

## BELMONT PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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Dear Town Meeting Members,

I write today to thank you on behalf of the entire staff, families and students we serve for your support of the Belmont Public Schools FY18 budget.

As you know we are growing in enrollment, which takes its toll on the operating budget; but with your support, the school department has moved forward on many fronts. The planning of the Financial Task Force model and the corresponding override funds are appreciated and well-utilized. The students and staff have benefited by the additional staff and consistent funding for instructional materials. The strategic planning we are able to act on with consistent and predictable funding from year to year is essential to our present and future success.

The short term and long term space issues are a challenge, but again, the support of the Town and the Capital Committee have been instrumental in the solutions we are implementing. The ability to provide relief at all three levels of our district, with modular space, has been a tremendous help in decreasing class size and providing appropriate space for children to learn. The long term work of our Belmont High School Building Committee (BHSBC) has made progress and we will continue to update the community on our work to bring a new high school and possible long term solutions through our three grade configuration options. This work would not be possible without your current and future support.

As a Town, we are fortunate to have great families, wonderful and talented educators, and an incredibly supportive community.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact us. Our office is open during the summer as we prepare for September.

Respectfully,



John P. Phelan

Superintendent of Schools