

**BELMONT SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES
CHENERY MIDDLE SCHOOL COMMUNITY ROOM
NOVEMBER 28, 2017**

Present: Dr. Lisa Fiore, Chair
Ms. Susan Burgess-Cox, Secretary
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

Absent: Ms. Kate Bowen

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

There were no citizens' concerns.

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 recent and upcoming music events. She announced for the fourth consecutive year, Cityside Subaru selected the Foundation for Belmont Education (FBE) as one of the recipients of their Share the Love Campaign. For every car purchased by a Belmont Public Schools employee, Cityside Subaru will donate \$250 to the FBE. The Share the Love Campaign has provided over \$45,000 in donations to the FBE in the last four years. Dr. Fiore expressed gratitude for their generosity.

1.6 Student Representative Report

There was no student representative in attendance.

1.7 Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Phelan recognized a group of Boy Scouts in attendance as part of a community service project. He thanked them for coming.

Superintendent Phelan updated the School Committee on recent and upcoming events happening at Belmont Public Schools.

2. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

There was no unfinished business.

3. **MAJOR BUSINESS**

3.1 English Language Learners (ELL) Report – Exhibit A

Lindsey Rinder, Director of English, presented an update of the English Language Education Program. She provided information on community events that have taken place during the year such as International Thanksgiving. These events allow new families to meet and learn about each other and the various cultures each represents. A Valentine celebration which is co-sponsored by the Belmont Public Library will be held for the second year. Students will make cards to be distributed to veterans, senior citizens, and new Americans.

Ms. Rinder noted about half of the English Learner (EL) students were born in the United States. Many students born here still speak another language at home the most common this year is Japanese. One of the challenges facing the EL program is the increase in the number of students which about 7.5% of the total student body currently.

3.2 English Language Arts (ELA) Plan of Action – Exhibit B

Lindsey Rinder, Director of English, presented an overview of the English Language Arts Department Plan of Action for 2017. The review is done in four phases over six years. In Phase 1 (1 year) the new Plan for Action outlining recommended changes and improvements is introduced. In Phase 2 (up to 2 years), the recommended curriculum changes and instructional improvements are developed. In Phase 3 (up to 3 years), the implementation of the Plan of Action across the content area and data collection and internal review is conducted. In Phase 4 (1 year), there is an evaluation of the effectiveness of the Plan of Action and the creation of a new Plan of Action for continuous improvement.

In preparation for the review, the ELA and Reading departments along with PreK-4 educators determined their focus questions. A Steering Committee was created to edit focus questions, identify data sources, and write survey questions. An external review team visited in November of 2016 for two days to visit classrooms, conduct interviews and review data. The Steering Committee then reviewed

and prioritized the recommendations of the review and wrote improvement outcomes for students. They also consulted with Assistant Superintendent Janice Darias to revise the draft Plan of Action.

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

4.1 Finance Subcommittee

The Finance Subcommittee met earlier in the day to discuss the work of SMMA in conducting a study of possible building options should the district move forward with a 8-12 or 9-12 high school project.

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 will meet on December 20th to hear from the Belmont High School Principal about course selections.

4.4 Capital Budget Committee

There was no report from the Capital Budget Committee.

4.5 Warrant Committee

There was no report from the Warrant Committee.

4.6 Belmont High School Building Committee

The Belmont High School Building Committee (BHSBC) had a leadership meeting earlier today. They discussed grade configurations in preparation for choosing a design option. They will be creating a calendar for community meetings regarding grade configuration. The meeting scheduled for December 12th has been rescheduled to December 14th due to the School Committee meeting on December 12th.

4.7 Community Path Committee

There was no 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

- November 2, 2017
- November 14, 2017

On a motion offered by Tom Caputo and seconded by Lisa Fiore, it was

VOTED 3-0-2 to approve the minutes of November 2, 2017.

On a motion offered by Tom Caputo and seconded by Andrea Prestwich, it was

VOTED 5-0-1 to approve the minutes of November 14, 2017.

6. **FUTURE BUSINESS**

Upcoming Meetings:

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


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

7. **ENCLOSURES**

Enrollment Presentation Slides
Strategic Plan
Important Dates for School Committee

8. **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

At 8:30 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