

**BELMONT SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES
CHENERY MIDDLE SCHOOL COMMUNITY ROOM
APRIL 12, 2016**

Present: Dr. Lisa Fiore, Chair
Ms. Susan Burgess-Cox, Secretary
Mr. Thomas Caputo
Ms. Andrea Prestwich
Ms. Elyse Shuster
Mr. John Phelan, Superintendent
Ms. Janice Darias, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction
Mr. Anthony DiCologero, Director of Finance, Business, and Operations

Absent: Mr. Murat Bicer

1. **ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING**

A. **REQUIRED MATTERS**

1.1 Call to order

1.2 Pledge of Allegiance

Dr. Fiore led the Pledge of Allegiance.

1.3 Nomination/Election of Chair

Dr. Fiore explained this portion of the meeting was the Organizational Meeting where a new Chair and Secretary are elected. She asked for a motion to vote on the election of School Committee Chair.

On a motion offered by Ms. Shuster and seconded by Ms. Burgess-Cox, it was

VOTED 5-0-1 to elect Dr. Lisa Fiore as School Committee Chair.

1.4 Nomination/Election of Secretary

Dr. Fiore asked for a motion to vote on the election of School Committee Secretary.

On a motion offered by Mr. Caputo and seconded by Ms. Shuster, it was

VOTED 5-0-1 to elect Ms. Susan Burgess-Cox as School Committee Secretary.

Ms. Shuster asked if a discussion about subcommittee assignments should take place now or at a future meeting. The Committee decided to put off the discussion until a future meeting.

On a motion offered by Ms. Burgess-Cox and seconded by Ms. Shuster, it was

VOTED 5-0-1 to adjourn the Organizational Meeting.

2. **OPENING BUSINESS**

Dr. Fiore announced that the School Committee would now hold their regular Business Meeting.

2.1 Citizens' Concerns

There were no citizen's concerns.

2.2 Adjustments to the Agenda

There were no adjustments to the agenda.

2.3 Chair's Report

Dr. Fiore stated she would provide a report at the next meeting.

2.4 Student Representative Report

There was no student representative in attendance.

2.5 Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Phelan welcomed new School Committee members Andrea Prestwich and Murat Bicer explaining Mr. Bicer was not in attendance due to a previous commitment. Superintendent Phelan stated he is looking forward to working with them.

Superintendent Phelan updated the School Committee on the bomb threat that had taken place at Belmont High School on Monday. He praised the work of the Belmont Police Department and Fire Department as well as Principal Dan Richards and the staff at Belmont High School. He noted the protocol Belmont has in place for events like these worked well and the search of the building went smoothly. Students sheltered in place while the search took place and Principal Richards visited classes after to allow students to discuss the event if needed.

Superintendent Phelan announced the names of the three finalists for the position of Chenery Middle School Principal. James Kimo Carter is Principal of Watertown Middle School, John Muldoon is Assistant Principal at Belmont High School, and Michael McAllister is Principal of Butler Elementary School. Superintendent Phelan stated the search was a rigorous process and he was happy to have had such an excellent pool of candidates to choose from.

3. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

There was no unfinished business.

4. **MAJOR BUSINESS**

4.1 SEL Update – Exhibit A

Ms. Darias provided an update on the current Social Emotional Learning (SEL) that has been taking place in Belmont the past year. She stated the district has been working with a skilled expert in the field of SEL and thanks go to the Foundation for Belmont Education (FBE) for the funding they provided for this initiative. SEL includes the following:

- Classroom practices
- Schoolwide practices and structures
- Direct instruction (Open Circle and Second Step at the elementary schools, instruction during health and wellness classes at middle and high schools)
- Infusion into the content
- Events
- Family engagement

Ms. Darias explained the goal for this year is to increase the awareness and understanding of SEL competencies among all the educators and staff and to increase the opportunities for students to learn and practice these skills.

4.2 Modular Update

Superintendent Phelan provided an update on the plans for modular classrooms at the Chenery Middle School. He explained again the need for additional space due to the increasing enrollment. The original recommendation was made by the Space Task Force in the report they completed a few years ago. The modulares will provide 6 classrooms for the Chenery and a bid will be going out soon for the purchase. Superintendent Phelan stated he is hopeful some funding will be provided from the transfer of free cash. Superintendent Phelan also noted the Board of Selectmen announced additional funding for the feasibility study for Belmont High School project from the sale of property owned by the Town.

Superintendent Phelan explained the School Committee would need to vote on the two Warrant Articles tonight or at the April 26th meeting. School Committee members chose to vote now.

On a motion offered by Mr. Caputo and seconded by Ms. Burgess-Cox, it was

VOTED 5-0-1 for favorable action regarding the appropriation from proceeds of sale of Town owned property to fund Belmont High School proposed project – Article 2.

On a motion offered by Mr. Caputo and seconded by Ms. Burgess-Cox, it was

VOTED 5-0-1 for favorable action regarding the transfer from free cash and appropriation to fund modular classrooms at the Chenery Middle School.

5. **SUBCOMMITTEE/LIAISON UPDATES (as needed)**

5.1 Finance Subcommittee

The Finance Subcommittee met earlier in the day and continued their work on the FY17 budget process. They reviewed the list of needs created by Superintendent Phelan and Director of Finance, Business, and Operations, Tony DiCologero. The Committee also discussed the process for Town Meeting, getting the budget completed and articles voted on.

5.2 Policy and Procedure Subcommittee

The Policy and Procedure Subcommittee will convene after the April break to discuss recent policy decisions made around the school calendar.

5.3 Curriculum and Instruction Subcommittee

The Curriculum and Instruction Subcommittee met yesterday and will be providing two agenda items at the April 26th School Committee meeting.

5.4 Capital Budget Committee

The Capital Budget Committee will meet on Thursday to conduct a straw poll of all capital projects.

5.5 Warrant Committee

The Warrant Committee met last week and reviewed articles for Town Meeting and discussed which articles to have voted on by Warrant Committee.

5.6 Wellington Building Committee

There was no report from the Wellington Building Committee.

5.7 Financial Task Force

There was no report from the Financial Task Force.

5.8 Community Path Update

There was no report from the Community Path Group.

5.9 Library Long Range Planning Committee

There was no report from the Library Long Range Planning Committee.

5. **OTHER BUSINESS**

5.1 Consent Agenda - none

5.2 Personnel Items - none

5.3 Business Items – None

5.4 Approval of Minutes

- o March 22, 2016

On a motion offered by Ms. Shuster and seconded by Ms. Burgess-Cox, it was

VOTED 4-0-1-1 to approve the minutes of March 22, 2016 as amended.

6. **FUTURE BUSINESS**

Upcoming Meetings:

April 26, 2016

Finance Subcommittee Meeting
SAB Conference Room – 7:30 a.m.

April 26, 2016

School Committee Meeting
SAB Conference Room – 7:00 p.m.

7. **ENCLOSURES**

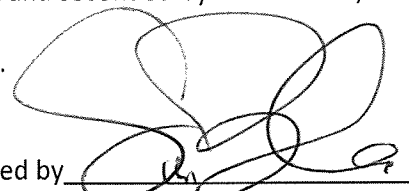
- o April 1, 2016 Enrollment
- o April 1, 2016 Enrollment indicating changes.
- o Strategic Plan

8. **ADJOURNMENT**

At 8:30 p.m. on a motion offered by Ms. Burgess-Cox and seconded by Ms. Shuster, it was

VOTED unanimously to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted by



Ms. Susan Burgess-Cox, Secretary