

**BELMONT SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES
CHENERY MIDDLE SCHOOL COMMUNITY ROOM
SEPTEMBER 11, 2018**

Present: Ms. Susan Burgess-Cox, Chair
Ms. Andrea Prestwich, Secretary
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

1. **OPENING BUSINESS**

1.1 Call to order

Susan Burgess-Cox called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

1.2 Pledge of Allegiance

Susan Burgess-Cox led the Pledge of Allegiance.

1.3 Citizens' Concerns

Susan Burgess-Cox invited anyone in the audience with citizens' concerns to come up to the microphone.

Aaron Pikilingis – Wellington parent expressed concern about the current homework policy in the district stating it does not provide clear expectations for different grade levels. Mr. Pikilingis asked the School Committee to review policies related to homework.

Shonool Malik – BHS and Butler parent expressed concerns about traffic in Belmont after the recent tragic accident at the intersection of Lexington Street and Sycamore Street. She asked what role the school department has with regards to pedestrian safety in town.

Tammy Calise – stated she feels the district's wellness policy is not adequate. She suggested a change in the way of looking at health and wellbeing and academics noting wellness policies are supposed to address traffic safety K-12. She feels the policy should also address the appropriate amount of homework and as it relates to stress. She suggested a review of the wellness policy.

1.4 Adjustments to the Agenda

There were no adjustments to the agenda.

1.5 Chair's Report

Chair Susan Burgess-Cox welcomed everyone to the first School Committee meeting of the year. She reminded everyone of the Foundation for Belmont Education's (FBE) Dan Scharman Road Race on September 30th and the Spelling Bee on November 3rd encouraging everyone to take part in these two great events which raise money for the FBE.

1.6 Student Representative Report

There was no student representative in attendance.

1.7 Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Phelan announced he would move right into major business and forgo a report this evening.

2. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

There was no unfinished business.

3. **MAJOR BUSINESS**

3.1 School Opening Update

Superintendent Phelan welcomed everyone to the 2018-19 school year. He updated the School Committee on the hiring of new staff that took place over the summer.

Assistant Superintendent Darias updated the School Committee on the Social Emotional Learning (SEL) and Achievement Gap work that took place over the summer. She provided an overview of the first day back for staff on September 4th and the first day back for students on September 5th. September 5th was a half day for students and staff spent the free time working on Professional Development. Ms. Darias noted this is the second year working on Professional Development related to African American/Black students. A large part of the work is adults understanding how to create classrooms that are welcoming to everyone.

Superintendent Phelan noted the Freshman Connector program was a great success again this year. The program pairs senior students with Freshman students on the first day of school to help them feel welcome and comfortable.

Superintendent Phelan updated the School Committee on the opening of the new modular classrooms at Burbank. The work inside and out has been completed and everyone is happy to be in the space. He thanked members of the Facilities Department for their hard work over the summer to ensure the classrooms were ready for the start of school.

Anthony DiCologero, Director of Finance, Business and Operations provided an update on the new bus routes which were implemented last spring to reduce the number of stops in order to save time. He thanked parents and students for their patience during this effort. All the buses arrived on time the first day of school.

Superintendent Phelan thanked the Department of Public Works and Facilities for their work on the fields and cleaning the inside of buildings over the summer. He also thanked the Fire Department for their safety checks and fire drills which have already taken place and the Police Department for their support in the hiring of an additional School Resource Officer the Chenery Middle School.

Superintendent Phelan and Belmont Public Library Director Peter Struzziero have been working together to provide every grade 5 student with a library card. There is also a new app for student iPads which will allow access to many research tools.

Superintendent Phelan discussed goals for this year including SEL, Achievement Gap, and keeping a close watch on class size.

3.2 BHSBC Update

Bill Lovallo, Belmont High School Building Committee Chair provided an overview of the process the last two years which has culminated in the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) voting to approve the Belmont High School Project for an addition and renovation at Belmont High School. The approval includes a grant of \$77,906,660. The Town of Belmont has 120 days after the date of the MSBA vote (August 29, 2018) to certify local approval of the project. Mr. Lovallo thanked Senator Wil Brownsberger and Senator Dave Rogers for their help in promoting favorable action by MSBA. Mr. Lovallo provided a detailed explanation of the budget for the project which will be available on the Belmont Public Schools website.

Mr. Lovallo explained the design team has been planning for construction over the past summer. They are looking at how students will be affected and kept safe from construction during the project. The Belmont High School Building Committee (BHSBC) has also been meeting with other groups in town planning energy forums related to geothermal and PV. They are looking at renewable credits and will have a panel discussion for the public to learn about the subject.

3.3 Alternative Option Presentation – Exhibit A

Superintendent Phelan presented information on the timeline of the high school project which began in January 2016 with the application being accepted by MSBA through November 6, 2018 when funding for the projected is scheduled to be voted on by Belmont residents. Some of the reasons for the renovation are: current building is non-ADA compliant, outdated systems, plumbing leaks, window leaks, materials in the building now deemed to be hazardous, lack of modern security measures. The growing enrollment is also a factor along with the need for fully functional science facilities and the ability for teachers to provide hands-on learning.

Superintendent Phelan explained the total cost of the 7-12 project is \$213,000,000 after taking into account the \$80,000,000 funded by MSBA and the \$2,000,000 previous committed expenditure. The timeline for the project is:

- 2018-19 school year – design detailed plans
- Summer 2019 – break ground on BHS site on Phase One (9-12 portion of building)
- Summer 2021 – Students in grades 9-12 move into new school; enter into Phase Two of project (Grades 7-8)
- Summer 2023 – Students in grades 7 & 8 move in from Chenery

A successful vote is needed for funding from the Town on November 6, 2018. The School Department and BHSBC will be seeking educator feedback with participation on Steering Committees. Topics that have been and will be studied are the scheduling of work in the 7-12 school, what a grade 4-6 school look like and how will it operate, parking issues.

Superintendent Phelan presented the alternative option in the event the vote does not pass in November. The planning will take place in three phases.

Phase 1: Modularity to increase space at Chenery, Belmont High School and possibly at the elementary level. This will require funding for design work, an RFP and bid process, construction of modular space and site work. The projected cost to the Belmont Taxpayer is \$21,000,000 to \$24,000,000.

Phase 2: A renovation to Chenery Middle School. This would require a design and RFP process, construction of an addition and renovation to common areas. The project would take 2-4 years (2021-2025) and the projected cost to Belmont Taxpayers is \$20,000,000.

Phase 3: Construction and major renovation to Belmont High School. This will require design and development of RFPs, construction of an addition and renovations to common areas which would take approximately 2 – 4 years (2024-2028). The projected cost to the Belmont Taxpayer is \$203,000,000.

All phases of these projects from design to construction and funding will need to be approved and voted on by Town Committees, Town, Meeting and community-wide vote. The district would have up to 30 modular classrooms in use for a period of time along with permanent modular classrooms at the elementary level. All or parts of the K-12 district would be in construction for the next 10 years. The total projected cost for the entire project is \$247,000,000.

3.4 Vote on Facilities Memorandum of Agreement – Exhibit B

Superintendent Phelan explained several years ago the Town and School Department created a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) consolidating the two Facilities Departments. It recently came to the attention of the Superintendent and Town Administrator that the wording in the original MOA described the work of the Superintendent and Town Administrator as a Board. Because the meetings that are held are not like regular Board meetings, Town Counsel was asked to review the MOA and change the language to show the School Committee, Board of Selectmen and Town Administrator do not constitute a Board. The School Committee is being asked to vote on the approval of the revised MOA which has already been signed by the Board of Selectmen.

On a motion offered by Jill Norton and seconded by Andrea Prestwich, it was

VOTED unanimously to approve the revised version of the Memorandum of Agreement between the Board of Selectmen, School Committee and Town Administrator.

3.5 Vote on Acceptable Use Policy – Exhibit C

Susan Burgess-Cox explained the School Committee Policy Subcommittee has recommended an amendment to the Use of Technology Policy to add language related to procedures and protocols.

On a motion offered by Kate Bowen and Lisa Fiore, it was

VOTED unanimously to approve the amendment to the Acceptable Use Policy

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

4.1 Finance Subcommittee

The Finance Subcommittee met earlier in the day to discuss set the schedule for the coming year and to determine topics to be discussed at upcoming meetings.

4.2 Policy Subcommittee

The Policy Subcommittee met in August to discuss afterschool programs, later start times and the Acceptable Use Policy.

4.3 Curriculum & Instruction Subcommittee

There was no report from the Curriculum & Instruction Subcommittee.

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 will meet tomorrow at 7:30 a.m. in the Homer Gallery.

4.7 Community Path Update

There was no report from the Community Path.

5. **OTHER BUSINESS**

5.1 Consent Agenda

Vote on disposal of surplus equipment – Exhibit D
Vote on disposal of surplus BHS ELA Books – Exhibit E
Vote on disposal of surplus Chenery Equipment & Textbooks – Exhibit F

On a motion offered by Tara Donner and seconded by Jill Norton, it was

VOTED unanimously to approve disposal of the following surplus items:

Technology Equipment – Exhibit D
Belmont High School ELA Books – Exhibit E
Chenery Equipment and Textbooks – Exhibit F

5.2 Personnel Items – None

5.3 Business Items – None

5.4 Approval of minutes

June 5, 2018
June 19, 2018
June 28, 2018
July 30, 2018

On a motion offered by Lisa Fiore and seconded by Tara Donner, it was

VOTED unanimously to approve the minutes of June 5, 2018.

On a motion offered by Lisa Fiore and seconded by Jill Norton, it was

VOTED 5-0-1 to approve the minutes of June 19, 2018

On a motion offered by Lisa Fiore and seconded by Tara Donner, it was

VOTED unanimously to approve the June 28, 2018 minutes as amended.

On a motion offered by Lisa Fiore and seconded by Kate Bowen, it was

VOTED unanimously to approve the minutes of July 30, 2018.

6. **FUTURE BUSINESS**

Upcoming Meetings:

October 2, 2018

Finance Subcommittee Meeting

SAB Conference Room – 8:00 a.m.

October 9, 2018

School Committee Meeting – Reception & Recognition of Prof. Status Teachers

6:00 p.m. – CMS Cafeteria – Reception

6:30 p.m. – CMS Community Room – Recognition Ceremony

7:00 p.m. – CMS Community Room – Business meeting

7. **ENCLOSURES**

Staff Technology Acceptable Use and Internet Safety Protocol


2018-19 District Calendar

Strategic Plan

September 1, 2018 Enrollment

8. **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

At 8:43 p.m. on a roll call vote, the School Committee entered Executive Session for the purpose of discussing strategy with respect to collective bargaining with union personnel and will not return to Open Session.

Respectfully submitted by Andrea Prestwich 
Andrea Prestwich, Secretary