

**RECEIVED
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BELMONT, MA**

DATE: September 14, 2022
TIME: 2:02 PM

**BELMONT SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES
REMOTE MEETING
JUNE 22, 2022**

Present: Ms. Meghan Moriarty, Chair
Ms. Amy Checkoway, Secretary
Mr. Michael Crowley
Mr. Jeffrey Liberty
Mr. John Phelan, Superintendent
Ms. Janice Darias, Assistant Superintendent
Mr. Anthony DiCologero, Director of Finance, Business and Operations
Mr. Adam Dash, Vice-Chair Select Board

Absent: Mr. Jamal Saeh
Ms. Kate Bowen

1. OPENING BUSINESS

1.1 Call to Order

Chair Moriarty called the meeting to order at 5:03 pm.

1.2 Citizens' Concerns - none

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- School Committee Joint Minutes of June 7, 14, 2022
- Policy Subcommittee Minutes of May 9, 2022 –moved to a future meeting

On a motion offered by Jeff Liberty and seconded by Meg Moriarty, it was voted (4-0-0) on a roll call vote to approve the School Committee minutes of June 7, 2022. Checkoway, Crowley, Liberty, Moriarty - aye

On a motion offered by Mike Crowley and seconded by Meg Moriarty, it was voted (4-0-0) on a roll call vote to approve the School Committee minutes of June 14, 2022. Checkoway, Crowley, Liberty, Moriarty - aye

3. MAJOR BUSINESS

3.1 Memorandum of Agreement 2021-2025 – BEA Units A, B, C, D (vote)

SC members thanked all parties involved in the negotiation process. The Belmont Education Association voted to ratify all MOAs (Units A, B, C, and D) with the School Committee for the 2021-2025 term. SC members and Superintendent Phelan felt a balanced contract was achieved. Select Board Vice Chair Adam Dash is present to serve as the Select Board representative for the vote.

On a motion offered by Meg Moriarty and seconded by Amy Checkoway, it was voted (5-0-0) on a roll call vote to ratify the Belmont School Committee Memorandum of Agreement with the Belmont Education Association for 2021-2025 - Unit A.

On a motion offered by Meg Moriarty and seconded by Mike Crowley, it was voted (5-0-0) on a roll call vote to ratify the Belmont School Committee Memorandum of Agreement with the Belmont Education Association for 2021-2025 - Unit B.

On a motion offered by Meg Moriarty and seconded by Jeff Liberty, it was voted (5-0-0) on a roll call vote to ratify the Belmont School Committee Memorandum of Agreement with the Belmont Education Association for 2021-2025 - Unit C.

On a motion offered by Meg Moriarty and seconded by Amy Checkoway, it was voted (5-0-0) on a roll call vote to ratify the Belmont School Committee Memorandum of Agreement with the Belmont Education Association for 2021-2025 - Unit D.

3.2 Superintendent's Evaluation (vote)

Chair Moriarty provided a reminder that at the June 14, 2022 meeting, the Superintendent's Evaluation Composite Report was shared with an overall summative rating of Proficient. In the past, the School Committee has not always voted on the composite report, but is now required.

On a motion offered by Meg Moriarty and seconded by Mike Crowley, it was voted (4-0-0) on a roll call vote to approve the Superintendent's Evaluation Composite Report with an overall Proficient rating.

3.3 Configuration Proposal (vote)

Superintendent Phelan presented a proposal to create and move forward with a one-year Configuration Transition Specialist position at the June 14, 2022 School Committee meeting. Chair Moriarty confirmed that the SC's request to follow up with the Warrant Committee and Select Board about this matter was completed. Superintendent Phelan presented revenue sources for reallocation within the FY23 budget with specific positions and rationale. (*SC Document: Revenue_Source_Reallocation_FY23_Slides*) The administration has worked since spring to fine tune the staff exchange number and has identified four (4) areas within the current FY23 budget as funding sources.

- Unit A: 1.0 FTE position at Burbank that was not filled due to no increase in enrollment \$90,000
 - Unit A: 0.2 FTE school nurse reduction request \$18,000
 - Unit A: 0.5 Preschool Educator resignation \$45,000
 - Unit D: 3.0 FTE unfilled and unassigned \$129,000
- Total: \$282,000

If approved, the district will post for an ELA position and a District Configuration Transition Specialist, both internally and externally.

Chair Moriarty opened the meeting to questions and comments from SC members.

Member Liberty inquired about contingency support for the Nursing Department. Mr. Phelan confirmed there is room in the budget to allow for other small increases for COVID related needs.

Member Checkoway inquired about the ELA position and whom it will serve. Mr. Phelan reported the ELA position would free up reading specialists to support students not meeting benchmarks at CMS due in part to ongoing recovery from COVID disruptions to education. Ms. Checkoway voiced support for the configuration specialist position and took partial ownership for the timing in the position request.

Member Crowley asked about using enrollment projections to support the two positions, and if the analysis of enrollment projections highlighted other problem areas. Mr. Phelan only anticipates nursing and English Learner possible needs, although traditionally in the fall, some needs arise from the summer registration process.

Member Liberty commented on responsibility for the process and realizes that things have changed from the original plan to have Central Office oversee the configuration work due to the condensed schedule. Mr. Liberty values good process around budget and hiring with attention to equity.

Chair Moriarty highlighted the volatility of the school budget and importance of balancing the needs of students with financial responsibility. Ms. Moriarty thanked Town Meeting members who approved the FY23 budget and asked about the hiring timeline for the reconfiguration position. Superintendent Phelan reported the position will be posted tomorrow and that the hope is to interview candidates after 5-10 days.

On a motion offered by Mike Crowley and seconded by Jeff Liberty, it was voted (4-0-0) on a roll call vote to support repurposing the current FY23 budget up to \$282,000 for hiring of one ELA educator and a District Configuration Transition Specialist.

Member Crowley thanked Finance Director Anthony DiCologero for his ongoing help with the budget.

4. ADJOURN

Chair Moriarty adjourned the meeting at 5:59 pm.

Respectfully Submitted by:



Amy Checkoway