

**BELMONT SCHOOL COMMITTEE/BELMONT HIGH SCHOOL BUILDING COMMITTEE
JOINT MEETING MINUTES
WELLINGTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CAFETERIA
JANUARY 23, 2018**

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

Also in attendance: William Lovallo, Belmont High School Building Committee Chair
Patricia Brusch, Belmont High School Building Committee Member
Joel Mooney, Belmont High School Building Committee Member
Diane Miller, Belmont High School Building Committee Member
Chris Messer, Belmont High School Building Committee Member
Jamie Shea, Belmont High School Building Committee Member
Robert McLaughlin, Belmont High School Building Committee Member
Joseph DeStefano, Belmont High School Building Committee Member
Emma Thurston, Belmont High School Building Committee Member
Adam Dash, Board of Selectmen Chair
Phyllis Marshall, Assistant Town Administrator
Daniel Richards, Belmont High School Principal

1. **SCHOOL COMMITTEE WORKING SESSION**

The School Committee met to continue discussions on grade configuration options that began at the meeting held that morning in the School Administration Building. Superintendent Phelan provided copies of his presentation and the group agreed that the recommendation of a 7-12 or 8-12 configuration option would be a big change for the district. Questions and discussion focused on options that would cause this change (7-12 or 8-12) as well as the continuing needs of the district should the choice be a 9-12 option.

2. **JOINT MEETING CALL TO ORDER¹**

School Committee Chair Dr. Lisa Fiore called the School Committee meeting to order at 7:06 p.m.

¹ As noted above, the meeting called to order was a joint meeting of the School Committee and Belmont High School Building Committee (BHS-BC). As the focus of the meeting was the BHS Building Project, the agenda of the BHS-BC is the primary reference for minutes. School Committee Members did not provide Subcommittee or Liaison Updates, Chair Fiore did not provide a Chair's Report, Superintendent Phelan's report was his presentation of the grade configuration options and there were no School Committee minutes presented for approval.

Belmont High School Building Committee (BHS-BC) Chair Bill Lovallo called the Belmont High School Building Committee meeting to order at 7:06 p.m.

3. **CITIZENS CONCERNS**

BHS-BC Chair Bill Lovallo provided an overview of the agenda and then invited members of the audience to ask questions or voice any concerns. Members of the community expressed concerns about the impact of different configuration options on the students in lower grades, as well as the project cost.

4. **PROJECT COSTS**

BHS-BC Chair Lovallo discussed how the costs are derived. Costs are derived from the square footage of the design. The numbers tend to be high for public schools due to the economy and prevailing wages for public projects. The square footage is controlled by Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) and they do not allow for reduced square footage. In addition to construction costs, there are related fees for furniture, technology, etc.

5. **SUB-COMMITTEE ON BUILDING SYSTEMS AND OPERATIONS**

BHS-BC Chair Lovallo had previously asked for recommendations on a subcommittee to focus on Building Systems and Operations. Members of the subcommittee will meet approximately six times between now and July with one full design workshop. The subcommittee will report back to the full Building Committee.

6. **PRELIMINARY SITE DESIGN UPDATES**

BHS-BC Chair Lovallo invited Brooke Trivas of Perkins and Will to speak on the preliminary site design options. Brooke provided an overview of each of the design options explaining the pros and cons of each. The four options to be considered are:

- C.2.1 – Major Renovation/Minor Addition
- C.2.3 – Minor Renovation/Major Addition
- C.2.4 – Minor Renovation/Major Addition
- C.3.1 – New Construction

Brooke Trivas noted the MSBA will not take part in a project that includes the addition of a pool so if the decision is to continue to have a pool, the BHS-BC must agree to keep the current pool which can be renovated. The BHS-BC is working with Superintendent Phelan and Athletic Director Jim Davis on the placement of athletic fields. Members of the School Committee and BHS-BC discussed the different options and asked questions.

7. **SELECTION OF GRADE CONFIGURATION (SCHOOL COMMITTEE)**

Superintendent Phelan presented an overview of the different grade configuration options and the process used to determine which grade configurations were best. The MSBA allowed Belmont to explore different configuration options based on growing enrollment in Belmont. The total number of students enrolled in Belmont during the 2016-17 school year was 4408 with a projection of 4888 for 2024-25.

Superintendent Phelan explained the impact of the different grade configurations. A 9-12 configuration will not address space issues associated with enrollment at the middle school and elementary level. A 8-12 configuration will address space issues at the high school and middle school alone. The elementary schools will still have issues with space due to growing enrollment. A 7-12 configuration will allow for an increase in space that will accommodate growing enrollment at all levels.

Superintendent Phelan also provided an overview of a K-6 grade configuration option. This option would allow for 6 classes per grade in grade 6 at the Chenery, 4 classes per grade at the Wellington, 3 classes per grade at the Winn Brook, 2 classes per grade at the Butler, and 2 classes per grade at the Burbank. This configuration would cause a shortage of 204 total seats across those schools.

All three grade configuration options, 9-12, 8-12, and 7-12, will fit on the current high school site. Superintendent Phelan noted that the grade configuration that fits the district's needs best is 7-12. Superintendent Phelan recommended a 7-12 configuration to the School Committee.

BHS-BC Chair Bill Lovallo requested the BHS-BC members leave the table while the School Committee discussed the grade configuration options.

The School Committee discussion addressed several issues related to configuration and the overall building project including transportation, space, zero-net energy and overall project costs. Following a discussion in which each member expressed thoughts and opinions on the project:

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

VOTED unanimously by the six School Committee members to accept the recommendation of Superintendent Phelan for a 7-12 grade configuration for the Belmont High School project.

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

VOTED unanimously to adjourn the School Committee meeting at 9:18 p.m.

8. **SELECTION OF PREFERRED SOLUTION (BUILDING COMMITTEE)**

The Belmont High School Building Committee returned to the meeting.

On a motion offered by Robert McLaughlin and seconded by Joel Mooney, it was

VOTED unanimously by the 11 Belmont High School Building Committee members to approve Option C.2.4 for the Belmont High School site design.

9. **FUTURE BUSINESS**

Upcoming Meetings:

February 6, 2018
Finance Subcommittee Meeting
SAB Conference Room – 7:30 a.m.

February 6, 2018
School Committee Meeting
CMS Community Room – 7:00 p.m.

10. **ENCLOSURES**

Strategic Plan
Important Dates for School Committee

Respectfully submitted by



Susan Burgess-Cox, Secretary