

**BELMONT SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES
SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
CONFERENCE ROOM
OCTOBER 31, 2013**

Present: Ms. Laurie Graham, Chair
Ms. Anne Lougée, Secretary
Mr. Kevin Cunningham
Ms. Elyse Shuster
Ms. Laurie Slap
Dr. Thomas Kingston, Interim Superintendent

Absent: Ms. Lisa Fiore

1. **OPENING BUSINESS**

1.1 Call to order

Ms. Graham called the meeting to order at 8:05 a.m..

2. **MAJOR BUSINESS**

2.1 Request from the Community Path Advisory Committee

Ms. Graham explained that the Community Path Advisory Committee (CPAC) has asked the School Committee to provide a letter of support for its efforts to obtain approval for a feasibility study to create a community path that would specifically provide for the construction of a pedestrian/bicycle tunnel beneath the MBTA tracks that run behind Belmont High School (BHS) and along the adjoining athletic fields. This tunnel would provide safe passage for pedestrians/bicyclists travelling from the neighborhoods on the north side of the MBTA tracks to the BHS campus and beyond.

School Committee members reviewed materials provided by CPAC, as well as its own protocol for the reuse of school facilities.

Ms. Lougée left the meeting at 8:45 a.m. at which time Ms. Graham volunteered to record the minutes. Dr. Kingston left the meeting at 9:00. The remaining members constructed a letter to submit to the CPAC.

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

VOTED 4-0 to submit the following letter to the CPAC:

The Belmont School Committee supports the exploration of all options that will help provide safer passage for students from the north side of town to Belmont High School and the Chenery Middle School. We therefore welcome the proposal by the Community Path Advisory Committee for the

commission of a feasibility study to explore a pedestrian/bicycle connection between Belmont High School and the Winn Brook neighborhood.

It would be important for us that any study consider the impact of a tunnel on the whole High School campus -- both the impact on school property for components of the tunnel/ramp itself, and any issues related to traffic flow across campus. Also note that the possible renovation of the High School in the near future may impact planning for any construction recommended by the feasibility committee.


Our support of this exploration should not be construed as an endorsement of any particular community path. To date, the School Committee has had no formal discussion of that topic.

3. **ADJOURNMENT**

At 9:40 a.m. on a motion offered by Ms. Slap and seconded by Ms. Shuster, it was

VOTED unanimously to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted by



Anne Lougée, Secretary