

**BELMONT SCHOOL COMMITTEE FINANCE SUBCOMMITTEE MINUTES
REMOTE MEETING
DECEMBER 15, 2020**

Present: Ms. Andrea Prestwich, Chair
Ms. Catherine Bowen, Secretary
Ms. Amy Checkoway
Mr. Michael Crowley
Ms. Tara Donner
Ms. Evelyn Gomez
Mr. John Phelan, Superintendent
Ms. Janice Darias, Assistant Superintendent
Mr. Anthony DiCologero, Director of Finance, Business and Operations
Mr. Michael McAllister, Director of Human Capital

1. Opening Business

1.1 Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 a.m.

1.2 Approval of Minutes

On a motion offered by Michael Crowley and seconded by Evelyn Gomez, it was VOTED 5-0-1 on a roll call vote to approve the following minutes:

Nov. 24, 2020 Finance Subcommittee Minutes

Dec. 1, 2020 Finance Subcommittee Minutes

Dec. 8, 2020 School Committee Minutes

2. FY21 Transportation Fees (Vote)

The School Committee Finance Subcommittee discussed how to charge an appropriate bus fee that will be fair and equitable during this time. Tony DiCologero shared a spreadsheet while Superintendent Phelan explained the process of organizing fees. The district is trying to be thoughtful with a reduced fee since they are not providing a complete service. Refunds were provided to families for part of last year when in-person school was cancelled due to COVID. This school year the fee was reduced and the hope is to be able to continue next year with a reduced fee while students are still in hybrid. The district is suggesting \$100 per student for the remainder of the year. The School Committee agreed to vote on the bus fee at their next Finance Subcommittee meeting on December 22.

3. FY22 Budget Update

The School Committee discussed the forecasting of the FY22 budget. Select Board Chair Roy Epstein had questions regarding assumptions in the model presented at a recent joint meeting, including

expenditures for teacher hiring and turnover savings and the uncertainty of free cash replenishment. Superintendent Phelan explained the district does not know who will be resigning or retiring until June. The Committee discussed the increasing enrollment and the need to hire additional staff when the new configuration begins. The Committee will work on a narrative for the next public forum in January.

The Committee noted the need for a future discussion on the possibility of running a summer school program for students and how to fund it. Superintendent Phelan stated the district has had a posting for an additional nurse but has not been able to hire someone yet. With the increase in COVID cases in the town, it would be helpful to be able to take some of the strain off the Health Department and School nurses. There was some discussion of costs for an equity audit and options to include in the audit, the status of the accelerated math program, what reductions might amount to in approaching next year's budget, and the challenges and merits of MCAS in the pandemic.

The Committee did not discuss any additional agenda items.

4. **Testing Funding**
5. **Equity Audit Funding**
6. **Adjourn**

On a motion offered by Catherine Bowen and seconded by Evelyn Gomez, it was VOTED, unanimously on a roll call vote to adjourn the meeting at 9:47 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted by:



Catherine Bowen, Secretary