

**BELMONT SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES  
CHENERY MIDDLE SCHOOL COMMUNITY ROOM  
APRIL 29, 2014**

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

1. **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

At 6:30 p.m. the School Committee entered Executive Session for the purpose of discussing strategy with respect to collective bargaining with union personnel given that a discussion in Open Session may have a detrimental impact on the School Committee's bargaining position.

2. **OPENING BUSINESS**

2.1 Call to order

Ms. Slap called the meeting to order 7:30 p.m. explaining that the Committee had been in Executive Session prior to this meeting to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining with union personnel.

2.2 Pledge of Allegiance

Ms. Slap led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2.3 Citizens' Concerns

There were no citizens' concerns.

2.4 Adjustments to the Agenda

There were no adjustments to the agenda.

2.5 Chairman's Report

Ms. Slap updated the Committee on recent and upcoming events throughout the town.

## 2.6 Superintendent's Report

Dr. Kingston announced that Belmont High School Graduation will take place on June 1 at 3:00 p.m. He also announced that June 20 will be the last day of school and it will be an early release day. He explained that the only way the date would change would be if there was some type emergency requiring that the schools be closed.

Dr. Kingston explained to the School Committee that the Belmont School Department Administration has not taken a stance on the liquor license application proposed by the Loading Dock which is located on Brighton Street close to the high school. He stated that he is presuming in good faith that the owners will exercise due diligence if the proposal is approved.

Dr. Kingston stated that a letter will be sent out to parents of students entering Kindergarten in the fall explaining that Belmont may see a surge in enrollment. If that takes place, he will not guarantee that the child will attend the school in his or her district. He explained that if a sibling is already attending a particular school, the kindergarten student will be kept in that school as well. Dr. Kingston asked all parents to register their child in the school he or she should be attending.

## 2.7 Director of Finance, Business and Operations' Report

Mr. DiCologero provided his report as part of the 2014 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter update.

## 3. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

3.1 There was no unfinished business.

## 4. MAJOR BUSINESS

4.1 2014 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Update

Mr. DiCologero explained to the School Committee that the end of year projection for FY14 is showing a \$220,000 deficit. He explained the unanticipated events that have contributed to this deficit such as, increases in enrollment, repairs to the Higginbottom Pool and the delayed conversion of the Belmont High School heating system to gas. Mr. DiCologero explained that he has asked the Leadership Council to buy only things that are absolutely necessary until the end of the year. He stated that there is a freeze on all facilities spending except where it is critical for health and safety.

Dr. Kingston explained that due to the deficit, he is asking the School Committee to approve a reserve transfer request to the Warrant Committee of \$200,000. He explained that this request has been coordinated with the Town administrators.

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

**VOTED** unanimously to authorize the Superintendent to submit a request for a reserve fund transfer of \$200,000 to the Warrant Committee.

#### 4.2 Review of District Determined Measures

Ms. Darias presented an update on the development of District Determined Measures. She explained that as part of the new Educator Evaluation System educators will earn two ratings: a summative performance rating and a student impact rating. The two ratings will determine whether an educator is on a 1 or 2 year self-directed growth plan, a directed growth plan or an improvement plan. The Student Impact Rating is based on the patterns of student learning, growth, and achievement and trends over 3 years.

Ms. Darias explained the definition of District Determined Measures: *“measures of student learning, growth, and achievement related to the Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks, Massachusetts Vocational Technical Education Frameworks, or other relevant frameworks, that are comparable across grade or subject level district-wide. These measures may include, but shall not be limited to: portfolios, approved commercial assessments and district-developed pre and post unit and course assessments, and capstone projects.”*

Ms. Darias provided the School Committee with an update on the next steps and challenges going forward using the District Determined Measures.

#### 4.3 Grade 8 Trip to Washington D.C. – Exhibit A

Dr. Kingston explained that this will be the third year the grade 8 students will take a trip to Washington D.C. and that there is no change in programming from the previous two years.

#### 4.4 2014-2015 School Committee Calendar – Exhibit B

Mr. Cunningham noted that all of the 2014-2015 School Committee meeting dates were tentative so it would not be a problem to change a date if needed.

### 5. **SUBCOMMITTEE/LIAISON UPDATES (as needed)**

#### 5.1 Student Representative

There was no student representative in attendance.

#### 5.2 Finance Subcommittee

Mr. Cunningham thanked Mr. DiCologero for his presentation this evening. He stated that the Leadership Council has been providing input on the budget so the final budget will be a slightly adjusted version.

#### 5.3 Policy Subcommittee

The Policy Subcommittee has not met.

5.4 Curriculum & Instruction Subcommittee

The Curriculum & Instruction Subcommittee will meet on May 14.

5.5 Capital Budget Committee

Ms. Lougée explained that the Capital Budget Committee met on April 10 and had a preliminary vote on various items. The will meet on Thursday May 1 to take a formal vote.

5.6 Warrant Committee

The Warrant Committee will meet tomorrow night.

5.7 Wellington Building Committee

The Wellington Building Committee will meet tomorrow.

6. **OTHER BUSINESS**

6.1 Consent Agenda

6.2 Personnel Items - none

6.3 Business Items – none

6.4 Approval of Minutes

April 7, 2014

April 8, 2014

April 9, 2014

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

**VOTED** 5-0-1 with one abstention to approve the minutes of April 7, 2014.

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

**VOTED** unanimously to approve the minutes of April 8, 2014

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

**VOTED** 5-0-1 with one abstention to approve the minutes of April 9, 2014

7. **FUTURE BUSINESS**

Upcoming Meetings:

May 13, 2014  
School Committee Meeting  
CMS Large Community Room – 7:30 p.m.

May 27, 2014  
School Committee Meeting  
CMS Large Community Room – 7:30 p.m.

May 6, 2014  
Finance Subcommittee Meeting  
SAB Conference Room – 8:00 a.m.

May 13, 2014  
Finance Subcommittee Meeting  
SAB Conference Room – 8:00 a.m.

May 20, 2014  
Finance Subcommittee Meeting  
SAB Conference Room – 8:00 a.m.

8. **ENCLOSURES**

April 11, 2014 Letter from Anderson & Kreiger  
Schedule for Memorial Day Exercises

9. **ADJOURNMENT**

At 9:04 p.m. on a motion offered by Ms. Graham and seconded by Mr. Cunningham, it was

**VOTED** unanimously to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted by

  
Anne Lougée, Secretary