

**BELMONT SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES
CHENERY MIDDLE SCHOOL COMMUNITY ROOM
SEPTEMBER 26, 2017**

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

1. **OPENING BUSINESS**

1.1 Call to order

Dr. Fiore called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.

1.2 Pledge of Allegiance

Dr. Fiore led the Pledge of Allegiance.

1.3 Citizens' Concerns

Members of the Belmont Education Association (BEA) were present in the audience. Kristen Bell, a Wellington teacher and Belmont resident, read a statement on behalf of the BEA regarding the ongoing contract negotiations. She thanked the School Committee and school administration for their continued support.

1.4 Adjustments to the Agenda

There were no adjustments to the agenda.

1.5 Chair's Report

Dr. Fiore updated the School Committee on upcoming events such as the Dan Scharfman Road Race which is sponsored by the Foundation for Belmont Education to support programs in Belmont Public Schools. There will be many musical performances beginning with Broadway Night on October 13th and 14th at Belmont High School.

1.6 Student Representative Report

There was no student representative in attendance.

1.7 Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Phelan announced the retirement of Gerry Boyle, Director of Facilities. Gerry will be retiring at the end of the calendar year. Superintendent Phelan, Mary Pederson, Director of Human Resources, and Phyllis Marshall, Interim Town Administrator, have met to create a job description and ad which will go out tomorrow. A screening team will be assembled and the hope is to hire a replacement for Gerry Boyle prior to his retirement to enable the new hire to spend time with Gerry on the job.

Superintendent Phelan and Assistant Superintendent Darias recently met with members of the Foundation for Belmont Education to discuss upcoming programs for this year.

Superintendent Phelan thanked everyone involved in making the recent Soccer Night in Belmont a great success. The boys and girls varsity soccer teams as well as youth teams played soccer under the lights. This is the second year the event has taken place and special thanks go to John Carson for organizing the event.

Superintendent Phelan announced the Press Box at Harris Field is finally complete. He thanked the Boosters and the long-term members of the Press Box Committee for making this happen.

2. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

3. MAJOR BUSINESS

3.1 BHS-BC Update – Exhibit A

William Lovallo, Chair of the Belmont High School Building Committee (BHS-BC), updated the School Committee on the work of the BHS-BC. The project is currently in the Feasibility Study phase. By April 2018, a schematic design will be created followed by a vote on funding in November 2018 or April 2019.

Mr. Lovallo announced dates for upcoming Community Engagement meetings. The BHS-BC is working toward a goal of having as many people as possible be informed about the building project. He discussed the information gathered from visioning meetings that have taken place so far. The Community Visioning Team members identified the following as the most effective ways for students to learn:

- Project Based Learning
- Social Emotional Learning
- Thematic Learning
- Small Group Work/Student Collaboration

The groups also discussed types of instructional models and their ideas about future facilities. The design team from Perkins and Will intends to use the information from the visioning sessions on September 19th and 20th to produce some initial Guiding Principles for the design team. This information will be used to draft the Educational Program document that will be submitted to the MSBA.

Superintendent Phelan spoke about how the new building will impact increasing enrollment. The three grade configuration options are: 9 – 12, 8 – 12, 7 – 12. If the 9 – 12 option is chosen, the middle and elementary school space issues will not be addressed. If the 8 – 12 option is chosen, it would alleviate some space issues at the high school and middle school but not the elementary level. If the 7 – 12 option is chosen, all levels would be provided space to accommodate increases in enrollment.

3.2 Modular Presentation

Superintendent Phelan provided an overview of the plan for adding modular units at the Burbank School. Over the last three years all school buildings have had to repurpose space to increase classroom space. Six modular spaces have been added at both the Belmont High School and Chenery Middle School. Once it was decided that modular units would be needed at the elementary level, the Burbank School was recommended as the best site. Meetings were held with Burbank community members, PTA members, members of Safe Routes to School and staff in making this decision. In June of 2017, Superintendent Phelan presented a recommendation to the School Committee for the placement of modulars at Burbank. Town Meeting members will vote on funding for the project at a Special Town Meeting on November 13, 2017.

The project will include:

- Four classroom modular buildings;
- A covered walkway;
- Expansion of existing parking;
- Synthetic turf at Maeve’s Corner; and
- Replacement of the paved play area

The estimated total cost for the project will be \$2,597,255. Funding for technology, instructional materials, and furniture will be supported by the School Department.

3.3 Chenery Middle School Field Trip Update

Chenery Principal Michael McAllister and Assistant Principal Torrance Lewis presented the School Committee with proposed changes to the Washington D.C. trip taken by Grade 8 students each year. After research by Technology Education teacher Leon Dyer who organizes the trip each year, it was determined to be less disruptive to fly to Washington for a 3 day, 2 night trip instead of the usual 5 day, 4 night trip by bus. This change will allow students more time in the classroom and fewer days away for teachers, aides, etc. who chaperone the trip. The students will visit the same sites with the possible exception of Gettysburg and Fort McHenry.

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

4.1 Finance Subcommittee

The Finance Subcommittee met earlier in the day to discuss the FY17 closeout and Revolving Accounts.

4.2 Policy and Procedure Subcommittee

There was no report from the Policy and Procedure Subcommittee.

4.3 Curriculum and Instruction Subcommittee

There was no report from the Curriculum and Instruction Subcommittee.

4.4 Capital Budget Committee

There was no report from the Capital Budget Committee.

4.5 Warrant Committee

The Warrant Committee will meet on October 4th.

4.6 Belmont High School Building Committee

The High School Building Committee update was provided as part of agenda item 3.1.

4.7 Community Path Committee

There was not report from the Community Path Committee.

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

5.2 Personnel Items - none

5.3 Business Items – None

5.4 Approval of Minutes

- September 12, 2017

On a motion offered by Murat Bicer and seconded by Tom Caputo, it was

VOTED unanimously to approve the minutes of September 12, 2017.

6. **FUTURE BUSINESS**

Upcoming Meetings:

October 10, 2017

Finance Subcommittee Meeting
SAB Conference Room – 7:30 a.m.

October 10, 2017

Reception for teachers receiving professional status
CMS Cafeteria – 6:15 p.m.

Recognition of teachers receiving professional status
CMS Large Community Room – 6:45 p.m.

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

7. **ENCLOSURES**

Strategic Plan

8. **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

At 8:38 p.m. a roll call vote was taken and the School Committee agreed to enter Executive Session with no 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