the China Trip and Peru trip at the last School Committee meeting. The Committee was shown a proposal for a trip to Walt Disney World. It was a domestic trip so there was no need for the Committee to vote on it.

On a motion offered by Mr. Bicer and seconded by Mr. Caputo, it was

VOTED unanimously to approve the 2018 China Trip – Exhibit A-1

On a motion offered by Ms. Bowen and seconded by Mr. Bicer, it was

VOTED unanimously to approve the 2018 Peru Trip – Exhibit A-2.

3.2 Vote on George E. Carey Dedication – Exhibit B

A dedication to former Burbank Principal George E. Carey was proposed from community members who experienced education under his leadership. Dr. Fiore shared a photo of a sample plaque design stating that it would be hung by the front office at the Burbank School.

On a motion offered by Ms. Prestwich and seconded by Ms. Bowen, it was

VOTED unanimously to approve the George E. Carey Memorial Plaque to be placed at the Burbank School.

3.3 Space Task Force Update – Exhibit C

Superintendent Phelan provided an update on the recent study done by architectural firm, SMMA on placement of modular units at the Butler and Burbank Schools. A space task force was formed a few years ago with members who met initially to study space issues at the middle school and high school. Shortly after Belmont was accepted into the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) high school building program, SMMA to study where to place modular units to alleviate space constraints at the elementary level.

Superintendent Phelan presented diagrams indicating different locations for the modular units at each school. The diagrams showed options for placement and Superintendent Phelan explained the pros and cons of each site as well as the potential changes in configuration of classrooms within each school. Principal Danielle Betancourt preferred Option 2 for the Butler School.

At the Burbank School, one concern has been for the safety of walkers. The design and placement of modular units at the Burbank will take that into consideration. The Superintendent explained the different options. IT was noted that Principal Tricia Clifford preferred Option 1 for the Burbank School as it will allow for more parking in the front of the school and add more space for buses or cars.

Members of the community were present in the audience and Dr. Fiore invited them to come to the microphone to ask any questions or express any concerns regarding the placement of the modular units. Several parents expressed concerns about the possibility of losing any playground space at Butler and green space in the front of the Burbank School. Superintendent Phelan noted how helpful it is to meet in a forum because it allows him and others making the decision to address such concerns in advance. The presentation he shared showing the architectural drawings of modular placement at both schools will be available on the school department website.

4. SUBCOMMITTEE/LIAISON UPDATES (as needed)

4.1 Finance Subcommittee

The Finance Subcommittee met this morning and continued with the FY18 budget planning. They also discussed the Special Education Reserve Fund and the process of determining level funding from circuit breaker to transfer in the future.

4.2 Policy and Procedure Subcommittee

The Policy and Procedure Subcommittee met this morning to discuss changes to the calendar policy and will update the School Committee at the June 6th meeting.

4.3 Curriculum and Instruction Subcommittee

There was no report from the Curriculum and Instruction Subcommittee.

4.4 Capital Budget Committee

The Capital Budget Committee met today and approved the Capital Budget for the June Town Meeting.

4.5 Warrant Committee

The Warrant Committee will meet on Wednesday to review articles for Town Meeting.

4.6 Belmont High School Building Committee

There was no report from the Belmont High School Building Committee.

4.7 Community Path Committee

The Community Path Committee met on April 26th with architects who presented three final options for the path. Each one shows the path running along the railroad tracks and crossing school property. Ms. Prestwich, the School Committee liaison to the Community Path Committee, suggested the School Committee keep in close contact with the plans due to the building of the new high school.

4.8 Library Long Range Planning Committee

There was no report from the Library Long Range Planning Committee.

5. **OTHER BUSINESS**

5.1 Consent Agenda - none

5.2 Personnel Items - none

5.3 Business Items – None

5.4 Approval of Minutes

April 25, 2017

On a motion offered by Mr. Bicer and seconded by Ms. Bowen, it was

VOTED unanimously to approve the minutes of April 25, 2017 as amended.

6. **FUTURE BUSINESS**

Upcoming Meetings:

May 23, 2017

Finance Subcommittee Meeting

SAB Conference Room – 7:30 a.m.

May 23, 2017
Student Service Award Ceremony
CMS Cafeteria – 6:15 p.m.

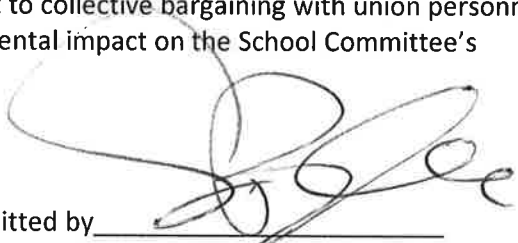
School Committee Meeting
CMS Large Community Room – 7:00 p.m.

7. **ENCLOSURES**

Strategic Plan
Community Education Proposal

8. **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

At 8:45 p.m. on a motion offered by Mr. Caputo and seconded by Ms. Prestwich, a roll call vote was taken and the School Committee agreed to enter Executive Session with no intent to return to Open Session for the purpose of discussing strategy with respect to collective bargaining with union personnel given that a discussion in Open Session may have a detrimental impact on the School Committee's bargaining position.

Respectfully submitted by 
Susan Burgess-Cox, Secretary