

**BELMONT SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES
CHENERY MIDDLE SCHOOL COMMUNITY ROOM
NOVEMBER 15, 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

There were no citizens' concerns.

1.4 Adjustments to the Agenda

There were no adjustments to the agenda.

1.5 Chair's Report

Dr. Fiore stated the School Committee held their last meeting in Boston with METCO parents. She noted that over 40 parents attended the meeting and thanked everyone for attending. She also noted that it is the 50th anniversary of the METCO program.

Dr. Fiore updated the School Committee on the recent book sale at the Belmont Public Library. Each year the library staff invites Belmont teachers to choose books for their classrooms prior to the start of the sale. Teachers chose over 1400 books which will be added to the collections at the various schools.

1.6 Student Representative Report

There was no student representative in attendance.

1.7 Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Phelan announced that the MSBA signed the feasibility study agreement with the Town of Belmont which moves the high school building project into modular 2. The MSBA will provide some professional development on hiring an architect. Sometime during the winter, the community will be asked for input on the project.

The modulars at the Chenery Middle School are almost ready to be utilized by students and staff. A meeting will take place on Monday to discuss getting the remaining infrastructure in place.

Superintendent Phelan and other administrators had a wonderful time at the Veteran's Day Exercises. He thanked all of the staff involved in making it such a special day each year.

2. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

3. MAJOR BUSINESS

3.1 FY17 1st Quarter Budget Update – Exhibit A

Mr. DiCologero updated the School Committee on the FY16 budget which had a positive year-end balance. The School Department had about \$2,200 left over which was returned to the Town. The schools were under budget in salaries and over budget in non-salary items. Additional money was received from state circuit breaker funds which allowed for a positive year-end balance in that account. Those funds will need to be spent in FY17.

Mr. DiCologero updated the School Committee on the FY17 1st quarter budget. At this time it projects a positive balance of \$47,000. This is partly due to attrition and staff going on leave. The current budget projects to break even in the area of supplies and non-salary expenses and a small positive balance in fringe benefits. Special Education tuition and transportation should break even. Mr. DiCologero stated he will do another analysis in November to see how things look then.

Mr. DiCologero noted the district will no longer receive the full day kindergarten grant which was cut in 2015. The program can be sustained this year without a change to fees but BPS will have to look at that account going forward to see what can be done.

3.2 Superintendent's Goals – Exhibit B

Superintendent Phelan provided an overview of his goals and said he welcomed feedback for the School Committee over the next weeks.

Goal 1: Strategic Planning

Superintendent Phelan explained he has been working on the challenge of space through the Space Task Force and as part of the high school building project. Working with the MSBA has been helpful during the time and will continue to going forward.

Goal 2: Student Learning Goal

Superintendent Phelan has been conducting Learning Walks with building principals and meeting with them on their own goals.

Goal 3: Professional Practice Goal

During the past two years, Superintendent Phelan has attended the New Superintendent Induction Program and worked with a mentor. He will be attending meetings related to that program again this year. Additionally, he will utilize Leadership Council meetings and retreats to provide a continuous learning opportunity through the collective implementation of the district's strategic plan.

3.3 School Committee Appointments

Dr. Fiore explained the School Committee had two appoint a School Committee liaison to the Belmont Media Center and Information Technology Advisory Board (ITAC). She stated Laurie Graham had agreed to be the representative to the Belmont Media Center and Jim Beret to ITAC.

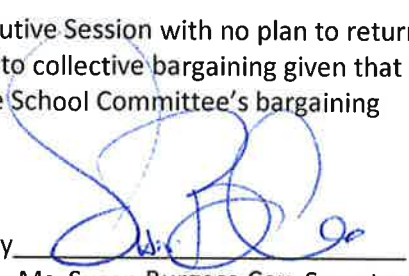
On a motion offered by Ms. Shuster and seconded by Mr. Bicer, it was

VOTED unanimously to appoint Laurie Graham as School Committee Liaison to Belmont Media Center and Jim Berets as School Committee Liaison to the Informational Technology Advisory Council (ITAC).

4. EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 8:00 p.m. the School Committee

VOTED unanimously on a roll call vote to enter into Executive Session with no plan to return to Open Session for the purpose of discussing strategy with respect to collective bargaining 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