

**BELMONT SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES
CHENERY MIDDLE SCHOOL COMMUNITY ROOM
MAY 13, 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. **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

There were no adjustments to the agenda.

1.5 Chairman's Report

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

1.6 Superintendent's Report

Dr. Kingston announced that the U.S. Department of Education (DOE) will be visiting Belmont on Tuesday, May 20 to study how Belmont used the Race to the Top Grant money it received.

Dr. Kingston referred to an independent accounting report that evaluated Belmont on whether it was compliant in its use of Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) supplements. He explained that they were evaluating how well Belmont complied with DESE requirements, and

reported that there was no instance of non-compliance. Dr. Kingston thanked Mr. DiCologero for his work in getting the endorsement.

Dr. Kingston updated the School Committee on the most recent enrollment numbers. There are currently 4,301 students in Belmont.

Ms. Darius reported that Belmont's ELA corrective plan – regarding staffing changes and the need for additional time with students – has been approved by DESE. The next progress report will be issued in October.

1.7 Director of Finance, Business and Operations' Report

Mr. DiCologero did not present a formal report.

2. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

There was no unfinished business

3. **MAJOR BUSINESS**

3.1 Fiscal Year 2015 School Budget Hearing and School Committee Vote – Exhibit A

Dr. Kingston acknowledged the hard work that has been done by Mr. DiCologero who has worked with Town administrators and other Town agencies. He explained that the enrollment growth this year was unpredictable and as a result we are in deficit this fiscal year. The School Department has submitted a request for a reserve fund transfer of \$200,000 to the Warrant Committee.

Dr. Kingston presented the proposed FY15 budget. He outlined the budget's objectives: to maintain the quality of instructional services at current levels; to maintain Belmont as a Level 1 District (one that exceeds all expectations); to continue to implement current strategic initiatives; to sustain continued implementation of the new Educator Evaluation System; and to provide mandatory Sheltered English Immersion (SEI) training.

Dr. Kingston noted that the FY15 budget meets all existing contractual commitments and allows the rolling forward of all current positions, including the 18+ FTE's added this fiscal year, and an additional half-time custodian. Health insurance premiums will remain at FY14 rates and expect for a 10% increase in private pre-kindergarten fees all other fees will remain the same. Special Education tuitions are expected to increase by 3.2 %.

Contractual salary obligations, increasing student enrollment, and mandated special education costs are the primary cost drivers. Whereas the proposed FY15 general fund budget totaling \$46,156,000, essentially maintains the status quo, it does not support the need for additional teachers to address increasing class sizes, ELL instruction, and additional extracurricular programming.

Following Dr. Kingston's presentation, Ms. Slap opened the meeting for questions from community members present. Audience members expressed concern about the lack of librarians in

the elementary schools, the considerable increase in class size and programming at the middle school, and the lack of sports programming at the high school, specifically boys freshman and junior varsity ice hockey. Each School Committee member was asked to speak specifically to what s/he thought was both good and bad about the proposed budget.

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

VOTED unanimously to approve the Belmont Public Schools Fiscal Year 2015 Budget.

3.2 Proposal for Rugby Trip to Portugal – Exhibit B

Ms. Darias presented a proposal from Belmont High School teacher Mr. Greg Bruce that would allow the Belmont High School Rugby Club (a private organization) to travel to Portugal during the April 2015 vacation. The trip would help to promote cultural exchange, offer community service opportunities and allow students to visit sites of cultural and historical significance.

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

VOTED unanimously to approve the Belmont High School Rugby Club trip to Portugal during the April 2015 vacation.

3.3 Report on Supplemental Revenue Sources for the Belmont Public Schools – Exhibit C

Ms. Lougée served as the Chair of the Supplemental Revenue Sources Advisory Group. In summarizing its report, she provided an overview of the various sources of supplemental revenue for the Belmont Public Schools. Ms. Lougée explained the current revenue sources, identified potential new sources of revenue and identified trends for supplemental revenue. She also explained that the advisory group evaluated each funding source as to whether it was one-time or repeatable.

3.4 Request to Discard Surplus Technology Equipment – Exhibit D

Mr. DiCologero explained that the Technology Department has computers that are beyond repair and several years old that they would like to discard. The School Committee is required by state law to vote to allow the disposal of old equipment.

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

VOTED unanimously to approve the request to discard surplus technology equipment listed in Exhibit D.

3.5 Vote on Representatives to LABBB and EDCO

Ms. Slap explained that each year the School Committee is required to appoint a member to the LABBB and EDCO Boards. The Superintendent is traditionally the person appointed to the LABBB Board.

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

VOTED unanimously to appoint Mr. John Phelan, incoming Superintendent as the representative to the LABBB Board as of July 1, 2014.

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

VOTED unanimously to appoint Ms. Elyse Shuster as the representative to EDCO as of July 1, 2014.

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

4.1 Student Representative

There was no student representative in attendance.

4.2 Finance Subcommittee

The Finance Subcommittee has been involved in the budget preparation.

4.3 Policy Subcommittee

The Policy Subcommittee will meet before the end of the school year.

4.4 Curriculum & Instruction Subcommittee

The Curriculum & Instruction Subcommittee will meet on May 14.

4.5 Capital Budget Committee

The Capital Budget Committee will meet on May 22.

4.6 Warrant Committee

The Warrant Committee will meet on May 14.

4.7 Wellington Building Committee

The Wellington Building Committee has not met.

5. **OTHER BUSINESS**

5.1 Consent Agenda

5.2 Personnel Items - none

5.3 Business Items – none

5.4 Approval of Minutes

April 29, 2014

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

VOTED unanimously to approve the minutes of April 29, 2014.

7. **FUTURE BUSINESS**

Upcoming Meetings:

May 14, 2014
Curriculum & Instruction Subcommittee Meeting
SAB Conference Room – 10:00 a.m.

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

May 27, 2014
Finance Subcommittee Meeting
SAB Conference Room – 8:00 a.m.

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

8. **ENCLOSURES**

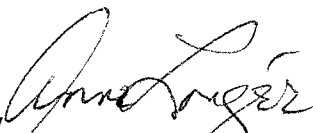
May 1, 2014 Enrollment
May 1, 2014 Enrollment indicating changes

9. **ADJOURNMENT**

At 9:50 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