

BELMONT SCHOOL COMMITTEE POLICY SUBCOMMITTEE MINUTES
REMOTE MEETING
NOVEMBER 1, 2021

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DATE: January 5, 2022
TIME: 2:40 PM

Present: Ms. Kate Bowen, Chair
Ms. Meghan Moriarty
Mr. Mike Crowley

1. OPENING BUSINESS

1.1 Call to Order

Committee Chair Kate Bowen called the meeting to order at 12:01 pm.

2. APPROVE MINUTES

1.1 Crowley moved approval of the subcommittee minutes of 9/3/2021, which were seconded by Moriarty and approved on a vote of 3-0.

1.2 Crowley moved approval of the subcommittee minutes of 9/30/2021, which were seconded by Moriarty and approved on a vote of 3-0.

3. POLICY UPDATING

Many of the policy areas needing improvement are 8002, 8003, and 2000 section policies. Since the subcommittee's last meeting, Bowen has examined school policies for areas where they are not explicit enough or possibly need updating. She categorized these areas into four categories: responding to emails, policy on meeting agendas and agenda-setting process, requests made by School Committee members to school staff, and length of meetings. The following discussion also included the issue of how to identify topics for the broader year-long purview of subcommittee meetings. Questions discussed included-- How to move through the issue of setting policies, whether we should look at other districts as examples, whether some policy issues are more urgent than others, and how to flag policies for new members and as reminders to existing members?

Crowley suggested that there was more urgency around agenda setting (full and subcommittee), length of meetings, and responding to complaints/feedback from the public. Moriarty also suggested that the subcommittee consider policy about responding to information requests from the public. Bowen suggested that the subcommittee assign 4 areas for development of policy language to the subcommittee members for follow-up. Crowley moved, "That the subcommittee review comparisons of policy and practice in at least two other districts for each of the four policy areas discussed." Moriarty seconded and the motion was approved on a vote of 3-0. It was agreed that Moriarty will examine policy around information requests, Crowley will consider policy on length of meetings, and Bowen will examine agenda setting and complaints from the public.

Another policy issue needing to be considered is the organization of the policies. MASC uses a harmonized lettering code and hosts over 100 school district policies on its website. Belmont's school

policies are not aligned with MASC, but are organized numerically. The subcommittee discussed that it would be useful to know the cost/fee for hosting school policies on the MASC site. Another potential solution to make Belmont school policies more searchable would be to have the policies on the Belmont school site organized as a single, searchable document.

Moriarty raised the issue of whether a policy is needed for “naming rights.” The example she pointed to was the potential new skating rink. She asked whether naming rights should only be accorded to people who make large contributions. Bowen raised the question of whether a person’s qualities should be considered when it comes to naming as a memorial. Moriarty will gather information from the rink committee and look at other examples of potential “naming rights” policy.

The subcommittee also discussed school policies governing transportation. Questions considered included--What incentives do we provide students concerning transportation? Are we incentivizing driving? Should we be incentivizing biking and other means? Bowen will report back on what some other districts are doing. Moriarty pointed to prior school committee precedent involving the community path.

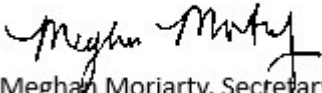
4. FUTURE MEETINGS

The subcommittee discussed having future meetings on Thursday afternoons for about one hour around 2pm or 3pm. The subcommittee will also want to make sure of the Superintendent’s availability.

5. MEETING ADJOURNMENT

Bowen adjourned the meeting at 1:03pm.

Respectfully Submitted by:


Meghan Moriarty, Secretary