

**BELMONT SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES  
CHENERY MIDDLE SCHOOL COMMUNITY ROOM  
MAY 10, 2016**

Present: Dr. Lisa Fiore, Chair  
Ms. Susan Burgess-Cox, Secretary  
Mr. Murat Bicer  
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 Business, Finance and Operations

**1. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

1.1 The School Committee entered Executive Session at 6:30 p.m. for the purpose of conducting strategy with respect to contract negotiations with union personnel given that a discussion in Open Session may have a detrimental impact on the School Committee's bargaining position.

**2. OPENING BUSINESS**

2.1 Call to order

Dr. Fiore explained that the School Committee had been in Executive Session and would now begin the Open Session part of the meeting.

2.2 Pledge of Allegiance

Dr. Fiore led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2.3 Citizens' Concerns

There were no citizens' concerns.

2.4 Adjustments to the Agenda

There were no adjustments to the agenda.

2.5 Chair's Report

Dr. Fiore announced the following upcoming events.

- Parents of Music Students (POMS) Walk for Music and Arts on May 15<sup>th</sup>

- New England Patriots Celebrity Basketball Game vs. Belmont Boosters – May 16<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. in the BHS Field House
- Belmont Town Day on May 21<sup>st</sup>

Dr. Fiore announced Cityside Subaru of Belmont donated \$22,000 to Belmont Public Schools through the Foundation for Belmont Education (FBE). She thanked both organizations for their commitment to the district.

## 2.6 Student Representative Report

There was no student representative in attendance.

## 2.7 Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Phelan announced the plan to have the drinking water tested in the schools. He explained he has been meeting with Gerry Boyle, Director of Facilities and David Kale, Town Administrator to put a water testing plan in place. They have arranged for a consulting group to come in and do the testing. Although the water is tested by the Belmont Water Department and Belmont Health Department, this testing will go further. He stated the Town has applied for available grants to fund the water testing.

Superintendent Phelan announced the last day of school will be June 16<sup>th</sup> and the first day will be September 7<sup>th</sup>.

Superintendent Phelan updated the Committee on the search process for a new Principal of the Butler School since Michael McAllister will be taking over that role at the Chenery. He stated a Search Committee has been arranged and they will be reviewing resumes.

Superintendent Phelan announced two dates, May 12<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. and June 2<sup>nd</sup> at 2:30 p.m., for parents and staff to stop by the Chenery to say farewell to Principal St. George and Assistant Principal Coplon-Newfield. These two events are sponsored by the Chenery PTO.

## 3. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

## 4. MAJOR BUSINESS

### 4.1 K-12 Science Preview Presentation – Exhibit A

Liz Baker, Director of Science and Jessica DeFrances, Elementary Curriculum Specialist for Math and Science, presented an update on the new science curriculum. The curriculum is in line with the new science standards adopted by the state in January 2016. The new standards are based on research over several decades on how children learn science. Each standard is a performance expectation combining Science and Engineering Practices, Crosscutting Concepts, and Disciplinary Core Ideas into a single statement of what is to be assessed. Teachers have reviewed the standards and created a common understanding of science and engineering practices. They have identified resources to work from and identified units to focus on for next year.

#### 4.2 Trip Proposals:

##### BHS Trip to Quebec for French Students – February 2017 – Exhibit B

Colleen Foley, Director of Foreign Language explained the proposal for the trip to Quebec. She noted this is the first time students have travelled to Quebec and stated it is an opportunity for students who are studying French to practice their language skills. The students will visit historical and cultural sites and museums. Students will be required to prepare a presentation on one of the historical sites they visit. They will be required to do their presentation in French. The trip is being organized by World Cultural Tours and will cost \$1,375 per student. There will be one full scholarship for a student in need of financial assistance.

##### BHS Trip to Italy for Latin Students – April 2017 – Exhibit C

Colleen Foley, Director of Foreign Language explained the proposal for the trip to Italy. The trip will take place over April vacation and is also organized by World Cultural Tours. The students will visit Roman buildings, ruins, and art museums. Students will be required to act as guides and prepare two different oral presentations. The cost of the trip is \$3,599 per student. There will be one full scholarship available for a student in need of financial assistance.

##### BHS Chorus Trip to Iceland – April 2017 – Exhibit D

Sean Landers, Choral Director explained the proposal for the trip to Iceland. Students will not only have the opportunity to travel in Iceland but they will be performing as well. There will be one informal performance and one formal. They will also study the musical and artistic culture and traditions in Iceland. There will be 40-80 students with 1 faculty chaperone per 10 students. The tour is organized by World Cultural Tours and will cost \$3,599 per student. There will be one full scholarship available for a student in need of financial assistance.

Dr. Fiore explained the School Committee would vote on the trips at the May 24<sup>th</sup> meeting.

#### 4.3 MSBA Fund Authorization Update

Superintendent Phelan explained there were two articles that were voted on at Town Meeting last week that benefited the school district. The first was a favorable vote to allow \$1.4 million dollars from free cash to fund modular classroom units at the Chenery Middle School. Superintendent Phelan stated this will add an additional 11 classrooms across the district. The modular classrooms will be purchased by the School Department and be a cost benefit. The goal is to have them in place by the fall of 2016 with the infrastructure done over the summer.

Superintendent Phelan explained the second article which was also voted favorably. This will allow 1.75 million dollars to be used for the Belmont High School Building Project. The funds will be

used to hire an architect and project manager. The funding source came from the sale of town owned property on Woodfall Road. Superintendent Phelan thanked Town Meeting members and Town Administrators for their commitment to the Belmont Schools. Superintendent Phelan explained these items are part of the initial eligibility period required by the MSBA. The next steps will be to discuss enrollment projections. The Town has hired a consultant to help with this process. Once the eligibility period ends, the project will be given over to the Belmont High School Building Committee chaired by Bill Lovallo. Superintendent Phelan announced the Building Committee hopes to create a website for the public to see how the building of the new school takes place.

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

### 5.1 Finance Subcommittee

Dr. Fiore stated she would announce the new members of the subcommittees immediately before each subcommittee report. The members of the Finance Subcommittee are: Murat Bicer, Susan Burgess-Cox, and Tom Caputo.

The Finance Subcommittee met this morning with members of the Warrant Committee Education Subcommittee. Jim Gammil, Chair of that committee has partnered with the Finance Subcommittee to help understand where the district is in the budget process. Some discussions at the meeting included updates on the modular units and where the High School Building Committee is in their process.

Mary Conant-Cantor, Director of Nursing has embarked on a process to enable Belmont to receive Medicaid reimbursements.

The Finance Subcommittee also investigated the possibility of having funds allocated to the Special Education Stabilization Fund.

### 5.2 Policy and Procedure Subcommittee

The members of the Policy and Procedure Subcommittee are: Susan Burgess-Cox, Andrea Prestwich and Elyse Shuster.

The Policy and Procedure Subcommittee met on May 3<sup>rd</sup> with Human Resources Director, Mary Pederson. They continued their discussion from last spring around naming rights issues and the proposal for a Naming Rights Advisory Committee within the Town. They also discussed revising policies regarding advertising and sponsorship and the need to revise policies related to religious holidays.

### 5.3 Curriculum and Instruction Subcommittee

The members of the Curriculum and Instruction Subcommittee are: Lisa Fiore, Andrea Prestwich and Elyse Shuster. There was no report from the Curriculum and Instruction Subcommittee.

### 5.4 Capital Budget Committee

Susan Burgess-Cox will serve as the School Committee Representative for the Capital Budget Committee.

The Capital Budget Committee met last week and approved budget projects to be presented at Town Meeting. They also discussed funding for furniture and equipment for the modular units at Belmont High School.

5.5 Warrant Committee

Susan Burgess-Cox will continue to serve as the School Committee Representative to the Warrant Committee until the end of this Fiscal Year. Members of the Finance Subcommittee will discuss future representation.

The Warrant Committee met last week and viewed a presentation on Minuteman. They will meet tomorrow evening to review articles for the June Town Meeting.

5.6 Wellington Building Committee

The Wellington Building Committee has prepared the final documents to be signed for reimbursement by MSBA. Any remaining funds will be put into an account determined by the Town.

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

Elyse Shuster will serve as the School Committee Representative for the Library Long Range Planning Committee.

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

5.10 BHS Building Committee

Tom Caputo was appointed by the Moderator to serve as the School Committee Representative to the BHS Building Committee. Superintendent Phelan and Principal Richards also serve on the Committee.

The High School Building Committee has scheduled meetings for the following dates: May 29<sup>th</sup>, June 29<sup>th</sup>, July 27<sup>th</sup>, August 31<sup>st</sup>, September 28<sup>th</sup>, and October 26<sup>th</sup>. All meetings are open to the public and times and dates are on the BPS website.

6. **OTHER BUSINESS**

6.1 Consent Agenda - none

6.2 Personnel Items - none

6.3 Business Items – None

6.4 Approval of Minutes

April 26, 2016

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

**VOTED** unanimously to approve the minutes of April 26, 2016.

7. **FUTURE BUSINESS**

Upcoming Meetings:

May 16, 2016  
Policy Subcommittee Meeting  
SAB Conference Room - 7:45 a.m.

May 24, 2016  
Finance Subcommittee Meeting  
SAB Conference Room – 7:30 a.m.

May 24, 2016  
School Committee Meeting  
CMS Large Community Room – 7:00 p.m.

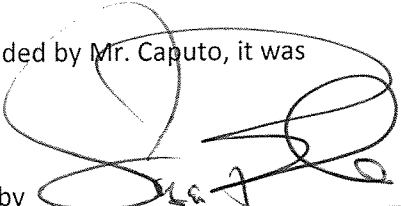
8. **ENCLOSURES**

May 1, 2016 Enrollment  
May 1, 2016 Enrollment indicating changes  
Professional Learning Team Conference Schedule  
Strategic Plan

8. **ADJOURNMENT**

At 8:46 p.m. on a motion offered by Mr. Bicer and seconded by Mr. Caputo, it was

**VOTED** unanimously to adjourn the meeting

Respectfully submitted by   
Ms. Susan Burgess-Cox, Secretary