

**BELMONT SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES
CHENERY MIDDLE SCHOOL COMMUNITY ROOM
JUNE 20, 2017**

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

Absent: Mr. Murat Bicer
Ms. Andrea Prestwich

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 raised questions regarding full day kindergarten tuition and it's application to families with more than one child in kindergarten.

There were no other citizens' concerns.

1.4 Adjustments to the Agenda

Dr. Fiore announced the School Committee would be returning to Open Session following Executive Session.

1.5 Chair's Report

Dr. Fiore announced this is the last School Committee meeting for the school year. She thanked members of the School Committee, School Administration and community for all the work during the year.

1.6 Student Representative Report

There was no student representative in attendance.

1.7 Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Phelan thanked everyone for a productive year. He discussed the continuation of the Social Emotional Learning (SEL) and Achievement Gap initiatives into next year. He also thanked the Belmont High School Building Committee for all their work.

2. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

There was no unfinished business.

3. **MAJOR BUSINESS**

3.1 Solar Panel Proposal (vote)

Belmont is part of the Belmont Goes Solar campaign which has allowed the town to be the recipient of solar panels on one town building. The Chenery Middle School is being considered as the appropriate sight for the solar panels. The Board of Selectman have agreed to accept this gift of solar panels contingent upon a vote of the School Committee. A favorable vote by the School Committee will allow an application for solar panel installation to go to the Planning Board. If approved by the Planning Board, Marty Bitner and Phil Thayer, members of Belmont Goes Solar, will come to School Committee for approval of the installation.

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

VOTED unanimously to approve the request of the Belmont Energy Committee to seek application to the Town of Belmont Planning Board to install solar panels on the roof of the small gym at the Chenery Middle School. This approval is for the application process. The School Committee reserves the right to await the Planning Board decision before voting approval of installation in the fall.

3.2 Second Read and Vote of Policy 6001 – School Start Times – Exhibit A

The School Committee Policy Subcommittee spent time working on a change to the School Committee policy related to the first day of school. In past years, the first day of school fell on the first Wednesday in September according to current school Policy 6001. The new Policy 6001 states: When Labor Day occurs on or before September 3rd, the start date for students will be the Wednesday after Labor Day. When Labor Day occurs later than September 3rd, the start date for students will be the Wednesday before Labor Day.

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

VOTED 3-1-2 to approve the change in Policy 6001 which reads: *When Labor Day occurs on or before September 3rd, the start date for students will be the Wednesday after Labor Day. When Labor Day occurs later than September 3rd, the start date for students will be the Wednesday before Labor Day.*

3.3 Start Times Update

School Committee member Andrea Prestwich brought a proposal to the School Committee earlier in the year regarding later school start times for high school students. The plan at the time of the presentation was to create a task force to explore the subject of starting school later at the high school level.

Superintendent Phelan updated the School Committee on meetings with Mr. DiCologero regarding the impact of later high school start times on transportation for all the schools. A later start time at the high school would make it difficult to have buses available to deliver students to the other schools. Superintendent Phelan noted that Ms. Prestwich has agreed that it may be helpful to look at the research more and consider the possibility of a change in the high school grade configuration before having a larger conversation regarding a change in school start times.

3.4 Modular Discussion

Superintendent Phelan provided an overview of meetings that he had with members of the Butler and Burbank communities regarding the possibility of placing modular classrooms at one of the schools. He discussed the plans for each using a Powerpoint presentation that is available on the Belmont Public Schools website. After careful consideration, Superintendent Phelan determined that the best location would be the Burbank School. Superintendent Phelan recommended the purchase of modulars rather than leasing as the lease is for 3 years and Belmont would need the modulars for at least 5 years. The cost to purchase modulars for the Burbank School would be approximately \$1,483,102 with site work costing an additional \$692,459. The site work includes tandem parking and play area improvements.

Superintendent Phelan chose the Burbank over the Butler for several reasons including the complex demographics of the Butler which make a smaller school more successful as well as the infrastructural improvements for the Burbank site. The decision to purchase the modulars will be voted on by Town Meeting in the fall. If approved, the infrastructure work will begin late spring 2018 and the site work would be done over the summer.

Dr. Fiore invited anyone from the audience to offer comments. A Burbank parent and Town Meeting member voiced concern about the possibility of Town Meeting members taking issue with the potentially higher cost to placing modulars at Burbank rather than Butler.

3.5 Superintendent's Evaluation – Exhibit B

At the last meeting, the School Committee received a packet of evaluation materials from Superintendent Phelan which they took time for review and comment. Dr. Fiore shared some of the comments at the meeting and will have everything in one document to submit to the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE). She and other School Committee members provided many positive comments regarding the Superintendent's evaluation. The overall assessment fell between proficient and exemplary leaning toward exemplary in many cases. Dr. Fiore thanked Superintendent Phelan for his dedication and hard work over the last year.

4. **SUBCOMMITTEE/LIAISON UPDATES (as needed)**

4.1 Finance Subcommittee

There was not report from the Finance Subcommittee.

4.2 Policy and Procedure Subcommittee

There was no report from the Policy and Procedure Subcommittee.

4.3 Curriculum and Instruction Subcommittee

The Curriculum and Instruction Subcommittee met on Friday with Lindsey Rinder, Director of English, ELA and ESL who provided an update on the process of revisions to the senior thesis.

4.4 Capital Budget Committee

There was not report from the Capital Budget Committee.

4.5 Warrant Committee

There was not report from the Warrant Committee.

4.6 Belmont High School Building Committee

Superintendent Phelan, Belmont High School Principal Dan Richards, and BHS-BC Chair Bill Lovallo represent the BHS-BC Subcommittee that is working to select design architects. They recently attended an initial meeting to vote on design firms at the MSBA. They chose four firms who the BHS-BC will interview in July.

4.7 Community Path Committee

There was not report from the Community Path Committee.

4.8 Library Long Range Planning Committee

There was not report from the Library Long Range Planning Committee.

5. **OTHER BUSINESS**

5.1 Consent Agenda

Mr. DiCologero explained when the School Department has items that are no longer in use and cannot be sold, the School Committee is required to vote on their disposal.

Disposal of Surplus Acoustic Shells – Exhibit C

Disposal of Surplus Text Books – Exhibit D

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

VOTED unanimously to approve the disposal of surplus acoustic shells and social studies text books.

5.2 Personnel Items - none

5.3 Business Items – None

5.4 Approval of Minutes

June 6, 2017

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

VOTED unanimously to approve the minutes of June 6, 2017 as amended.

6. **FUTURE BUSINESS**

Upcoming Meetings:

September 12, 2017
Finance Subcommittee Meeting
SAB Conference Room – 7:30 a.m.


September 12, 2017
School Committee Meeting
CMS Large Community Room – 7:00 p.m.

7. **ENCLOSURES**

Proposal for Free Solar on Chenery
2017-18 School Committee Meeting Calendar
Strategic Plan

8. **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

At 8:51 p.m. a roll call vote was taken and the School Committee agreed to enter Executive Session with the intention of returning 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