

BELMONT SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES
Central Boston Elder Services, Boston, MA
OCTOBER 22, 2013

Present: Ms. Laurie Graham, Chair
Ms. Anne Lougée, Secretary
Mr. Kevin Cunningham
Ms. Lisa Fiore
Ms. Laurie Slap
Ms. Janice Darias, Assistant Superintendent
Dr. Thomas Kingston, Interim Superintendent

Also present: Ms. Diane Wilshire, METCO Director for the Belmont Public Schools
Boston parents of Belmont METCO students (Boston Belmont Parent Group)
Ms. Katherine Bonfiglio, Mr. Jonathan Jacoby, and Mr. John Robatham from
Belmont Against Racism (BAR)

Absent: Ms. Elyse Shuster

RECEPTION

The Boston families and School Committee and Department members attended reception from 6:30 – 7:00 p.m.

1. **OPENING BUSINESS**

1.1 Call to order

Ms. Graham called the meeting to order at 7:12 p.m.

1.2 Introductions

1.3 BAR Presentation

Mr. Robatham described BAR's community based activities, as well as its fundraising activities (primarily through the annual MLK breakfast), to the group. He presented the Belmont Public Schools (BPS) with an \$8,000 check from BAR, to be used to fund transportation for Belmont High School METCO students so that they may participate in after-school activities. Mr. Robatham also noted that some of the funds will be used to send several METCO students to an annual METCO conference held at Bentley University in the spring. Dr. Kingston accepted the check on the behalf of the BPS and thanked BAR for its commitment to supporting Belmont's METCO students.

1.4 METCO Update

Ms. Wiltshire reported that of the 11 graduates in the class of 2013, eight are currently attending college and the remaining three have chosen to work prior to enrolling. There are 12 new METCO students this year – five at the elementary level, two at the middle school, five at the high school, and a total of 115 system-wide.

Ms. Wiltshire reviewed achievement data from 2012-13, noting that two students will receive MCAS-related scholarships. She described the extended day program at the Chenery Middle School on Mondays and Tuesdays, and said that there has been an increase in participation in athletics at Belmont High School in large part due to the late transportation funded by BAR.

On November 1st, Ms. Wiltshire will travel to the University of New Hampshire with 45 METCO students to attend the bi-annual “Discover UNH Program” day. Ms. Wiltshire made available a fundraising letter that she sent to METCO families on behalf of the Boston Belmont Parent Group. Funds raised will be used to maintain a scholarship fund for BHS graduates.

In addition to returning staff members Georgiana Chinn (CMS bus monitor and clerical aid at the Bulter School) and Evens Mondesir (CMS tutor), there are two new staff members: Dahlia Walker (elementary school bus monitor and clerical aid at the Burbank School) and Amy Maule (tutor at BHS).

1.5 Chairman’s Report

Ms. Graham introduced Ms. Fiore to the group and gave an update on the search for a permanent superintendent.

1.6 Superintendent’s Report

Dr. Kingston reported on the eight advisory groups working to identify critical trends for the school system in an effort to determine long-range needs.

Ms. Darius gave a report that covered a review of the BPS Mission Statement and Goals, changes to curriculum and instruction related to the Common Core and assessments, and various new initiatives in throughout the district.


1.7. Boston families and School Department and Committee members participated in a Question and Answer period.

2. ADJOURNMENT

At 8:23 p.m. on a motion offered by Mr. Cunningham and seconded by Ms. Slap, it was

VOTED unanimously to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted by


Anne Lougee, Secretary