

**BELMONT SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES
CHENERY MIDDLE SCHOOL COMMUNITY ROOM
JUNE 10, 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

Absent: Mr. Anthony DiCologero, Director of Finance, Business and Operations

**6:30 P.M. – RECEPTION FOR BELMONT PUBLIC SCHOOLS’ RETIREES
7:00 P.M. – RECOGNITION OF BELMONT PUBLIC SCHOOLS’ RETIREES**

Ms. Slap welcomed the members of the Belmont Public Schools staff who are retiring at the end of the school year and thanked them for their years of service.

Resolutions – Exhibit A

School Committee members read a resolution for each of the following retirees.

- ❖ Mr. Paul Carey – Government and Community Producer – Belmont Media Center
- ❖ Ms. Carol Cormier – Accounts Payable Secretary – Administration
- ❖ Ms. Marguerite (Peg) Hamilton – Pre-school Coordinator – District Wide
- ❖ Ms. Gwen Irish – Grade 2 Teacher – Wellington Elementary School
- ❖ Mr. Robert V. McCorkle – Grade 3 Teacher – Winn Brook School
- ❖ Mr. Steven Chung Hau Wong – Assistant Custodian – Burbank Elementary School

1. OPENING BUSINESS

1.1 Call to order

Ms. Slap called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

1.2 Pledge of Allegiance

Ms. Slap led the Pledge of Allegiance.

1.3 Citizens’ Concerns

There were no citizens’ concerns.

1.4 Adjustments to the Agenda

Ms. Slap announced that after the Chair's report and Superintendent's report, the Student Representatives would provide their report.

1.5 Chairman's Report

Ms. Slap updated the Committee on recent and upcoming events throughout the town. Ms. Slap also announced that the School Departments 2014-2015 budget was passed at Town Meeting on June 4th. She reported that the Education Subcommittee of the Warrant Committee voted in favor of the School Department's \$200,000 Reserve Fund transfer request needed for this fiscal year and that the full Warrant Committee will vote this issue tomorrow evening. Ms. Slap also reported that there was a call for an operational override at Town Meeting and that the Town Financial Task Force will be considering this issue.

1.6 Superintendent's Report

Dr. Kingston acknowledged the recent student art show that was held in the Homer Gallery. He also acknowledged the Belmont High School Jazz Choir's performance at the Beech Street Center today. He thanked Ms. Lougee for her management help at the Beech Street Center.

Dr. Kingston announced that the grade 8 students have returned from an enjoyable trip to Washington D.C.

Dr. Kingston called attention to the updated June 1 enrollment figures stating that the total number of students currently attending Belmont schools is 4,296.

Dr. Kingston explained that the School Committee will need to provide a summative evaluation for him at the next School Committee meeting on June 24.

4.1 Student Representative

Beth Young reported that the Belmontian Club raised over \$15,000 for Breast Cancer research, placing Belmont High third in the state in fundraising for this cause. She also provided an update on the Coffee House that was held by the Working to Help the Homeless Club. The club raised \$900 for Mary's House which is a homeless shelter.

Amy Zhang reported that graduation was held on June 1 and it went very well. She stated that the All Night Party was a great success and thanked the parents of junior class students for putting it together.

Thomas Zembowicz reported on the plans to renovate the library mezzanine that include utilizing the space for study and computer areas. He stated that the junior class created a form for students to provide feedback on issues that concern them. A common concern is the lack of space for students to work during their free periods as well as the need for new text books.

Max Davidowicz reported that the Jazz Ensemble performed at the Beech Street Center today and they were very well received. He also stated that students had the opportunity to interview the finalist candidates for the Band Director position. Students are in the midst of their annual election season and Max reported that many students would like to see reusable lunch trays in the cafeteria. He also announced that the Asian American Club is planning more cultural performances for next year.

1.7 Director of Finance, Business and Operations' Report

Dr. Kingston reported that the finance office is working hard to balance this year's budget.

2. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

There was no unfinished business

3. **MAJOR BUSINESS**

3.1 Update on Staff Technology Acceptable Use and Internet Safety Protocol – Exhibit B

Dr. Kingston explained that the staff technology acceptable use protocols have been updated. The document explains how internet access is implemented. The policy has already been adopted by the School Committee but this document addresses the changes in procedure.

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

VOTED unanimously to approve the Belmont Public Schools Staff Technology Acceptable Use and Internet Safety Protocol - Exhibit B

3.2 Request to Discard Surplus Library Materials – Exhibit C

Dr. Kingston explained that according to Massachusetts General Law the de-accession of materials requires a vote of approval by the School Committee.

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

VOTED unanimously 6-0 to approve the request to discard surplus library materials – Exhibit C

3.3 Introduction: PARCC vs. MCAS – Exhibit D

Ms. Darias explained to the School Committee that the District Leadership Council has selected to use the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) assessment test for students in grades 3-8 next year. She stated that students will benefit from the opportunity to demonstrate their knowledge and skills using this new assessment and the teachers/administrators will have the advantage of analyzing the district, school and individual student results. Another factor that

supported the decision is the “hold harmless” provision which means the district will not be adversely affected if the students’ performance is lower on PARCC than MCAS.

Ms. Darias explained that the District Leadership Council does not recommend participating in the optional PARCC for grades 9 and 11. The decision to continue with MCAS in these grades was based on the fact that next year’s grade 9 students will still be required to pass MCAS in English Language Arts, Math and Science in order to receive a Belmont High School diploma. She stated that adding PARCC in addition to MCAS would be a significant burden with limited benefits.

The decision was made to use paper based testing instead of computer based. Several more technology professionals would be needed if computer based was used. In addition to that there would be a need for more devices to complete the testing on.

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

4.2 Finance Subcommittee

Mr. Cunningham reported that the Finance Subcommittee has continued to meet. He stated that because the Town Financial Task Force is trying to complete their work over the summer, the Finance Subcommittee may continue to meet as well.

4.3 Policy Subcommittee

Ms. Graham recommended that the Policy Subcommittee begin meeting over the summer with new members made up of regular School Committee members.

4.4 Curriculum & Instruction Subcommittee

Ms. Darias stated that the Curriculum & Instruction Subcommittee met yesterday to discuss possible changes to the senior thesis curriculum.

4.5 Capital Budget Committee

Ms. Lougée stated that at its upcoming meeting on June 19th the members will review the criteria regarding what is capital and assess different life cycles of equipment.

4.6 Warrant Committee

Ms. Slap stated that the Warrant Committee will meet tomorrow to discuss the reserve fund transfer request from the School Department.

4.7 Wellington Building Committee

Ms. Graham stated that the Wellington Building Committee has not met recently. She also noted that Gerry Boyle, Facilities Director is doing remediation of sound problems.

5. **OTHER BUSINESS**

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

May 27, 2014

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

VOTED unanimously 6-0 to approve the minutes of May 27, 2014.

7. **FUTURE BUSINESS**

Upcoming Meetings:

June 17, 2014
Finance Subcommittee Meeting
SAB Conference Room – 8:00 a.m.

June 24, 2014
Finance Subcommittee Meeting
SAB Conference Room – 8:00 a.m.

8. **ENCLOSURES**

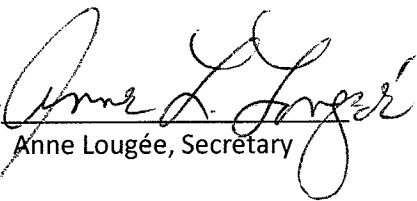
June 1, 2014 Enrollment
June 1, 2014 Enrollment indicating changes

9. **ADJOURNMENT**

At 9:10 p.m. on a motion offered by Ms. Lougée and seconded by Ms. Fiore, it was

VOTED unanimously to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted by



Anne Lougée, Secretary