

**BELMONT SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES  
CHENERY MIDDLE SCHOOL COMMUNITY ROOM  
JUNE 19, 2018**

Present: Ms. Susan Burgess-Cox, Chair  
Ms. Kate Bowen  
Ms. Tara Donner  
Dr. Lisa Fiore  
Ms. Jill Norton  
Mr. John Phelan, Superintendent  
Ms. Janice Darias, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction  
Mr. Anthony DiCologero, Director of Finance, Business and Operations

Absent: Ms. Andrea Prestwich, Secretary

Also in attendance: Board of Selectmen, Belmont High School Building Committee Members

1. **OPENING BUSINESS**

1.1 Call to order

Susan Burgess-Cox called the meeting to order at 6:21 p.m.

1.2 Pledge of Allegiance

Susan Burgess-Cox led the Pledge of Allegiance.

1.3 Citizens' Concerns

There were no citizens' concerns.

2. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

There was no unfinished business.

3. **MAJOR BUSINESS**

3.1 Vocational Steering Committee Update – Exhibit A

Susan Burgess-Cox introduced Jim Sullivan, member of the Vocational Education Options Steering Committee. Superintendent Phelan thanked Jim Sullivan, Tony DiCologero and members of the Vocational Education Options Steering Committee for all their work.

Jim Sullivan explained Career Vocational Technical Education (CVTE) is the official name for vocational education in Massachusetts. Belmont voted to withdraw from Minuteman in October 2016. Superintendent Phelan committed to have a solution in place by 2020 when Belmont officially withdraws from Minuteman. A committee was formed to look at educational options for the students.

The members of the Vocational Education Options Committee are:  
Michael Bruno, Casey Cammack, Glen Castro, Anthony DiCologero, Jim Gammill, Mary Gavin, Elizabeth Goss, John Herzog, Karl Ivester, Denise LaPolla, John Murphy, Tommasina Olson, Joseph Quinn, Jim Sullivan, Gregory Wikler.

The committee developed a framework based on how Belmont should contract with CVTE providers and where Belmont students should go for CVTE programs. The selection criteria included academics, social-emotional learning, student life, enrollment, long term sustainability and financial factors.

Several programs in the greater Boston and Metro West area were reviewed including regional CVTE schools and CVTE programs offered within local school districts. The Committee chose to consider Minuteman Regional Vocational Technical High School (MM), Shawsheen Valley Technical High School (Shawsheen) and Shore Occupational Learning and Vocational Education Division (SOLVED). SOLVED is a local collaborative of municipalities (Cambridge, Medford, Somerville, Waltham).

The committee reviewed the academic, social-emotional, space, enrollment and financial factors. Based on the research of the Committee using the chosen criteria, they determined Minuteman provides the best option for students of Belmont. Although the cost per student to attend Minuteman as a member district is higher than other options, they are the only school that can provide assurance of the programming that fit the criteria of the Committee.

The recommendation of the Vocational Education Options Work Group is for the Town of Belmont to reinstate its status as a member district of Minuteman Vocational Technical High School.

### 3.2 Superintendent's Evaluation – Exhibit B

The School Committee was presented with Superintendent Phelan's evaluation at the last meeting. Over the last couple of weeks, the School Committee reviewed the evaluation documents and provided comments to the Chair which was incorporated into one document. Susan Burgess- Cox shared some of the comments which were very positive. The overall assessment fell between exemplary and proficient. The complete evaluation will be submitted to the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. Susan Burgess-Cox thanked Superintendent Phelan for his leadership over the past year.

### 3.3 Joint Meeting of the School Committee/Belmont High School Building Committee/Board of Selectmen

The Belmont High School Building Committee (BHSBC) and Board of Selectmen joined the School Committee for an update on the Belmont High School building project. BHSBC Chair Bill Livallo invited members of the construction management team from Skanska. The team provided an updated on the schedule and information on traffic flow. The project should begin in April 2019 with the high school

construction starting first. Once the high school section is complete, the middle school section will begin around July 2021. The entire project is expected to be completed in August 2023.

Skanska representatives explained plans for traffic flow and parking for construction workers. The plan is to have the main route in and out of the project using route 2 to Alewife Brook Parkway to Concord Avenue. Parking will take place at churches and other facilities around Belmont and not in neighborhoods. Project updates will be provided to the website on a regular basis. Members of the construction team will be available for questions via email and social media.

Members of the design team provided a presentation showing the current design of the outside of the building along with landscaping. They explained changes that have been made with windows and showed examples of how people would enter and exit the campus. Decisions on the type of material for the outside of the building are still being made.

Members of the BHSBC and members of the audience asked questions and provided comments.

Upcoming Meetings:

July 10, 2018

School Committee Training with MASC

SAB Conference Room – 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

July 30, 2018

School Committee/Board of Selectmen Joint Meeting

BOS Meeting Room – 7:00 p.m.

7. **ENCLOSURES**

Strategic Plan

Important Dates for School Committee

8. **ADJOURN**

At 9:10 p.m. on a motion offered by Kate Bowen and seconded by Lisa Fiore, the School Committee

VOTED                      unanimously to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted by



Susan Burgess-Cox, Chair for  
Andrea Prestwich, Secretary