

# Belmont Public Schools

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Belmont School Committee Meeting

November 10, 2020

# Agenda

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1. Burbank 2020 Blue Ribbon Award
2. 2020/21 Enrollment Update
3. FY22 Budget Update
4. School Update
5. Health Update

# Mary Lee Burbank School 2020 National Blue Ribbon School

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## *Congratulations to the Burbank School!*

- Designated as a Blue Ribbon School by the Department of Education in Washington D.C.
- Thanks to all our Burbank educators, staff and administrators.
- Huge thank you to our students for their hard work and our families.

# National Blue Ribbon Schools

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- The National Blue Ribbon Schools award affirms the hard work of educators, families, and communities in creating safe and welcoming schools where students master challenging and engaging content.
- Burbank qualified for 2020 NBRS nomination as an Exemplary High Performing School.
- These are among their state's highest performing schools as measured by state assessments or nationally normed tests.

# Burbank School

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- In 2019 the Burbank School was recognized as a School of Recognition for high achievement in English language arts (ELA) and mathematics based on MCAS assessments.
- Only 1 out of 5 Massachusetts Elementary National Blue Ribbon Schools in 2020 and only 367 schools total nationwide.
- Burbank has earned this distinction due to the strength of our teaching staff.
- Our commitment to knowing our students through:
  - Social Emotional Learning, building relationships, and partnering with families
  - And our use of assessment data to meet our students where they are academically

# Congratulations to the Entire Burbank Community!



# Enrollment for 2020-21 School Year

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# FY22 Budget Update

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- On November 23, the Town and Schools will be presenting multiple FY22 Budget scenarios at a joint meeting of the Select Board, School Committee, Warrant Committee, and Capital Budget Committee:
  - Contingent Budget (“Yes” Override vote)
    - Budget presented in detail.
    - Reflects rolling over existing costs and adding \$400K in new positions (approx. 5.0 FTEs) for the Schools.
  - Non-contingent Budget (“No” Override vote)
    - Broad overview provided discussing the magnitude of budget reductions implemented for the Town and Schools.
  - “COVID Parking Lot” Budget
    - Possible one-time expenses for FY22 related to COVID and the opening of Phase I of the Belmont Middle and High School construction project.

# FY22 Budget Update

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- The Town has scheduled two FY 22 budget meetings for public engagement which will be scheduled for December 3<sup>rd</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> (more information will be provided by the Town Administrator's Office).
- The School Committee discussion and review of the FY22 Budget scenarios will continue January – March, 2021 to solicit community input before final decisions are made.

# School Update: Belmont High School

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Researching Hybrid Models

Gathering Stakeholder Input

Developing Hybrid Model

Preparing for Implementation

Iterating & Improving

BHS HYBRID  
MODEL  
DEVELOPMENT

# Advisory Group Details

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- Group composition: Principal, 2 educators, 2 students, 2 BHS parents/guardians
- Meeting frequency:
  - Thursday, 11/5
  - Monday, 11/9
  - Thursday, 11/12
- Comparison Schools: Acton-Boxborough, Arlington, Bedford, Concord-Carlisle, Dover-Sherborn, Lexington, Lincoln-Sudbury, Waltham, Winchester, Wellesley, Westford

# Researching Hybrid Models

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- Hybrid plan at-a-glance analysis from 13 comparison districts
- Examples of descriptive data from these plans:
  - **Cohort A/B Schedule:**
    - 9 of 13 districts are using 2-3 in-person days/week
    - 4 of 13 districts are using Week A/Week B in-person schedule
  - **Livestreaming:**
    - 7 of 13 districts are using live-streaming/virtual participation (in different ways: every class, some classes, part of class, etc.)
    - 6 of 13 districts are not using live-streaming/virtual participation

# Gathering Stakeholder Input

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- Parent surveys
  - 730 total responses
  - Examples of descriptive data from the survey:
    - Parent preferences for how their child participates in school
      - Hybrid: 41.6%
      - All remote: 30.5%
      - All in-person: 27.8%
    - Most important aspects of schooling as we transition to hybrid model (top 2 choices):
      - Instructional minutes: 27.8%
      - Face-to-face time with teachers: 25.9%
      - Staying with the same teachers: 18.4%
      - Continuing to have the same courses: 16.2%
      - Face-to-face time with peers: 12.1%
  - A wealth of qualitative data re: successes, concerns, and supports

# Gathering Stakeholder Input

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- Student surveys
  - 659 total responses
  - Examples of descriptive data from the survey:
    - ***How would you like to be learning right now?***
      - I wish I spent more time at school. 48.1%
      - I like how much time I spend learning at home. 51.9%
    - ***Difficulty/ease of trying hard on schoolwork right now:***
      - Difficult (very, somewhat, slightly): 41.4%
      - Neither difficult nor easy: 23.2%
      - Easy (slightly, somewhat, very): 35.4%
  - A wealth of qualitative data re: successes, concerns, and supports

# Gathering Stakeholder Input

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- Teacher surveys
  - 86 responses
  - Examples of descriptive data from the survey:
    - Teacher preferences for continuing the learning at BHS
      - All remote: 61.6%
      - Hybrid: 23.3%
      - All in-person: 15.1%
  - Additional quantitative and qualitative data

# Developing Hybrid Models

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- Task Force identified top priorities based on stakeholder input.
- Potential models are being developed and evaluated based on top priorities, stakeholder input, and comparison district models.

# Preparing for Implementation

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- Next steps:
  - Review potential models in light of top priorities and stakeholder input
  - Make recommendations to Superintendent Phelan
  - Superintendent Phelan reviews options and presents recommended model to School Committee



# School Update: Chenery Middle School

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- Chenery Middle School has held a parent/ guardian meetings.
- The initial feedback has been received and acknowledged related to extended learning opportunities, more structure to the “at home” student experience, potential use of live-streaming, and staffing issues.
- Process to seek an advisory group similar to the BHS process will move forward.
- The administration will facilitate the gathering of representative feedback through a survey and discuss enhancements and/or revisions to the current model with an advisory group.
- The School Committee approved an additional 2.0 FTEs to support increased encore programming (specials) for the “at home” days, especially for grades 5 and 6

# Fall Athletic Update

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- A total of 256 BHS Student Athletes are participating in the sports of B&G Soccer, Field Hockey, B&G Cross Country & Golf.
- BHS was able to offer three levels of participation in Soccer & Field Hockey and 2 levels in Cross Country.
- To date, BHS fall teams have competed in 74 contests and held weekly practices since October 3<sup>rd</sup>.
- Virtual “Soccer Night in Belmont” was offered for the Girls’ Program on Saturday November 7<sup>th</sup> vs Arlington and for the Boys’ it will be Wednesday November 11<sup>th</sup> vs. Arlington.
- Belmont Media has been able to stream home varsity contests held at Harris Field.
- Each program found a path to recognize their Seniors.

# BHS Winter Athletic Season Update

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- The Middlesex League Athletic Directors and Superintendents will meet Thursday, November 12, 2020.
- They will review the current recommendations from the MIAA for the winter season.
- The process and outcomes will be reported out to the School Committee and BHS students & families.

# Health Update

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- Thanks to the Belmont Board of Health Team led by Wes Chin we have a “COVID Dashboard” for our schools located on the front page of the BPS website in the moving carousel.
- Working with after-school programs to approve plans for in-building sessions.
- Meeting will be held Thursday (11/12/20) with Board of Health, School Department and Chairperson Prestwich to review metrics for decision making for potential class, school and district closures, if needed.