

**BELMONT SCHOOL COMMITTEE FINANCE SUBCOMMITTEE JOINT MEETING
WITH SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES**

**REMOTE MEETING
November 17, 2021**

**RECEIVED
TOWN CLERK
BELMONT, MA**

DATE: December 3, 2021
TIME: 11:35 AM

Present: Amy Checkoway, Chair (left at 9 am)
Meg Moriarty, Secretary
Mike Crowley
Ralph Jones
Jamal Saeh (left at 9 am)
John Phelan, Superintendent
Tony DiCologero, Director of Finance, Business and Operations

Chair Checkoway called the SC to order at 8:03 am.

Mike Crowley, Chair of the FSC, called the FSC to order at 8:03 am

1. Motion to approve FSC meeting minutes for October 26, 2021.
Crowley, Moriarty, Saeh in favor (3-0)
2. FY22 Updates
 - a. New this year, Tony is providing monthly budget report updates. Nothing concerning at this point. School Committee members ask about SPED incumbencies and the tracking of fringe benefits with teacher salaries.
 - b. DESE clarification: the LABBB Credit of \$166,000 can be used for student invoices that otherwise are not expensive enough to charge to the usual LABBB funding sources.
 - c. At the request of the SC, Superintendent Phelan asked Building Principals what is needed at each building, immediately and/or in the next year(s). The needs ranged from a security guard for the HS and social workers at all levels to building substitutes, BCCBs, and reading specialists. While enrollment has decreased overall, students (including general education students) need more wrap around services.

SC members asked whether these are 1 year positions, whether they require reallocating ESSR funds, and whether outsourcing some of these positions is value added, or not. The SC would like to know how many additional students would be "reached" if new specialists and social workers are added this year versus starting next school year. Superintendent Phelan will provide an explanation for why having some of these positions in the district rather than using vendors is added value for students.

Amy spoke in favor of adding a .2 FTE music teacher at the Chenery to help reduce music class sizes and support students at all learning levels, especially new instrument learners. Jamal suggested making clear which positions would help fill long-standing

needs in the district versus those that are needed in response to the pandemic and those that are mandated positions.

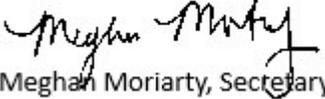
3. Budget visioning and strategic planning

- a. The SD and SC are in the process of creating a 3 year budget and will need to consider the new enrollment numbers as well as the needs of students post-pandemic. Superintendent Phelan suggested they present it as a “What students need now” budget. At the suggestion of SC members, an hour of the December SC meeting will be devoted to a public listening forum to get input from families and the community as to what they believe students need and should be reflected in the budget.

4. Public Questions

- a. Lisa Pargoli asked whether the list of positions would be 1 year or long term hires and whether public schools should be responsible for providing mental health services to students.
- b. Bill Anderson asked that the working budget presentation be made available on the website.

Mike Crowley adjourned the FSC at 9:30 am

Respectfully Submitted by:  Meghan Moriarty, Secretary