

**Belmont School Committee Work Session Minutes**  
**Finance Subcommittee Meeting**  
**October 2, 2018**  
**Conference Room of the School Administration Building**

**Present:** Ms. Susan Burgess-Cox  
Ms. Kate Bowen  
Ms. Jill Norton  
Ms. Andrea Prestwich  
Mr. John Phelan, Superintendent  
Mr. Anthony DiCologero, Director of Finance

**1. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 8:14 AM.

**2. Implementation of School Department Priorities for 2018-2019**

The group discussed the district's priorities for the upcoming school year. Several of these priorities relate to the 7-12 building project and a change in the district's configuration including transportation, traffic and safety. Superintendent Phelan noted that the district may consider increasing transportation. It was noted that the new bus routes appear to be working well. Upcoming working sessions of the full School Committee will address these priorities further.

**3. Discussion of Collins Report**

Mr. DiCologero provided an overview of the Collins Report that was presented to the Board of Selectmen, School Committee and Warrant Committee at a joint meeting on July 30, 2018. Mr. DiCologero noted that the recommendations are useful for long-term planning. However, he had some reservations about the recommendations for annual planning.

Mr. DiCologero agreed that he could possibly apply some of the current budgetary process to the proposed planning approach noting that the Collin Center recommended that the town take a top down approach to budget planning and wean off the use of free cash. This approach is different from the current bottom-up approach of the district. Also, the report did not include information on costs related to health insurance and other areas. Mr. DiCologero felt it would be best to continue with the current practice of budgeting while working with the town on this proposed system.

**4. Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 9:43 AM.

Respectfully submitted by



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Susan Burgess-Cox