

**BELMONT SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES
CHENERY MIDDLE SCHOOL COMMUNITY ROOM
NOVEMBER 27, 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 7:02 p.m.

1.2 Pledge of Allegiance

Susan Burgess-Cox 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

Chair Susan Burgess-Cox invited Jill Norton to share information regarding her attendance at the recent MASC/MASS Joint Conference. Jill discussed presentations she attended where emotional intelligence was discussed. The speaker explained research indicates students who participate in Social Emotional Learning (SEL) have improved social and leadership skills.

1.6 Student Representative Report

Phoebe Gray, Grace Kane and Nico Carere updated the School Committee on events at Belmont High School. The recent pep rally was a great success. The Student Senate is looking at ways to reduce stress among students. They plan to have teachers shadow students for a day to enable them to see what a student's schedule and academic load looks like in order to possibly make changes. All the athletic teams had great success this fall and the football team won their Thanksgiving game for the first time since 2011.

1.7 Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Phelan announced the residents of Belmont voted 76-24 percent in favor of the going ahead with the high school building project. He also noted Town Meeting voted in favor of the project without any discussion. He thanked everyone in the community as well as the members of the building committee for all their work promoting the project.

2. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

3. MAJOR BUSINESS

3.1 Subaru Donation of Books

Liz Baker, Director of Science announced the donation of science books by Cityside Subaru. This is the second year in a row Belmont has been the recipient of their generosity. She provided pictures of the students enjoying the books. Science teacher Niki Nitchie spoke about the climate and weather unit and how the books are being used as part of that. Megan Taylor, Director of Community Involvement at Cityside Subaru explained the donation is made possible by Subaru America Loves Learning and the American Association for the Advancement of Science. Nathan White, General Manager of Cityside Subaru thanked the Belmont Schools for allowing them to run this program with and the Foundation for Belmont Education. Superintendent Phelan thanked them for their generosity.

3.2 Good News – Chenery Update

Chenery Principal Michael McAllister, along with his two Assistant Principals Torrance Lewis and Jon Hartunian provided an overview of Team Days. The faculty at Chenery had a desire to make a big school feel smaller and allow students to connect more with teachers in interesting ways. Early release days are used to play games, solve puzzles, and learn about gratitude and family traditions. Each grade level took part in activities related to their grade. Mr. McAllister explained plans for a survey to get feedback from staff and students. This will take place at the end of December. The hope is to have a regular SEL time built into the Chenery schedule.

3.3 Net Zero Presentation

Jacob Knowles, Jonathan Abe and David Beavers member of Belmont's Energy Committee provided the School Committee with an overview of the plans for Geothermal HVAC and Rooftop Solar for the new high school. The Geothermal HVAC system will provide an estimated \$4 million in net

present energy savings and the Rooftop Solar will provide an estimated additional savings of \$1 million. The Board of Selectmen has signed a Class D Zero Net Resolution for the new 7-12 school. Susan Burgess-Cox asked the School Committee for a motion to approve the same resolution.

School Committee member Kate Bowen disclosed that Jacob Knowles is her husband and noted she had filed the appropriate paperwork with the Town Clerk's Office.

On a motion offered by Tara Donner and seconded by Susan Burgess-Cox, it was

VOTED unanimously to support the BHSBC's ZNE "Ready" design, which includes geothermal and rooftop solar and to support the Town of Belmont exploring the purchase of RECs to achieve Class D ZNE at the new 7-12 school.

3.4 Superintendent's Goals – Exhibit A

Superintendent Phelan provided an overview of his goals for the 2018-19 school year along with the rubric and Belmont Public Schools Strategic Plan each goal is attached to.

Goal #1: Effective Strategic Planning

Superintendent Rubric: Standard IV Professional Culture: (C) Communication Indicator (E): Shared Vision Indicator

BPS Strategic Plan: B1, B2 – Collaborate with BHSBC, MSBA, School Committee and Belmont Community to address short and long term enrollment and space needs.

Goal: To lead the district through the strategic planning of our space and grade configuration work. This work will be conducted through the Belmont High School Building Committee (BHSBC), and the Educators Steering Committee with a successful 7-12 vote or through Alternative Planning Committee pending the outcome of the debt exclusion vote.

Goal #2: Student Learning Goal

Utilization of classroom walk-throughs with Principals

Superintendent Rubric: Standard IV: Professional Culture (E): Shared Vision Indicator {1}
Standard I: Instructional Leadership (B): Instructional Indicator {1, 3}, (D) Evaluation Indicator {1, 2}, E, Data-informed Decision Making Indicator {2, 3}

BPS Strategic Plan: {A1, A2, B1}

Goal: To impact the instruction in our classrooms as it relates to our strategic plan initiatives in SEL and CRT through the use of consistent school-based "Walk-Throughs" with Principals.

Goal #3: Professional Practice Goal

Evaluation Calibration – observations and feedback

Superintendent Rubric: Standard I-D-4: Consistently reviews alignment between judgement about practice and student learning data and provides guidance to administrators to make informed decisions about educator support and evaluation based upon this review.

Goal: During the 2018-19 school year, we will work with district leaders and educators to improve calibration and consistency with a focus on the observation and feedback component of the evaluation system in order to strengthen relationships between evaluators and educators and increase productive conversations that improve teaching and learning outcomes for students.

3.5 School Committee Goals (Draft) – Exhibit B

Chair Susan Burgess-Cox provided an overview of the School Committee’s goals for 2018-19. She listed priorities related to work with the budget, building project related issues and School Committee subcommittees.

3.6 Finance Update – FY18 Close Out, FY19 Q1 Update – Exhibit C & C1

Tony DiCologero, Director of Business, Finance and Operations reported on the FY18 closeout. The School Department ended the year with a positive balance which has been converted back to the Town. The revolving accounts also ended with positive balance.

Mr. DiCologero provided an update on the FY19 Q1 budget. This covers the period from July through September, 2018. As of now, there is a projected positive year-end balance of \$79,000. Mr. DiCologero provided information on each account and how he determines the projections.

3.7 Community Path School Committee Nomination Process (vote) – Exhibit D

Susan Burgess-Cox explained the School Committee has been asked to vote on a representative to the Community Path Committee. An email was sent out to the public and five responses were received. The School Committee had discussion regarding which applicants would be best suited to the appointment. Kate Bowen offered a motion to nominate Leslie Lee, Tara Donner offered a motion to nominate Jeff Roth and Susan Burgess-Cox offered a motion to nominate Nitin Sanawe. The committee had more discussion on the candidates. Susan Burgess-Cox asked if they were ready to move someone forward.

On a motion offered by Kate Bowen and seconded by Tara Donner, it was

VOTED unanimously to appoint Leslie Lee as the School Committee Representative to the Community Path Committee.

4. SUBCOMMITTEE/LIAISON UPDATES (as needed)

4.1 Finance Subcommittee

There was no report from the Finance Subcommittee.

4.2 Policy Subcommittee

The Policy Subcommittee will meet on December 11th.

4.3 Curriculum & Instruction Subcommittee

The Curriculum & Instruction Subcommittee met earlier in the day. Patty Soliozy, Director of Math shared information related to the possibility of middle school and high school students skipping certain math courses. She explained teachers are looking at literature related to this topic and plans to survey parents and students who participated in the process.

4.4 Capital Budget Committee

The Capital Budget Committee will meet on December 6th.

4.5 Warrant Committee

The Warrant Committee Education Subcommittee met with the full Warrant Committee to provide updates on the School Department's FY18 closeout and FY19 Q1. The next meeting is December 10th with the Board of Selectmen and members of the Collins Center.

4.6 Belmont High School Building Committee

The Belmont High School Building Committee met on Monday. The next meeting will take place on December 5th. The Steering Committee work has been moving forward.

4.7 Community Path Update (vote)

5. OTHER BUSINESS

5.1 Consent Agenda

5.2 Personnel Items – None

5.3 Business Items – None

5.4 Approval of minutes

- October 9, 2018
- November 13, 2018

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

VOTED unanimously to approve the minutes of October 9, 2018 as amended.

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

VOTED unanimously to approve the minutes of November 13, 2018 as amended.

6. **FUTURE BUSINESS**

Upcoming Meetings:

December 4, 2018

Finance Subcommittee Meeting
SAB Conference Room – 8:00 a.m.

December 4, 2018

School Committee Meeting
CMS Community Room – 7:00 p.m.

7. **ENCLOSURES**

Strategic Plan

8. **ADJOURN**

At 9:10 p.m. on a motion offered by Andrea Prestwich and seconded by Susan Burgess Cox, it
was

VOTED unanimously to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted by Andrea Prestwich 
Andrea Prestwich, Secretary