

**BELMONT SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES
CHENERY MIDDLE SCHOOL COMMUNITY ROOM
OCTOBER 8, 2013**

Present: Ms. Laurie Graham, Chair
Ms. Anne Lougée, Secretary
Mr. Kevin Cunningham
Ms. Lisa Fiore
Ms. Elyse Shuster
Ms. Laurie Slap
Dr. Thomas Kingston, Interim Superintendent
Mr. Anthony DiCologero, Director of Business, Finance and Operations

Also present: Ms. Mary Pederson, Director of Human Resources
Max Davidowitz, Student Representative

Absent: Ms. Janice Darias

RECEPTION

Ms. Graham welcomed the teachers who were being honored for achieving Professional Status. Each teacher was presented with a small gift from Ms. Mary Pederson, Human Resources Director, and a certificate of appreciation from Dr. Kingston. They thanked the teachers for all they do for the students of Belmont.

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.

1.3 Citizens' Concerns

Mr. Matt Sullivan asked about the possibility of redistricting in light of the larger class sizes. He also expressed concerns about staff salary increases. Ms. Graham explained that the budget has been set this year and Dr. Kingston explained that the salaries are competitive to the marketplace.

Ms. Chris Doyle expressed concern that the 5th grade classes at Chenery are too large. She also expressed concern that these students may not have enough classroom time due to the changes in the Foreign Language Program. Ms. Doyle stated that she hopes the School Department will consider redistricting in the near future.

1.4 Adjustments to the Agenda

There were no adjustments to the agenda.

1.5 Chairman's Report

Ms. Graham congratulated the teachers receiving professional status. She welcomed Ms. Lisa Fiore as the newest member of the School Committee. Ms. Fiore replaces Ms. Pascha Griffiths who resigned in August.

Ms. Graham updated the Committee on recent community, school and sporting events that have taken place or will take place in the future.

1.6 Superintendent's Report

Dr. Kingston thanked Ms. Darias for sitting in for him at the last School Committee meeting. He updated the School Committee on the modeling groups that were created last summer. There are 8 advisory teams who will work to identify critical trends for the School Department and try to determine long range needs. The groups are:

- Group 1 – Salary and Compensation
- Group 2 – Special Education
- Group 3 – Enrollments
- Group 4 – Operations and Maintenance
- Group 5 – Instructional Modeling and Innovation
- Group 6 – Supplemental Revenue Sources
- Group 7 – Student Life
- Group 8 – Instructional Technology

The groups are made up of staff, community members and School Committee members. Dr. Kingston explained that his group will work to try to identify why long-term enrollment projections have been inaccurate. The plan is to become more sophisticated in projecting enrollments. Currently all Belmont schools are full and enrollment numbers are topping, and in some cases exceeding, the School Committee guidelines for class sizes. There are approximately 150 new students in the district, to date – 63 at Belmont High, 28 at Chenery, and 56 at the elementary schools.

Dr. Kingston stated that he has had discussions with New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC) about the relevance and cost of NEASC accreditation. He stated that the discussions have been productive and NEASC has responded by addressing some concerns about redundancy and compliance.

1.7 Director of Finance, Business and Operations' Report

Mr. DiCologero reported that he has been working with the town accountant to close out the School Department accounts for FY'13. He is also in the process of completing the FY'13 financial report for the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE).

2. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

There was no unfinished business.

3. **MAJOR BUSINESS**

3.1 Superintendent Evaluation 2012-2013 – Exhibit A

Ms. Graham explained that the School Committee has been engaged in the process of evaluating the Superintendent within the newly adopted Educator Appraisal system. They have reviewed the rubrics established for all educators as well as the self-assessment and artifacts that Dr. Kingston provided. Each School Committee member evaluated the Superintendent based on the 4 Assessment Standards:

- 1 – Instructional Leadership
- 2 – Management and Operations
- 3 – Family and Community Engagement
- 4 – Professional Culture

Each ranking was assigned a value and an average ranking was derived. Dr. Kingston received an overall assessment of 3.0 on the Standards and 2.3 on the Goals.

3.2 2013-2014 Superintendent Goals – Exhibit B

Dr. Kingston explained his three proposed goals which can be modified according to how the School Committee reacts to them.

- 1 – Student Learning Goal
- 2 – Professional Practice Goal
- 3 – District Wide Goal

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

VOTED unanimously to adopt the Superintendent's Goals for 2013-2014.

3.3 Delegate Selection and Resolution – Exhibit C

Ms. Graham stated that the School Committee is required to vote their approval on the resolutions being presented at the MASC/MASS Joint Conference each year.

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

VOTED unanimously to approve the Resolutions to the MASC/MASS conference 2013.

Ms. Graham explained that the School Committee is required to vote for a delegate to represent the Committee at the annual MASC/MASS Joint Conference which takes place in November of this year. Ms. Lougée volunteered to represent the School Committee as delegate for this year.

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

VOTED unanimously to appoint Ms. Anne Lougée as School Committee delegate for the 2013 MASC/MASS Joint Conference, November 6-9, 2013.

3.4 Sub-committee Appointments – Exhibit D

Ms. Graham suggested appointments for various subcommittees. The School Committee offered suggestions.

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

4.1 Student Representative

Student Representative Max Davidowitz stated that Mr. Ezra Flam has had a smooth transition as the new Theatre Arts Specialist and that *The King Stag* will be the fall play. Auditions for the play are underway. The Marching Band is doing well and has increased by 30 members. Max also reported that the school atmosphere is more positive and that school spirit has increased. He thinks the new arrangement of the library has helped with this. Max said that he believes depression in students is increasing and that there needs to be more communication regarding depression.

Ms. Graham spoke to the importance of having the School Committee and community realize that depression is an ongoing issue within our schools and that there should be continued discussion and learning on the subject.

4.2 Finance Subcommittee

The Finance Subcommittee will meet on October 15 to review the final FY13 results.

4.3 Policy Subcommittee

The Policy Subcommittee has not met.

4.4 Curriculum & Instruction Subcommittee

The Curriculum & Instruction Subcommittee will meet on October 23.

4.5 Capital Budget Committee

The Capital Budget Committee will meet at 8:00 a.m. on the Harris Field turf on Oct. 9.

4.6 Warrant Committee

The first meeting of the Warrant Committee was October 2. Ms. Slap announced that Mr. Mike Libenson is the new Chair.

4.7 Wellington Building Committee

Ms. Graham stated that the most of the building issues have been resolved and the Committee is in the process of wrapping up the budgetary process with the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA). Dr. Kingston mentioned that there has not been an answer from MSBA about when renovations to Belmont High School might be approved.

5. **OTHER BUSINESS**

- 5.1 Consent Agenda
- 5.2 Personnel Items - None
- 5.3 Business Items – None
- 5.4 Approval of Minutes

September 24, 2013

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

VOTED unanimously 5-0 with 1 abstention to approve the minutes of September 24, 2013.

6. **FUTURE BUSINESS**

Upcoming Meetings:

October 22, 2013
School Committee Meeting with Boston Parents
Boston Elder Services – 7:00 p.m.

7. **ENCLOSURES**

Enrollment – October 1, 2013
New Staff – 2013-2014
Veterans' Day Schedule - 2013

8. **ADJOURNMENT**

At 9:30 p.m. on a motion offered by Ms. Lougée and seconded by Ms. Slap, it was

VOTED unanimously to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted by


Anne Lougée, Secretary