

EXHIBITA

6/5/18

**RESOLUTIONS
2017-2018**

1. Mary Conant-Cantor – Director of Nursing – District
2. Regina Kalajian – Art Teacher - Wellington Elementary School
3. Catherine Larkin – Art Teacher – Belmont High School
4. Lois Mason – Reading Specialist – Chenery Middle School
5. John McLellan – Music/Band Teacher – Chenery Middle School
6. Robin Morrison – Winn Brook – Grade 2
7. Elizabeth Ordile – Cafeteria Worker – Butler Elementary School
8. JoAnn Papalia – Clerical Aide – Wellington Elementary School
9. Colleen Sullivan – Secretary to the Assistant Superintendent – School Administration Building
10. Diane Wiltshire – METCO Director - District

RESOLUTION ON THE RETIREMENT OF MARY CONANT CANTOR



The Belmont School Committee hereby records the retirement, in June 2018, of Mary Conant Cantor, Director of Nursing for the Belmont Public Schools.

Ms. Cantor earned an Associate of Science in Nursing from Middlesex Community College and a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from the University of New Hampshire. She began her career in school nursing in the Lowell Public Schools in 1995 where she worked as a substitute nurse and then at the Wang Middle School for four years. In 2000 she became the Supervisor of Public Health Nursing and Assistant School Health Coordinator for the City of Lowell and in 2003 was appointed as the Acting Nursing Coordinator for the city. She transitioned to the Massachusetts Department of Public Health where she worked for eleven years primarily in the role of Nurse Manager for the Immunization Program. We were very fortunate that Ms. Cantor decided to return to school nursing just at the moment when we were seeking a Director of Nursing. She joined the district in 2015 and has accomplished much during her three years with the district.

Ms. Cantor brought tremendous nursing expertise, and was an outstanding leader of the Belmont Public Schools nurses. She demonstrated servant leadership, working alongside the nurses, supporting them through changes and challenges, validating and acknowledging their strengths, and always problem-solving and learning with them. A true leader cultivates and empowers leadership among those she supervises, and this is exactly what she did. She leaves behind a legacy of outstanding nurses to continue keeping our children healthy and safe while getting them back in the classroom as quickly as possible.

Judging by the list of accomplishments, you would think that Ms. Cantor had been with us for far more than three years. Thanks to Ms. Cantor, the district is now set up for Medicaid reimbursement. She completed all the behind-the-scenes work to get the program in place, working with district leaders, training the district service providers, and ensuring that the town receives reimbursement for eligible expenses. She also coordinated and guided the implementation of a new state mandate to screen middle and high school students for substance abuse (SBIRT, or Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral to Treatment). Thanks to Ms. Conant's organizational and leadership expertise, individual interviews with over seven hundred students occurred seamlessly. We are grateful that she chose the Belmont Public Schools for her return to school nursing before retiring, and we will miss her tenacious determination and wonderful sense of humor.

The Belmont School Committee, along with friends and colleagues, expresses its appreciation to Mary Conant Cantor for her dedicated and faithful service. The Belmont School Committee also extends best wishes to Mary for many years of continued happiness and health in her retirement.

RESOLUTION ON THE RETIREMENT OF REGINA KALAJIAN



The Belmont School Committee hereby records the retirement, in October 2018, of Regina Kalajian, Art Specialist for Belmont Public Schools at the Wellington Elementary School.

Ms. Kalajian has had a long and distinguished career as an art specialist for the Belmont Public Schools since September 1985. Ms. Kalajian obtained her Bachelor's Degree in Art Education from Regis College, and with her K-12 certification, has taught at several schools throughout Belmont including Wellington, Winnbrook, Butler and Chenery. In addition, throughout her career she completed continuing education courses at the Massachusetts College of Art and Design. Ms. Kalajian has been instrumental in championing technology into the art curriculum. She promoted the use of Smartboards and i-Pads for student learning by applying for a special grant through the FBE and PTO, and was successful in receiving the grant funding. Since obtaining the funding, Ms. Kalajian has utilized the Smartboard and i-Pads in her classroom on a regular basis in her curriculum and has been on the cutting edge of designing the highest quality lessons for her students. In addition, Ms. Kalajian has brought her ideas and experience on the use of the above technology and shared it with her peers to advance the use of this equipment throughout the Belmont Public Schools.

Ms. Kalajian has consistently been recognized as bringing art to life with her students. Her classroom ("Art Studio 201") visually demonstrates that fact. Her art lessons convey her love for the subject as well as her passion to use the art curriculum to enhance each of her student's educational growth and development. Ms. Kalajian strongly believes that the value of creativity is essential to all learning and is a devoted advocate for the Belmont Public Schools to insure that the visual arts are always promoted throughout the curriculum. Ms. Kalajian has tirelessly encouraged her students to discover their creativity and consistently displays her student's art at her school, the Superintendent's office and the annual Art Show.

Ms. Kalajian is a truly inspirational teacher for the Arts and she will be missed greatly by her students and colleagues. She has had a tremendous impact on both the subject matter and spirit of the Art Curriculum and has been a tireless promoter of the Arts. For this, Ms. Kalajian will leave a lasting legacy to the Art Department in the Belmont Public Schools.

The Belmont School Committee, along with friends and colleagues, expresses its appreciation to Regina Kalajian for her devoted and outstanding service. The Belmont School Committee also extends best wishes to Regina for a long, happy and healthy retirement.

RESOLUTION ON THE RETIREMENT OF CATHERINE LARKIN



The Belmont School Committee hereby records the retirement, in June 2018, of Cathy Larkin, Visual Art teacher for Belmont Public Schools at Belmont High School

Ms. Larkin has taught in the Belmont Public Schools since 1983, having spent her entire career teaching in Belmont. She earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in 1983, graduating Magna Cum Laude from the University of Massachusetts Amherst. She earned a Master's of Science in Art Education from Massachusetts College of Art. Ms. Larkin began her career at the Chenery Middle and Winn Brook elementary schools and eventually taught in all four elementary schools. In the mid 90's, Ms. Larkin began teaching at Belmont High School, where she remained for the rest of her career. After teaching drawing and painting for several years, Ms. Larkin began building a Ceramics program. Under her stewardship, the ceramics program at Belmont High School has flourished and her classes are consistently among the highest-enrolled courses in the program of studies.

When hurricane Katrina hit in 2005, Ms Larkin began a pottery sale at Back to School Night to raise money for the victims. It became an annual tradition with a portion of the sales always going to a good cause, such as the Red Cross and the Belmont Food Bank. Ms. Larkin frequently volunteered her time and talent, having served on the Staff Development Council, School Advisory Council, and several principal, assistant principal, and Fine & Performing Arts director search committees. Ms. Larkin has also been an ardent and committed proponent of the Professional Learning Team concept. She, along with other PLT members on her team, was selected to present their findings at an education conference at Salem State University.

Ms. Larkin is known for her refusal to accept anything but her students' best efforts, for her ability to help many of them produce market ready pieces, and for the special and enduring relationship she fosters with her students.

In 2018, Ms. Larkin was extremely honored to be recognized as the Outstanding Teacher of Belmont High School, having been nominated by her colleagues, students and members of the community. One of the nominations included this representative sentiment, "Ms. Larkin makes every student feel like they have worth and that their individual creativity is remarkable." Another asserted, "Every time I leave her classroom, I feel as if she knows me and that I am special." Among her colleagues, Ms. Larkin will be remembered for her wit and her unique "recycle, repurpose and reuse" philosophy.

Ms. Larkin is a practicing artist and has illustrated two books. Upon retirement, she intends to continue painting and doing ceramics. And she expects to always in some way be connected to kids, who have been a career-long source of joy to her. The Belmont School Committee, along with friends and colleagues, expresses its appreciation to Cathy Larkin for her long and faithful service. The Belmont School Committee also extends best wishes to Cathy for many years of continued happiness and health in her retirement.

**RESOLUTION ON THE RETIREMENT OF
LOIS MASON**



The Belmont School Committee hereby records the retirement, in June 2018, of Lois Mason, Reading Specialist for Belmont Public Schools at the Chenery Middle School.

Ms. Mason has served the Chenery Middle School since 2012, for 5 of her 20 years as a Public School Educator. She earned a Bachelor's Degree in Literature from Newton College of the Sacred Heart in 1974, and a Master's Degree in Reading from Boston University in 1975. Ms. Mason began her career in the Belmont Public Schools after having taught in Modesto, CA, East Los Angeles, Norwood, MA, Needham, MA, Westborough, MA and Lincoln, MA, all as a public school educator. Throughout her career she has worked in the capacity of a 4th grade teacher, a 5th grade teacher, an Early Childhood Education teacher, an adult tutor, a technical writer for a Computer Graphic Arts company, and a Periodical Librarian. During her years in Belmont Ms. Mason has been a continuous learner. She has completed numerous graduate level courses and has also learned through her prolific reading and traveling, as far as 4,000 feet below the oceans' surface.

Ms. Mason has consistently functioned at the highest level of competence. Her hard work, compassion and sensitivity in meeting all the needs of her students go without mention. Her learning environment has been built on warmth and mutual respect. She is a tireless advocate for students who need support. Ms. Mason's colleagues respect her knowledge, and appreciate her dedication to the field of Reading. Her classroom is highly motivating with its colorful displays that aid in stimulating student curiosity, achievement, involvement and pride.

Ms. Mason is an outstanding teacher, and a supportive colleague. Her incredible work ethic and the impact she has had on our entire Belmont School District community will be greatly missed.

The Belmont School Committee, along with friends and colleagues, expresses its appreciation to Lois Mason for her long and faithful service. The Belmont School Committee also extends best wishes to Lois for many years of continued happiness and health in her retirement.

**RESOLUTION ON THE RETIREMENT OF
JOHN MCLELLAN**



The Belmont School Committee hereby records the retirement, in June 2018, of John McLellan, an instrumental music educator for Belmont Public Schools who, over the course of the last 35 years, has taught band and strings from the beginning lessons through to the BHS Wind Ensemble.

Mr. McLellan graduated magna cum laude from East Carolina University with a dual degree in Music Education and Composition and started his career in Harpurville, NY. Leaving the rural community in 1982 to pursue a Masters' Degree from the Hartt School of Music, University of Hartford, while teaching in Farmington, CT, Mr. McLellan eventually migrated to Belmont with his wife, Lisa, (who was pregnant with their first child), in 1983.

Primarily now at Chenery Middle School, Mr. McLellan has been constantly innovative, founding ensembles that have become musical "musts" of the Belmont Public Schools including the Women of Brass, the Instrumental Symphonies of Percussion, Woodwind and Brass, the Flute Ensemble, Parent/Teacher Band and Parent/Teacher Chorus and, along with Sharon Phipps, established the Chenery Winds, our highly acclaimed afterschool wind ensemble. Additionally, he has led the Saturday Morning Music School for the last 31 years, a program that has brought attention to our school system by bringing older and younger students together in learning instrumental music. In conjunction with former BHS student, Jesse Mattleman, he also initiated the BHS/CMS Mentor Program. Finally, using his penchant for composition, Mr. McLellan has developed a highly distinctive culture of artistic and creative excellence that has been at the heart of the Belmont Public School's music program for over three decades.

Mr. McLellan's contributions to music education expanded beyond the Belmont Public Schools. He served on the Executive Board of MICCA, the Massachusetts Instrumental & Choral Conductors' Association, for many years and in 1989, founded the MICA Solo and Ensemble Festival, attended by hundreds of students annually from all over the Commonwealth. He has been commissioned to write small and full ensemble works for numerous area ensembles and chamber groups and has served as guest conductor/clinician throughout the northeastern United States. He has been a guest presenter at the Massachusetts Music Educators' Association state conference on numerous occasions, as well as in New Hampshire, Vermont, and Minnesota.

In 1999, John McLellan was nationally recognized as the first recipient of the Heidi Castleman Award from *Chamber Music America* for his advocacy and proliferation of chamber music education. He was awarded the 2014 Paul Smith Hall of Fame Award, the Lowell Mason Award, and was the first recipient of the S. Warren Farrell Award from the Foundation for Belmont Education.

Mr. McLellan plans to continue to compose music for classroom use but his main target will be childcare for his two grandsons.

The Belmont School Committee, along with friends and colleagues, expresses its appreciation to John McLellan for his long and faithful service. The Belmont School Committee also extends best wishes to John for many years of continued happiness and health in his retirement.

**RESOLUTION ON THE RETIREMENT OF
ROBIN MORRISON**



The Belmont School Committee hereby records the retirement, in June 2018, of Robin M. Morrison, second grade teacher at the Winn Brook School.

Robin received her bachelor's degree and a master's degree from Lesley University. She began her teaching career in a first grade classroom at the Winn Brook School in 1999. In 2005, she moved to grade two where she has remained for the last thirteen years. After almost two decades teaching in Belmont, Robin has touched the lives of hundreds of students. She is an educator who holds a special place in the hearts of her students and they often return to visit years after they have left Winn Brook. The gratitude that so many families feel is reflected in the words of one parent who wrote: "We would like to take this opportunity to express our gratitude to Ms. Robin Morrison for another magnificent second grade experience....Robin is such a patient, kind, creative and open-minded teacher. We have visited her classroom on several occasions and she always inspires the students to do their best, treats them with calm respect, and engages their curiosity over a wide range of topics. "

Beyond the classroom, Robin has given generously of her time. The language arts and social studies steering committees have benefited from her years of service and commitment to curriculum development. After serving on search committees to hire new teachers, Robin has also volunteered to mentor them. She has been an active member of the Belmont Education Association's Executive Board and has assisted in the development of School Improvement Plans through her work on the School Advisory Council. Robin is the Winn Brook School's technology guru. She is always looking for innovative ways to integrate technology into her craft. Her interest and skill resulted in years of service as a Technology Leader in the district.

Robin has done a phenomenal amount of professional reading and is always the first to find promising, cutting-edge resources. Her love of books extends to children's literature. Students benefit from the amazing collection of children's books that she has amassed. If a child doesn't like reading, it is probably because he/she has not yet met Ms. Morrison who is always able to find just the right book to pique a child's curiosity and open up new worlds.

The Belmont School Committee, along with her friends and colleagues, expresses its appreciation to Robin Morrison for her long and faithful service and extends best wishes for many years of continued happiness in her retirement.

**RESOLUTION ON THE RETIREMENT OF
BETTY ORDILE**



The Belmont School Committee hereby records the retirement, in June 2018, of Betty Ordile, Food Service Worker, at Butler Elementary School.

Since Betty's hiring in September 1992, she's served close to 1,000,000 meals. That is truly remarkable. Over the years, Betty has been a reliable team member and able to fill in for the head cook with no substitute worker, handling the workload of two people.

At first, Betty may come off as shy but once you get you know her; she has an incredible sense of humor. As Betty's director supervisor, Donna Hubbard stated "*Betty's stories about the old days would knock you off your chair.*"

Betty is truly one of a kind. She's always cared about the kids first. Betty knows what they like and how they'd like their meals prepared. She absolutely loves serving the kids and always has. Butler Elementary has been lucky to have such a passionate team member in the kitchen.

The Belmont School Committee, along with friends and colleagues, expresses its appreciation to Betty Ordile for her long and faithful service and extends best wishes for many years of continued happiness and health in her retirement. Well done on this milestone.

**RESOLUTION ON THE RETIREMENT OF
JOANN PAPALIA**



The Belmont School Committee hereby records the retirement in August 31, 2018, of JoAnn Papalia, Clerk at the Roger E. Wellington Elementary School.

Mrs. Papalia was born in Eliot, Maine and lived in Eliot until she went to college in Boston – Chamberlain School of Retailing – and she worked in retailing for two years until she realized it wasn't the job for her. Mrs. Papalia then married her husband Roy in 1972 and lived in Watertown. Then, Mrs. Papalia got a job at New England Life, an insurance company in Boston. She worked in the Training Department teaching Typing, Shorthand, and New Employee Orientation, giving tours of the Company and administering the Tuition Reimbursement Program. She worked there for nine wonderful years until she left to have her daughter, Lauren, who is now 39. Mrs. Papalia moved to Belmont 36 years ago. She stayed at home for the next 20 years volunteering in her kids' schools (she had her son Matthew by then), doing some cooking for a caterer, and being a Mom in general. Mrs. Papalia came to the clerk job at Wellington because a friend of hers talked her into going back to work. Mrs. Papalia shares that she has thoroughly enjoyed her 20 years at Wellington.

Mrs. Papalia has made so many friends and thoroughly enjoyed meeting each new Kindergarten class and seeing them grow over the years. She still bumps into families in town whose kids came to Wellington 20 years ago. Mrs. Papalia creates an atmosphere in the main office where all children are welcomed. She is very fond of children and always gives them a warm reception. She is the one of the first people that most new Wellington families meet, and she welcomes them with open arms. Mrs. Papalia develops personal relationships with many students and students sense that she takes a genuine interest in their well-being. She handles many of the office tasks, in conjunction with the secretary, and brings a sense of humor to the work to keep everyone smiling. In addition to her work in the office as a clerk, Mrs. Papalia helps out at recess and lunch and with bus duty, everyday. She spends time in the library, helping students and reading to them. Mrs. Papalia brings a calm and sincere dedication to her job and is a loyal team player, who is a great support to her colleagues. Although Mrs. Papalia will miss being at Wellington, she is going to enjoy being with her grandchildren more, traveling to San Francisco, going to Museums that she hasn't been to, catching up on her reading, cooking with her husband, and spending time with her friends.

We thank Mrs. Papalia for all that she has given to the Wellington Community over these 20 years.

The Belmont School Committee, along with friends and colleagues, expresses its appreciation to JoAnn Papalia for her long and faithful service and extends best wishes for many years of continued happiness and health in her retirement.

RESOLUTION ON THE RETIREMENT OF COLLEEN SULLIVAN



The Belmont School Committee hereby records the retirement, in June 2018, of Colleen Sullivan, Executive Secretary for the Assistant Superintendent for Belmont Public Schools.

Ms. Sullivan has served the district since 1992, beginning as a substitute secretary in schools throughout the district before being hired as a clerical aide for special education at Belmont High School in 1993. In March 1998 she joined the Central Office staff as a general secretary, and in October 2000 became the Executive Secretary to the Assistant Superintendent and provided exemplary service for her eighteen years in that role.

Ms. Sullivan was successful in her role due to her incredible work ethic, attention to detail, and ability to manage countless tasks, many of them simultaneously. There have been many changes in the tasks and technology over the course of her tenure, and she approached each change with tenacious determination to figure out the best strategy to accomplish the work and achieve the desired goals for the administration. In all of her roles, and most especially in the Central Office, Ms. Sullivan served the public graciously and kindly, and making them feel welcome no matter the question or concern that brought them to the office. Ms. Sullivan supported the work of three Assistant Superintendents and five Superintendents during her twenty years in the Central Office. Throughout this time, Ms. Sullivan was the cornerstone maintaining institutional knowledge, routines, and traditions for all of us. Whether it was collecting money to donate to a worthy cause or planning the annual luncheon to spend time together, Ms. Sullivan was central to the office rituals and relationship building. She never forgot a birthday, always made sure there was cake and a celebration, and if she sensed something wasn't right, she would check in, call, or text to make sure you were okay. And at the end of every day, she reminded us to shut down our computers and head home to our families, and she always jiggled the handle to make sure the door was locked behind us.

Ms. Sullivan has left an indelible legacy of caring and commitment to the Belmont Public Schools. Her insights, skills, sense of humor, and incredible work ethic and the impact she has had on our entire Belmont School District community will be greatly missed.

The Belmont School Committee, along with friends and colleagues, expresses its appreciation to Colleen Sullivan for her long and faithful service. The Belmont School Committee also extends best wishes to Colleen for many years of continued happiness and health in her retirement.

RESOLUTION ON THE RETIREMENT OF DIANE WILTSHIRE



The Belmont School Committee hereby records the retirement, in June 2018, of Diane Wiltshire, Director of the METCO Program for the Belmont Public Schools.

Ms. Wiltshire earned a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology and Social Work from Rutgers University and a Master of Education in School Counseling from Cambridge College. She began her thirty-six year career as an educator at Boston University specifically as a Residence Hall Director, counseling students and developing programs to support diverse student populations. She then became the Program Coordinator and Counselor for the METCO Program at Brookline High School, where she worked for sixteen years, creating a scholars program and increased the college acceptance rate. In November 2006 Ms. Wiltshire became the K-12 Director of METCO for the Belmont Public Schools.

Ms. Wiltshire has made many contributions to the Belmont Public Schools during her twelve years of service to the district. Under her leadership, academic support programs were established for middle and high school students. At the middle school this included changing the afternoon bus schedule to allow students to participate in after school activities and receive extra help from their teachers before going home. At the high school she established an academic tutoring program as she supported students to be successful and encouraged them to take academically challenging classes. Ms. Wiltshire believes in the potential of all students, and understands deeply the challenges particularly for African-American/Black students attending school in the suburbs through the METCO Program. From the first interview to bring a student into the METCO Program until the day the student walks across the stage and receives their diploma, Ms. Wiltshire is there, holding them to high standards and supporting them to achieve those standards.

Ms. Wiltshire has provided valuable expertise, knowledge, and support on behalf of the district goal of improving the social, emotional, and academic outcomes for our African-American/Black students. She was a key member of the Professional Learning Team that started in 2015 with a goal of better understanding the experience of African-American/Black students in our schools. She has continued this work for three years, and is now focusing on the affinity group, Black in Belmont, whose members have been supported to take on leadership roles and have been provided a powerful voice in our schools. We are grateful to Ms. Wiltshire for her role in this work.

The Belmont School Committee, along with friends and colleagues, expresses its appreciation to Diane Wiltshire for her long and faithful service. The Belmont School Committee also extends best wishes to Diane for many years of continued happiness and health in her retirement.