

**Belmont School Committee
Policy Subcommittee Meeting
March 6, 2018
Conference Room of the School Administration Building**

Members Present: Ms. Susan Burgess-Cox
Ms. Kate Bowen
Ms. Andrea Prestwich
Mr. John Phelan, Superintendent
Ms. Mary Pederson

Guests: Representatives from: Wellington Student Care Program, Belmont Afterschool Enrichment Collaborative (BASEC) and the Belmont Chapter of Start Schools Later (BSSL)

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 8:33 AM.

2. Review/Approval of Minutes

There were no minutes for the group to review/approve.

3. School Start Times

Ms. Prestwich asked that the Belmont School Committee make policy changes to incorporate language that will direct the administration to create later start times for high school students. Two policies were reviewed, 5005: Student Health and Wellness and 6002: School Day. The policy regarding the school day allows the Superintendent to determine the official school hours for each school taking into consideration: grade level expectations, curricular demands, availability of school facilities, transportation and staff schedules. This policy provides the district with a great deal of flexibility in changing the school start time. The policy on health and wellness also provides the district with the flexibility to make changes that will accommodate the health and wellness of students.

After an extensive discussion it was determined that Ms. Prestwich would look at the policies of other districts regarding the school day to see if Belmont needs to make a policy change or can take steps to change start times without having to amend current policies. It was also determined that the School Committee should have a forum for the public and receive additional input before making any major changes.

4. Afterschool Programs

Superintendent Phelan presented a summary of the four organizations providing afterschool care services for children in each elementary school as well as the Chenery Middle School and Belmont High School. These groups include: Belmont Afterschool Enrichment

Collaborative (BASEC), Butler Extended Day Program (BEDP), Wellington Student Care and Winn Brook Continuing Care (WBCC). BASEC serves the Burbank, Chenery and Belmont High School. As school enrollment grows so does the need for these programs.

Over the past few months there have been ongoing discussions with school leadership, program administrators and parents to see if there is a way to change enrollment capacity in these programs. The ability to increase capacity is limited by space, licensing requirements and program staffing. The administration and various parties have explored alternative sites in town, discussed transportation to off-site locations, noted the need to align district registration with afterschool registration, and discussed the need for consistency in program quality and costs. Superintendent Phelan noted that he would be providing a presentation to the School Committee on March 27, 2018 regarding the work of the administration to increase access to space as well as the work of the vendors to increase capacity.

The group did hear concerns voiced from program participants who attended the meeting, noting that further work and discussions are needed to address these concerns.

5. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 10:00 AM.

Respectfully submitted by



Susan Burgess-Cox