

**BELMONT SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES
CHENERY MIDDLE SCHOOL COMMUNITY ROOM
DECEMBER 13, 2016**

Present:

Dr. Lisa Fiore, Chair
Ms. Susan Burgess-Cox, Secretary
Mr. Murat Bicer
Mr. Thomas Caputo
Ms. Andrea Prestwich
Ms. Elyse Shuster
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

A parent addressed the School Committee to express his concerns regarding the School Committee discussions on starting school before Labor Day.

1.4 Adjustments to the Agenda

There were no adjustments to the agenda.

Proclamation: Superintendent Phelan read a resolution in honor of Irene Sieberg, Secretary of the Wellington Elementary School. Irene is retiring December 16th after 27 years of service.

1.5 Chair's Report

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

Chenery Book Fair being held through December 19
BHS Winter Concert 1.0 – December 14, 2016

BHS Winter Concert 2.0 – December 21

PAC Coffeehouse – December 14, 2016

Dr. Fiore also reminded everyone of the Subaru Share the Love Program which the Foundation for Belmont Education is taking part in for the third year. If community members purchase a car from Cityside Subaru a donation will be made to the FBE.

1.6 Student Representative Report

There was no student representative in attendance.

1.7 Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Phelan announced the elementary schools will be having upcoming book fairs. His newsletter is available on the website with information outlining events going on in the district. Superintendent Phelan is looking forward to speaking at the Butler PTA tomorrow morning.

2. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

There was no unfinished business.

3. **MAJOR BUSINESS**

3.1 ELL Program Presentation – Exhibit A

Lindsey Rinder, Director of English Language Arts and the English Learner Program (EL Program) provided an overview of the EL program this year. Ms. Rinder noted the increase in the number of EL students even since the beginning of the school year. The focus this year has been strengthening the community of EL students which is 10 percent of the elementary population. There have been several events to allow the students to come together as a community. Ms. Rinder has begun using twitter to reach out to EL students and families. There are about 30 families who receive updates in four different languages.

The program hopes to provide intensive support to students early so they can exit the program in two to three years. Some of the challenges faced are larger group sizes; long-term ELLs; special needs and increasing translation needs. Achievement data showed that increased hours of service resulted in the average student growth to be in the 95th percentile on ACCESS.

Superintendent Phelan thanked Ms. Rinder for her work with the EL Program.

3.2 FY18 Budget Update – Exhibit B

Mr. DiCologero explained the budget process for FY18. During the first week in November the budget worksheet, including building and historical information, is provided to the Leadership Council and the staffing report is sent to Principals. During the third week in November, the Leadership Council submits their budget requests for the next school year using a zero-based budgeting method. The last two weeks in November and first two weeks in December, Central Office administrators meet with each member of the Leadership Council to review their budget requests. During the second week in December through the second week in January, the Central Office approves the Leadership Council

budget requests. The first draft of the budget is reviewed by the Town Administrator and Finance Subcommittee in January and presented to School Committee, Warrant Committee, and Board of Selectmen during the second week in February.

3.3 2017-18 School Calendar (draft 2) – Exhibit C

Ms. Darias presented another version of the 2017-18 school calendar showing options for starting school before Labor Day. The School Committee discussed the pros and cons of starting before or after Labor Day and concluded they would each consider it further and vote on the matter at the January 10, 2017 meeting.

3.4 Policy Update - 2nd read and vote – Exhibit D

Ms. Burgess-Cox explained there was discussion at the last School Committee meeting regarding the inclusion of a reference to the Bullying and Hazing Policy (0006) in the Equal Opportunity and Non-Discrimination policy (0001). The Committee decided not to include the reference since the Equal Opportunity and Non-Discrimination Policy is all inclusive and covers issues and policies beyond Bullying and Hazing. The Committee then had a brief discussion on the amendments presented on November 29, 2016 related to opioid use, transgender rights, meal charging policies and domestic violence.

On a motion offered by Ms. Burgess-Cox and seconded by Mr. Caputo, it was

VOTED unanimously to approve the policy changes presented on November 29, 2016.

4. SUBCOMMITTEE/LIAISON UPDATES (as needed)

4.1 Finance Subcommittee

The Finance Subcommittee discussed how to best handle the fact that the State will no longer provide the full day kindergarten grant. They also discussed the current fiscal year and determined as of now they budget looks good.

4.2 Policy & Procedure Subcommittee

There was no report from the Policy and Procedure Subcommittee.

4.3 Curriculum & Instruction Subcommittee

The Curriculum & Instruction Subcommittee will meet on January 9th to review the High School Program of Studies and a change to the Elementary Music Program.

4.4 Capital Budget Committee

The Capital Budget Committee will meet on January 26th

4.5 Warrant Committee

There was no report from the Warrant Committee.

4.6 Belmont High School Building Committee

The Belmont High School Building Committee (BHS-BC) has begun work to secure a Project Manager in line with MSBA protocol. The BHS-BC has put a subcommittee in charge of this process.

4.7 Space Task Force

The Space Task Force will meet the second week of January.

4.8 Community Path Update

Ms. Burgess-Cox suggested the School Committee be aware of the options being studied for the community path since several proposed paths include a tunnel running near the high school. The Committee discussed inviting members of the Community Path group to a future School Committee meeting to provide an update.

4.9 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

❖ November 29, 2016

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

VOTED unanimously to approve the minutes of November 29, 2016

6. **FUTURE BUSINESS**

None

7. **ENCLOSURES**

Superintendent's Goals – Draft 2

Resolution for Irene Sieberg
Strategic Plan
December 1, 2016 Enrollment
December 1, 2016 Enrollment indicating changes

8. **ADJOURNMENT/EXECUTIVE SESSION**

At 8:56 p.m. upon a motion by Lisa Fiore, on a roll call vote, it was

VOTED unanimously to adjourn into Executive Session with no intent to reconvene for the purpose of conducting strategy with respect to contract negotiations with personnel given that a discussion in Open Session may have a detrimental impact on the School Committee's bargaining position.

Respectfully submitted by _____



Ms. Susan Burgess-Cox, Secretary