

**Chenery PTO Meeting Minutes**  
Thursday, October 11, 2018  
6:30pm

Attendance: Approx. 20  
Minutes taken by Sunyoung Hong-Osborn

**1) PTO Business**

- Minutes from last meeting (May 2018) approved.
- Budget: About \$11,000 collected so far, which corresponds to 40% of our annual appeal goal
- 5th Grade Directory: This year we worked on 5th grader directory to be distributed ASAP. All school Directory will follow.
- PTO Clubs: Another successful session.
- Volunteers: In need of volunteers for Multi-Cultural Night – there will be a meeting on October 16th, 2018.
- Also the\_Green Team is in need of volunteers in particular to assist the 8<sup>th</sup> grade trash bashers during the lunches.

**2) FBE Presentation: Christa Bauge**

- FBE (Foundation for Belmont Education) consists of two major arms: *Board of Directors* and *Program Committee*. Board members serve 3-year term at a time and take care of all FBE fundraising events. Program Committee is comprised of 17 representatives from core and curriculum areas of the Belmont public schools and works on grant proposals all year around.
- FBE is always looking for volunteers for fundraising events, board and committee members, and upcoming events such as Spelling Bee, Spring Dinner, Online Auction, Camp Auction, etc. Please check out *FBE website (FBE-Belmont.org)* and *Facebook* for more information.
- Superintendent, Mr. John Phelan, expressed his appreciation for all funds provided to Belmont public schools by FBE.

**3) Belmont High School Building Committee Update: Superintendent John Phelan and Jamie Shea**

- 7-12 Building Project is needed because of the following 3 reasons (with a video presentation):

- a. Aging Facility - Current buildings are old and outdated and in need of replacement. MEP systems are failing, windows are leaking, and fail to comply ADA accessibility.

New buildings will be well lit using natural sunlight and energy efficient using geo thermal heating and cooling system.

- b. Over-Crowding – Enrollment of Belmont public schools rises every year. Current buildings are too small to accommodate the number of students we have and will have in the future. About 5 years ago, we have 280-320 students per grade, and now we have average 380-400 students per grade. We hired more teachers to reduce the classroom size and study halls. This year, Chenery now has 24 students per each 5th grade class as supposed to 27 of last year. However, this is not enough – there is no more space!

We need more classroom/learning spaces. As a short-term resolution, module was introduced and used first in High School, then to Middle school, and now in Elementary schools. Even that is being exhausted as well, and we need a long-term plan, 7-12 Building Project.

- c. Teaching and Learning - Current building does not support flexible spaces that we need for creative and critical thinking, student collaboration and communication skills, etc. Often hallways are inundated with students with group projects from several classes at a time. Hallway should be a space for traffic not study.

Junior High School building will provide an open space dedicated to each team of 7th and 8th graders. Each open space will serve a space for gathering, locker room, and social activities for the team and clustered with 4 subject rooms (Math, ELA, Science, and Social studies). This will give 7th and 8th graders feeling of a small school of their own. High School building will have moving walls and furniture that will allow various size groups and functions.

- Brief Timeline of 7-12 Building Project

- 2015 – Application submitted to State
- Jan. 2016 – Application accepted
- Summer 2017 – Formed a team for 7-12 Building Project
- Fall 2017 - Feasibility Study performed
- Summer 2018 - Schematic Design developed

- Currently, waiting for fund for the project. If fund becomes available, a detailed design will be developed for the rest of the academic year; and construction begins in June 2018.
- State believes that it is a solid investment for creative learning and decided to provide \$80M funding.
- Q&A
  - a. Confident to meet proposed construction schedule?: Belmont has a good track record of meeting construction time and keeping it on/under budget.
  - b. Will provide enough spaces?: Proposed buildings will provide sufficient spaces for various academic activities as well as art, music, sports related activities.
  - c. Security?: Each school building will have a separate entrance. Visitors are allowed inside only after buzzed in to the vestibule and then signed in the office. The buildings are designed to have a straight sightline for better supervision of activities and emergency times.
  - d. Construction noise?: Construction will be noisy and affecting traffic near the site. However, it will be performed in phases to minimize the on-going academic activities.
  - e. Environmental Issues rising from excavation?: Per geo-technical engineer's recommendation, there will not be any excavation. The new buildings will be constructed on slab on grade on top of compacted soil. New soil will be added to level the site.

#### **4) 7-12 YES Campaign: Jessie Bennett**

Jessie encouraged the parents interested in volunteering or that have general questions for 7-12 YES Campaign to meet her at the end of the meeting.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm.