

Belmont School Committee Minutes
Finance Subcommittee
October 7, 2014
Conference Room of the School Administration Building

Present: Mr. Kevin Cunningham
Ms. Anne Lougée
Mr. John Phelan, Superintendent
Mr. Anthony DiCologero, Director of Finance

Absent: Ms. Laurie Slap

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 8:02 a.m.

2. Enrollment

Mr. Phelan distributed the October 1st enrollment data (the official benchmark information used by the state and federal funding departments) for review. He will be presenting this information with prior year(s) comparison data at tonight's School Committee meeting. He will also present information that illustrates growth within a particular cohort of students over time. It was noted that this year's kindergarten enrollment is 354 while the number of students in grade 12 is 281.

3. Financial Task Force Update

The town-wide financial task force met recently to review the progress it has made to date regarding the forecasting of Belmont's financial needs. Mr. Phelan and Mr. DiCologero are focusing their work to establish the base needs – centered on true level service – of the system for FY16 through FY18. While the current educational goals of the district are already imbedded in the system, the Leadership Council is working to identify costs associated with its top three priorities for this year – school safety, managing increasing enrollment, and incorporating SEL (social and emotion learning) principles into the curriculum.

4. Budget Document Design

Discussion on this issue was tabled to a future meeting.

5. Fee Schedule

Mr. Phelan distributed a document that presented two fee schedules for the rental of school property – one for Belmont non-profit organizations and another for Belmont for-profit organizations and all other entities whose principal office or membership is outside of Belmont. This fee schedule has been in effect since July 1, 2008.

The committee discussed the document generally, and specifically identified two important criteria regarding building/facility usage: 1) the need to have a clear prioritization of both current and future users of the building/facility; and 2) the need for clear definitions of the different types of users. While the discussion focused primarily on school facilities it was noted that others have a combined town/school purpose and are maintained by both town and school departments.

Given the current demands on the business office to prepare the Financial Task Force reports, the analysis of the fee schedule will need to wait. It is the committee's intention to address these fees in early 2015.

6. Approval of Minutes

On a motion by Mr. Cunningham and seconded by Ms. Lougée, the committee voted unanimously to approve the meeting minutes of September 23rd, as amended.

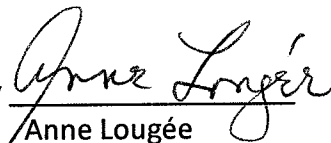
7. Next Meeting

The next scheduled meeting of the Finance Subcommittee is scheduled for Tuesday, October 28th at 8:00 a.m. in the conference room of the School Administration building.

8. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:54 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by


Anne Lougée