

**BELMONT SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES
CHENERY MIDDLE SCHOOL COMMUNITY ROOM
FEBRUARY 4, 2014**

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
Ms. Janice Darias, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction
Mr. Anthony DiCologero, Director of Business, Finance and Operations

Also present: Beth Young, Student Representative

1. **OPENING BUSINESS**

1.1 Call to order

Ms. Graham called the meeting to order at 7:34 p.m.

1.2 Pledge of Allegiance

Ms. Graham led the Pledge of Allegiance.

1.3 Citizens' Concerns

There were no citizens' concerns.

1.4 Adjustments to the Agenda

There were no adjustments to the agenda.

1.5 Chairman's Report

Ms. Graham updated the Committee on recent and upcoming events throughout the town. Ms. Graham also explained that the School Committee would be conducting its formative assessment of Dr. Kingston at the next School Committee meeting.

1.6 Superintendent's Report

Dr. Kingston announced that on the evening of March 5, 2014, Jon Mattelman will be making a presentation at Chenery Middle School. He will talk to parents and community members about issues affecting the social and emotional health of adolescents.

Dr. Kingston announced that school would be cancelled tomorrow, February 5th, due to the impending storm.

Dr. Kingston acknowledged the gift of \$10,000 from Liz and Graham Allison that the School Committee would be voting to accept. He stated that the Allisons came forward to offer this gift after seeing Me. Leon Dyer's presentation regarding the Solar Car Team at the last school committee meeting. The team is still planning to raise an additional \$6,000 so that all members of the team can travel to Texas in July for the Solar Car competition.

Dr. Kingston discussed the February 1 enrollment numbers, stating that since the January 1 report 12 students have moved out of the district.

Dr. Kingston discussed the School Department FY14 budget stating that there will be a deficit. He explained that the School Department will not be asking for a reserve fund transfer at this time. Mr. DiCologero added that he is very appreciative of the work that has taken place with the Warrant Committee and the Town Administrator's Office.

1.7 Director of Finance, Business and Operations' Report

Mr. DiCologero stated that he has been working on the FY15 budget with the Finance Subcommittee, the Town Administrator and his staff. He expressed his continued appreciation of the collaborative relationship the School Department has with the Town leaders.

2. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business

3. MAJOR BUSINESS

3.1 Vote to approve new Superintendent's Contract – Exhibit A

Ms. Graham explained that the School Committee and Mr. Phalen have agreed on a contract. She explained that Mr. Phelan's starting salary will be \$182,000 and detailed other monetary and paid leave compensation. Mr. Phalen's 3-year contract will begin on July 1, 2014.

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

VOTED unanimously to approve the Memorandum of Agreement dated February 4, 2014.

3.2 Presentation of Draft FY15 Budget – Exhibit B

Dr. Kingston presented the draft FY15 budget using a PowerPoint presentation. He reported that school and town administrators have been working to develop the budget since December. Dr. Kingston explained that he believed this to be the reasonable budget proposal for this time but noted that the budget is always evolving. Dr. Kingston stated that Belmont is a level 1 district and it requires resources to maintain that. He stated that it is also important to sustain the continued implementation

of the new educator evaluation system and provide mandatory training for Sheltered English Immersion. Dr. Kingston explained that the draft budget would be on the Belmont Public Schools website for anyone who would like to read through it.

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

VOTED unanimously to move forward to the Board of Selectmen the Draft FY15 budget.

3.3 Summary of Modeling Groups:

Enrollment	Exhibit C-1
Instructional	Exhibit C-2
Student Life	Exhibit C-3
Technology	Exhibit C-4

Dr. Kingston explained that there are eight modeling groups studying a set of topics that have long range implications. The work of these groups will feed into the work of the financial task force created by the Board of Selectmen. Dr. Kingston stated that the following four groups have completed their study: 1) the task of the Enrollment Modeling Group was to develop a model for projecting the enrollments and space needs; 2) the Student Life Modeling Group studied different stressors effecting students and staff and ways to alleviate that stress; 3) the Information Technology Group studied ways to implement different types of technology; and 4) the Curriculum Instruction Modeling Group worked on understanding ways to be innovative with instruction.

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

4.1 Student Representative

Ms. Beth Young, currently enrolled in the AP Biology course, questioned whether the class has to be as rigorous as it is, suggesting that a reduction in the amount of lab and project work would still result in significant learning. Ms. Young updated the School Committee on recent and upcoming arts and fundraising events at Belmont High School. She reported that there was a presentation today by Chris Herren to the sophomore class. Mr. Herren was a successful basketball player in high school and college – eventually playing for the Boston Celtics – before substance abuse ruined his career. Ms. Young reported that Principal Richards and Assistant Principal Muldoon are working to bring more speakers to the school to talk to students about a number of life issues.

4.2 Finance Subcommittee

There was no additional report from the Finance Subcommittee.

4.3 Policy and Procedure Subcommittee

There was no report from the Policy and Procedure Subcommittee.

4.4 Curriculum & Instruction Subcommittee

There was no report from the Curriculum & Instruction Subcommittee.

4.5 Capital Budget Committee

Ms. Lougée explained that there will be a presentation on the Underwood Pool at the February 10 Board of Selectmen's Meeting and that she and other members of the Capital Budget Committee plan to attend.

4.6 Warrant Committee

Ms. Slap announced that Ms. Jenny Fallon is a new member of the Warrant Committee. If their meeting tomorrow evening is not cancelled due to the weather, the committee will review the Community Preservation Act proposals.

4.7 Wellington Building Committee

There was no report from the Wellington Building Committee.

5. **OTHER BUSINESS**

5.1 Consent Agenda

Motion to accept gift of \$10,000 from Liz & Graham Allison for Solar Car Project – Exhibit D

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

VOTED unanimously to accept the gift of \$10,000 from Liz & Graham Allison for the Solar Car Project – Exhibit D.

5.2 Personnel Items - none

5.3 Business Items – none

5.4 Approval of Minutes

January 17, 2014

January 21, 2014

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

VOTED unanimously to approve the minutes of January 17, 2014.

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

VOTED unanimously to approve the minutes of January 21, 2014.

6. **FUTURE BUSINESS**

Upcoming Meetings:

February 5, 2014
School Committee/BEA Negotiations
Wellington Community Room – 3:30 p.m.

February 10, 2014
Joint School Committee/Board of Selectmen Meeting
Selectmen's Meeting Room – 6:00 p.m.

February 11, 2014
Finance Subcommittee Meeting
SAB Conference Room – 8:00 a.m.

February 13, 2014
School Committee/BEA Negotiations
Wellington Community Room

February 25, 2014
Finance Subcommittee Meeting
SAB Conference Room – 8:00 a.m.

February 26, 2014
School Committee/BEA Negotiations
Wellington Community Room – 3:30 p.m.

March 10, 2014
School Committee/BEA Negotiations
Wellington Community Room – 3:30 p.m.

7. **ENCLOSURES**

No enclosures

8. **ADJOURNMENT**

At 9:25 p.m. on a motion offered by Ms. Lougée and seconded by Ms. Shuster, it was

VOTED unanimously to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted by



Anne Lougée, Secretary