

**BELMONT SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES
CHENERY MIDDLE SCHOOL COMMUNITY ROOM
MAY 21, 2013**

Present: Ms. Laurie Graham, Chair
Ms. Anne Lougée, Secretary
Mr. Kevin Cunningham
Ms. Pascha Griffiths
Ms. Elyse Shuster
Ms. Laurie Slap
Dr. Thomas Kingston, Interim Superintendent
Ms. Janice Darias, Assistant Superintendent
Mr. Anthony DiColohero, Director of Business, Finance and Operations

PRESIDENTIAL VOLUNTEER SERVICE AWARDS

The School Committee joined Alice Melnikoff, Director of Community Service in the Chenery Middle School Auditorium where students were presented the President's Volunteer Service Awards. The award is given each year to seniors who have completed 100 hours of more of Community Service.

1. **OPENING BUSINESS**

1.1 Call to order

Ms. Graham called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

1.2 Pledge of Allegiance

Ms. Graham led the Pledge of Allegiance.

1.4 Adjustments to the Agenda

Ms. Graham suggested hearing citizens' concerns after the major business items.

1.5 Chairman's Report

Ms. Graham updated the Committee on upcoming community and sports events.

1.6 Superintendent's Report

Dr. Kingston stated that he is looking forward to the third year of the Professional Learning Team Conference. The Professional Learning Team (PLT) model for Staff Development has shown that learning for all students is improved when teachers work together. The PLTs aligns projects with district

goals. The teachers share their findings with colleagues at the conference. More schools are adopting the PLT kind of Professional Development model.

Dr. Kingston announced that Belmont Public Schools has received the results of the Title 1 and Title 2 audit. Title 1 funding supports intervention for students who are eligible for free and reduced lunch. The audit report for Title 1 showed only 2 very minor findings. The findings from Title 2 which supports English language learners were exemplary which Dr. Kingston stated was a compliment to Lindsey Rinder, Director of English and Janice Darias, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction for their supervision of the programs.

Dr. Kingston reminded everyone of the meeting for grade 4 parents which will take place on May 22. He stressed that it is important for parents to attend to learn more about the changes to the schedule at the Cheney Middle School. The scheduling changes are being done in an effort to reduce class size for the long term.

1.7 Director of Finance, Business and Operations' Report

Mr. DiCologero stated that he has been working with the Finance Subcommittee and Central Office Administrators to produce the documents required for Town Meeting. He has just about finished the School Department Report for Town Meeting. He has also been working with Principals and Directors to identify purchases for the current fiscal year.

Mr. DiCologero stated that 2 different auditors will be visiting Belmont Public Schools during the coming week. Both audits are standard annual audits that take place in all towns in Massachusetts. One School Department audit is being done as part of the town's audit and the other is an end-of-year final report which all districts are required to do.

2. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

There was no unfinished business.

3. **MAJOR BUSINESS**

3.1 Solar Update

Roger Colton, Co-chair of the Town of Belmont Energy Committee presented the School Committee with an update on the installation of solar panels on the Wellington School. Mr. Colton began by disclosing that his wife, Anne Lougée is a member of the School Committee.

Mr. Colton explained that the contract for the solar panels is almost ready. Members of the Solar Panel group have been going over the contract and are now redrafting sections where changes may be made. Once the solar panels are installed, the term of the contract will be 20 years. At the end of the term, there will be an opportunity for extending the contract an additional 5 years. At the end of either the 20 or 25 year period the Belmont Public Schools will have the opportunity to purchase the system which would eliminate payments to the contractor.

Mr. Colton explained that Broadway Electric will guarantee 80 percent of the electricity produced. If for some reason they don't produce 80 percent, they will pay Belmont Public Schools for

the shortfall. Mr. Colton also mentioned that, to date, Broadway Electric has never missed their guarantee production. Mr. Colton stated that he hopes to have a finished contract to be presented to the School Committee by June.

3.2 BHS Student Handbook – Exhibit A

Mr. Dan Richards, Principal of Belmont High School presented the draft 2013-2014 Belmont High School Handbook. He also provided an update on the junior open campus pilot. Since the pilot began, there have not been any discipline issues pertaining to it. The students have acted responsibly and have shown their appreciation for the opportunity to have open campus. Students have shown improvement academically in order to get on the open campus list. Mr. Richards stated that two thirds of the juniors are now participating in open campus.

Mr. Richards updated the Committee on the breathalyzer pilot. The breathalyzer was used for the first time officially at the Spring Fling Dance. There were 326 students attending the dance and they were breathalyzed randomly. A total of 100 students were breathalyzed and they all passed. The breathalyzer was used again at the prom where 415 students attended. There were no students who tested positive at the prom.

Dr. Kingston suggested continuing the breathalyzer pilot program through the 2013-2014 school year before adopting it as a procedure.

Mr. Richards explained his proposal for a new attendance policy pilot. He has proposed the new policy in order to provide consistency regarding attendance rules. If a student has not met the school's attendance expectations, he/she will receive an N which reflects an academic grade of 59% due to a lack of attendance. The student will be able to replace a grade of N with an earned grade if attendance improves in the next semester. Mr. Richards explained in detail the attendance policy and procedure. School Committee members expressed their concerns and offered suggestions. Dr. Kingston suggested the new attendance policy go forth as a pilot for the 2013-2014 school year before being adopted as a procedure.

In addition, Ms. Darias explained that a new section was added to the handbook called "discipline procedures for students not yet eligible for special education." Adding this section to the handbook is important to ensure that we meet state and federal regulations.

3.3 Elect EDCO & LABBB representatives for 2013-2014

Ms. Graham stated that she would table the EDCO and LABBB vote.

1.3 Citizens' Concerns

Chris Doyle, Belmont parent expressed concern about the re-structuring of classes at Chenery Middle School and the elimination of the foreign language sampler program in grade 5.

4. **SUBCOMMITTEE/LIAISON UPDATES (as needed)**

4.1 Student Representative

There was no student representative in attendance.

4.2 Finance Subcommittee

There was no update from the Finance Subcommittee.

4.3 Policy Subcommittee

There was no update from the Policy Subcommittee.

4.4 Curriculum & Instruction Subcommittee

There was no update from the Curriculum & Instruction Subcommittee.

4.5 Capital Budget Committee

Ms. Lougée stated that the Committee recently met and voted on some warrant articles.

4.6 Warrant Committee

There was no update from the Warrant Committee liaison.

4.7 Wellington Building Committee

There was no update from the Wellington Building Committee.

5. **OTHER BUSINESS**

5.1 Consent Agenda

De-accession of Butler Attic Items – Exhibit B

Mr. DiCologero explained that the items to be discarded are no longer being used but the School Committee is required under Massachusetts Law to de-access the items. The items will be taken away by a salvage company at no cost to Belmont Public Schools.

On a motion offered by Ms. Slap and seconded by Ms. Lougée, it was

VOTED unanimously to de-access the Butler attic items listed in Exhibit B.

5.2 Personnel Items

There were no personnel items.

5.3 Business Items

There were no business items.

5.4 Approval of Minutes

April 23, 2013

May 2, 2013

May 7, 2013

On a motion offered by Mr. Cunningham and seconded by Ms. Shuster, it was

VOTED unanimously to approve the minutes of April 23, 2013

On a motion offered by Mr. Cunningham and seconded by Ms. Slap, it was

VOTED 5-0-1, with Ms. Griffiths abstaining, to approve the minutes of May 2, 2013 as amended.

On a motion offered by Mr. Cunningham and seconded by Ms. Shuster, it was

VOTED unanimously to approve the minutes of May 7, 2013 as amended.

6. **FUTURE BUSINESS**

Upcoming Meetings:

May 22, 2013

PLT Conference

BHS – 12:00 p.m.

May 29, 2013

Special Town Meeting

BHS Auditorium – 7:00 p.m.

7. **ENCLOSURES**

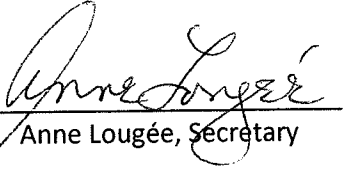
Fee Schedule for 2013-2014

Dr. Kingston explained that the fee schedule was being presented for the School Committee's information and that the fees will not change from the current year.

8. **ADJOURNMENT**

At 10:22 p.m. on a motion offered by Ms. Lougée and seconded by Mr. Cunningham, it was

VOTED unanimously to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted by 
Anne Lougée, Secretary