

Chair's Report

Amy Checkoway
Belmont School Committee Meeting
September 21, 2021

Community Announcements

Foundation for Belmont Education Apple Run (5K and 2K) – **Saturday, October 3, 2021**

Parent/Guardian Consent Form Submission for District Routine COVID Safety Checks and Test & Stay – **Sign up encouraged ASAP**

COVID-19 Vaccination for Eligible Individuals – **Encouraged ASAP**

Questions and Comments from Community (Via SC Website)

“The new High School clearly needs more **bicycle racks**! It's only the 2d day and there are many bikes that don't seem to be accommodated by the rack on the front lawn.” –Helen Golding

“The **grounds light strategy** has changed since the school opened. The lighting is bright enough to affect neighbors and is on all night which has been shown to have ecological as well as environmental impacts. It would be a better move to have the lights turned off along with the field lights unless there is a late school activity.” –Chi-Ting Huang

“What evidence does the Committee have that participation in extracurricular activities is driving the spread of COVID among students that requires a **vaccine mandate** above and beyond state law? What other Massachusetts public school district has mandated the COVID vaccine as a requirement to participate in extracurricular activities?” –Joseph Miletich

Key School Committee Updates

Takeaways from School Committee retreat on 9/14/21:

Agreed upon School Committee priorities for 2021-22 and associated action steps including:

- 1) As much **normalcy** as possible for students this school year
- 2) **Budget** oversight and planning
- 3) **Strategic planning** and **visioning**
- 3) Focus on **equity**
- 4) **Labor negotiations**
- 5) **Communications** and **community engagement**

Identified other areas for follow-up: developing **Committee norms and protocols**, **scheduling MASC workshop** and exploring additional supports they provide, supporting **data-driven decision-making**, and better understanding **SEL student outcomes and needs**

Tonight's Agenda: Major Business

DEI Director Introduction (Welcome!)

Library Partnership 2021-22 (Update/Overview)

Policy Discussions/Votes:

- Face Covering
- BHS Handbook/Attendance
- Extracurricular Student Vaccine Mandate

SC Assignments for Town Committees and EDCO (Discussion/Votes)

State Delegation Conversation (Update/Discussion)