

**BELMONT SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES
WELLINGTON COMMUNITY ROOM
MARCH 12, 2019**

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
Mr. Anthony DiCologero, Director of Finance, Business and Operation

Absent: Ms. Janice Darias, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction

1 EXECUTIVE SESSION

1.1 On a roll call vote the School Committee entered Executive Session for the purpose of discussing strategy with respect to collective bargaining given that a discussion in Open Session may have a detrimental impact on the School Committee's bargaining position.

2. OPENING BUSINESS

2.1 Call to order

Ms. Burgess-Cox called the meeting to order at 7:14 p.m.

2.2 Pledge of Allegiance

Ms. Burgess-Cox led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2.3 Citizens' Concerns

There were no citizen's concerns.

2.4 Adjustments to the Agenda

There were no adjustments to the Agenda.

2.5 Chair's Report

Susan Burgess-Cox welcomed Boy Scout Troop 66 who was in attendance observing a public meeting for a project.

Susan Burgess-Cox announced the following upcoming events:

March 14 – Chenery Band Concert

March 16 – Foundation for Belmont Education annual dinner fundraiser

March 20 – parent Lecture Series

March 20 – Wilson Farm Day – 20% goes to schools

March 21-23 – Little Shop of Horrors – BHS

2.6 Student Representative Report

There was no student representative in attendance.

2.7 Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Phelan congratulated Butler Student Leadership Corps for creating 105 Winter Care Kits for people in need. There was a great send-off for Physical Education teacher Ryan Schmitt who is being deployed for the next year. Belmont High School hosted the Chinese/American Summit. There are many music events happening this time of year so it's important to check the website and/or newsletter for dates and times. The Boys Basketball Team will play at Boston Garden on Wednesday night.

3. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

4. MAJOR BUSINESS

4.1 School Choice Vote

Susan Burgess-Cox explained School Choice is a program that allows students from outside Belmont to attend school in Belmont. The town the student resides in is required to pay tuition. Each year the School Committee is required to vote on whether or not to participate in School Choice for the upcoming year.

On a motion offered by Andrea Prestwich and seconded by Tara Donner and in accord with MGL Chapter 76, Section 128, the Belmont School Committee

VOTED unanimously to decline participation in School Choice for the 2019-2020 school year.

4.2 Policy Votes

Educational Opportunities for Military Children – Exhibit A
Educational opportunities for Children in Foster Care – Exhibit B
Homeless Students – Exhibit C

Superintendent Phelan explained the School Committee Policy Subcommittee met recently to review new policies. Every six years the Special Education Department is audited by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE). The audits help DESE create standards so there is some consistency with other communities. The policies being reviewed tonight are model policies that Belmont Public Schools will adopt. Superintendent Phelan noted Belmont policies are generally not as long as the three being reviewed but the state would like districts to conform.

Susan Burgess-Cox noted this would be a “first read” of the policies and the School Committee will vote on their adoption at the March 26 meeting.

4.3 Harris Field Discussion – Exhibits D & D-1

Superintendent Phelan explained the reason for the discussion of Harris Field is due to the fact that the high school building project may result in the loss of practice space at other fields adjacent to the high school. This may require more use of Harris Field over the next two years. It seemed an appropriate time to review the current lighted use policy to determine if there needs to be an amendment to the policy for the next two years. After some discussion, the School Committee determined it would be helpful to do some outreach to abutters. Superintendent Phelan offered to find a date for a small community forum which would allow abutters to voice any concerns.

4.4 State Funding Discussion – Exhibit E

Susan Burgess-Cox updated the School Committee on legislation being proposed right now in the House and Senate to implement funding recommendations of the Foundation Budget Review Commission. The School Committee was asked by the BEA to support the Promise Act which is one of the pieces currently being proposed. Susan Burgess-Cox read the resolution the School Committee is being asked to vote on which includes some text from the Promise Act as well as text from other school districts and towns.

On a motion offered by Kate Bowen and seconded by Jill Norton, it was

VOTED unanimously to approve the Resolution Calling for Funding of the Foundation Budget Review Commission Recommendations in 2019.

On a motion offered by Kate Bowen and seconded by Jill Norton, it was

VOTED unanimously to forward the Resolution Calling for Funding of the Foundation Budget Review Commission recommendation in 2019 to the Board of Selectmen.

4.5 Report out on "Complete Streets" Program

Kate Bowen updated the School Committee on the Complete Streets Program which the Town of Belmont has been taking part in. The program has been working on taking feedback from community members and has provided a survey which showed calming crosswalk and sidewalks are points of interest for people.

Superintendent Phelan explained Town Administrator Patrice Garvin offered to attend a School Committee meeting to present more information on the Complete Streets Program. The School Committee suggested March 26 as the date for the presentation.

4.6 Report Out on High School Traffic Working Group

The High School Traffic Working Group is has been studying access in and out the high school from the surrounding neighborhoods during the first phase of the project. They will be studying traffic flow through the whole neighborhood and looking for opportunities to make improvements to pedestrian access and the turn-off from Brighton Street near the train tracks. The group will engage with a consulting engineer to study drop off lanes on Concord Avenue westbound which seems more feasible. They will also look at the approach to Chenery from School Street to Temple Street and Goden Street to Washington Street to help mitigate traffic and improve bicycle safety.

Superintendent Phelan explained Kate Bowen is the School Committee Representative to the High School Traffic Working Group. When the Belmont High School Building Committee (BHSBC) went forward with a design, they realized there could be an increased challenge for walkers, bikers and cars. They are working to improve safety. The group has met almost every Friday and BHSBC Chair Bill Lovallo attends almost every meeting.

5. SUBCOMMITTEE/LIAISON UPDATES (as needed)

5.1 Finance Subcommittee

The next meeting of the Finance Subcommittee is on March 19.

5.2 Policy and Procedure Subcommittee

The Policy and Procedure Subcommittee met on March 7. They discussed the results of the AfterCare Survey and came up with other ideas for more data analysis. The Subcommittee also discussed the three new policies presented at the meeting this evening. There was discussion on the community path

5.3 Curriculum and Instruction Subcommittee

5.4 Capital Budget Committee

The Capital Budget Committee met on March 12 and received an update on building projects and discussed proposed capital expenditures for schools and town facilities.

5.5 Warrant Committee

The Warrant Committee Education Subcommittee has met with the School Committee Finance Subcommittee but will not meet as a full committee until April 3.

5.6 Belmont High School Building Committee

The Belmont High School Building Committee is meeting on March 13 at 7:30 am. They are moving forward with contract and RFP plans. They are also getting ready for detail design and sending bids out to contractors. A pricing meeting will take place in April at Skanska. There is a request by the Town and School Departments to review what the field configurations could be if a rink is built on the high school site.

5.7 Community Path Update

The Community Path Committee is in the process of doing the RFP. They are hopeful a decision will be made on the path being on the north or south side. The Board of Selectmen has put out an invitation to Purecoat about the possible acquisition of property or portions of it.

6. **OTHER BUSINESS**

6.1 Consent Agenda – None

6.2 Personnel Items – none

6.3 Business Items – None

6.4 Approval of Minutes

There were no minutes to be approved.

7. **FUTURE BUSINESS**

Upcoming Meetings:

March 19, 2019

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

March 26, 2019

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

8. **ENCLOSURES**

Strategic Plan
2018-19 School Committee Goals
April 1, 2019 Enrollment

9. **ADJOURN**

At 8:30 p.m. on a motion offered by Kate Bowen and seconded by Tara Donner, it was

VOTED unanimously to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted by 
Andrea Prestwich, Secretary