

**BELMONT SCHOOL COMMITTEE WORK SESSION MINUTES**  
**SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION CONFERENCE ROOM**  
**January 10, 2014**

Present: Ms. Laurie Graham, Chair  
Ms. Anne Lougée, Secretary  
Mr. Kevin Cunningham  
Ms. Lisa Fiore  
Ms. Elyse Shuster (arrived at 8:35)  
Dr. Thomas Kingston, Interim Superintendent of Schools

Absent: Ms. Laurie Slap

Guests: Mr. Jeff Roth, Co-Chair, Community Path Advisory Committee  
Mr. Jim Davis, Director of Athletics and Extracurricular Activities  
Mr. Fred Domenici, Supervisor of Buildings and Grounds  
Mr. Dan Richards, Principal, Belmont High School  
Mr. Jeffrey Wheeler, Planning Coordinator, Belmont Office of Community Development

1. **OPENING BUSINESS**

1.1 Call to order

Ms. Graham called the meeting to order at 8:20 a.m.

2. **MAJOR BUSINESS**

2.1 Discussion of the Community Path

Mr. Roth explained that the Community Path Advisory Committee (CPAC) has been charged with exploring possible options for creating a community path in Belmont. He delivered a PowerPoint presentation that provided background information on the objectives of establishing a community path in Belmont and results thus far of CPAC's efforts over the past 18 months. The presentation also illustrated several possible scenarios for siting the path utilizing land at Belmont High School.

The committee and other attendees discussed with Mr. Roth the pros and cons of the options presented as they relate to the BHS campus and the future renovations needs of the facilities. Mr. Richards offered his concerns about a path that utilizes the fire lane behind the school building, specifically issues of security, access to the loading dock, and the potential audible and visual distraction to learning (particularly in the warmer weather when windows are open).

Ms. Fiore left the meeting at 9:32 a.m.

After further discussion the consensus of the remaining School Committee members was that the route from Hittinger Street through the high school parking lot and along the fire lane on the north side of the building to emerge on a connector between athletic fields is a plan that the board could not

support. The plan would cross a busy parking lot and compromise an indefinite number of parking slots. It would transgress a heavily used delivery location and emergency staging area as well as infringe upon available playing fields. Furthermore, with future renovation or rebuilding of Belmont High School in play, such a path would be impractical since the some portions of the area would be staging locations for construction and might well have to be closed for several years. However, as a board the School Committee remains neutral in judgment about any of the remaining possible routes for a new pathway.


In closing Dr. Kingston said that the School Department/Committee would send a letter to the CPAC outlining its responses to the use of school property in the development of a community path through Belmont.

3. **ADJOURNMENT**

At 9:40 a.m. on a motion offered by Mr. Cunningham and seconded by Ms. Lougée, it was

**VOTED** 4-0-0 to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted by

  
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Anne Lougée, Secretary