

**BELMONT SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES  
CHENERY MIDDLE SCHOOL COMMUNITY ROOM  
APRIL 8, 2014**

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

1. **ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING**

1 Call to order

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

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Ms. Graham led the Pledge of Allegiance

3. Nomination/Election of Chair

Ms. Graham explained that this is the first meeting after the Town election and it is the meeting where the Chair and Secretary are elected.

Ms. Graham expressed her gratitude for her time as Chair and thanked her colleagues.

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

**VOTED** unanimously to elect Ms. Slap as the School Committee Chair.

Nomination/Election of Secretary

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

**VOTED** unanimously elect Ms. Lougée as the School Committee Secretary.

4. Adjourn

At 7:34 p.m. on a motion offered by Ms. Lougée and seconded by Ms. Shuster, it was

**VOTED** unanimously to adjourn the organizational meeting.

2. **BUSINESS MEETING**

2.1 Call to order

Ms. Slap called the meeting to order 7:35 p.m.

2.2 Citizen's Concerns

There were no citizen's concerns.

2.3 Adjustments to the Agenda

There were no adjustments to the agenda.

2.4 Chair's Report

Ms. Slap thanked Ms. Graham for her years of service as School Committee Chair. She stated that Ms. Graham has done a spectacular job. Ms. Slap congratulated Ms. Fiore and Mr. Cunningham on their re-election to the School Committee.

Ms. Slap updated the School Committee on recent and upcoming Town and School events.

2.5 Superintendent's Report

Dr. Kingston noted that spring break begins April 20 and because school will not be in session that week, the School Committee will next meet on April 29.

Dr. Kingston explained that as one of her final acts as School Committee Chair, Ms. Graham signed the Statement of Interest (SOI) for the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) for the renovation of Belmont High School which will be sent to the MSBA tomorrow. He noted that the Board of Selectmen had voted unanimously at its meeting last night to endorse the SOI. Dr. Kingston explained that the MSBA requires a copy of the minutes from the meeting where the School Committee voted to endorse the SOI.

Dr. Kingston updated the School Committee on the plans to reupholster some of the auditorium seats at Belmont High School. He explained that if all the seats were to be removed and replaced, we would fall out of compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. As an interim measure the School Department has been working with the Town Facilities Department to set aside \$16,000 for emergency expenditures to replace the seats in most need of repair. Dr. Kingston stated that the hope is to have this work completed before Town Meeting in May.

Dr. Kingston explained that last Friday the Belmont High School fire alarm system went off five times due to an alarm sensor's sensitivity to dust. The building was evacuated safely and in an orderly fashion. The alarm company has been working to repair the problem. Dr. Kingston stated that the Belmont Fire Department has been very helpful in making adjustments to the system.

Dr. Kingston announced that Belmont has been chosen by a lottery system to receive a visit from the U. S. Department of Education (DOE). On May 20 DOE members will meet with teachers and administrators about how Belmont chose to use the money it received from the Race to the Top Grant.

Dr. Kingston reviewed the April 1 enrollment report with the School Committee.

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

Mr. DiCologero stated he is in the process of developing the third quarter budget update for FY14 and he is continuing work with the Finance Subcommittee to prepare for its April 16 meeting with the Education Subcommittee of the Warrant Committee to review the FY15 budget.

### 3. MAJOR BUSINESS

#### 3.1 Adoption of School Committee Policies and Rules

Ms. Slap explained that each year the School Committee must vote on the formal adoption of School Committee Policies. She also mentioned that the Policy Subcommittee continues to update policies.

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

**VOTED** unanimously to approve the School Committee Policies and Rules.

#### 3.2 Proposal for Dedication of Paula Lerner Darkroom at BHS – Exhibit A-1

Dr. Kingston read the proposal letter from Andrew Roy, Belmont High School Photography teacher. Mr. Roy has proposed this dedication to Paula Lerner in appreciation for all she had done to support BHS photography students during her life including donating equipment.

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

**VOTED** unanimously to approve the dedication of the Paula Lerner Darkroom at Belmont High School.

#### Dedication of Buildings and Facilities Policy – Exhibit A-2

#### 3.3 School Committee Appointments and Liaisons – Exhibit B

Ms. Slap suggested and the School Committee agreed to continue with the current appointments for the remainder of the school year.

#### 3.4 Superintendent's Recommendation for Wellington Solar Panel Project – Exhibit C

Dr. Kingston explained that he has been working with legal and technical counsel to explore options for a successor contract to Broadway Electric, as the firm is closing its operations. He recommends that Belmont rescind the contract offered to Broadway Electric. He stated that he believes

solar energy is a primary energy source for the 21<sup>st</sup> century and suggested the possibility of placing solar panels on Belmont High School as part of any future renovation project.

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

**VOTED** unanimously to rescind the contract to place solar panels on the Wellington School.

### 3.5 ELE Corrective Action Plan – Exhibit D

Ms. Darias explained that Belmont received a report of findings for English Language Education in March. The report noted two areas to correct. The first was criterion 5 which speaks to the number of hours of ESL instruction. Ms. Darias explained that Belmont needs to increase the number of hours of instruction and the plan going forward is to adjust the building-wide schedules in the middle school and high school to provide more hours of service. Ms. Darias explained that adjusting the schedule at the elementary level would not be sufficient so an additional ELL teacher will need to be hired for the elementary schools. Dr. Kingston explained that Belmont currently does not have the funding to add another teacher and if it comes to a point where there is no available funding, we would need to respond the State that we are not able to comply.

Ms. Darias explained that the second finding cited the use of tutors to teach ELL students. She stated that the tutors have been replaced with licensed teachers so Belmont is now in compliance with that particular criterion.

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

**VOTED** unanimously to endorse the ELE Corrective Action Plan.

## 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 meeting each week throughout the budget season to review the proposed budget and to determine how best to communicate the budget items to the Warrant Committee and the entire Belmont community. Dr. Kingston thanked Mr. Cunningham for providing technical support for the recent budget presentations.

### 4.3 Policy Subcommittee

The Policy Subcommittee will be reviewing the following policies before the end of the school year: Acceptable Use Policy, Student Absence and Notification to Parents Policy, and the Supplementary Revenue Source Policy.

### 4.4 Curriculum & Instruction Subcommittee

The Curriculum & Instruction Subcommittee will meet on May 27 to discuss the Foreign Language program.

4.5 Capital Budget Committee

The Capital Budget Committee met last Friday and reviewed presentations from the Department of Public Works and Community Development. It will meet again this Thursday evening to discuss items to be funded.

4.6 Warrant Committee

The Warrant Committee met jointly with the Board of Selectmen last Wednesday to listen to a presentation regarding the regional plan for Minuteman Vocational High School. It will meet tomorrow evening to prepare for Town Meeting financial articles.

4.7 Wellington Building Committee

The Wellington Building Committee has not met recently.

5. **OTHER BUSINESS**

5.1 Consent Agenda

5.2 Personnel Items - none

5.3 Business Items – none

5.4 Approval of Minutes

March 25, 2014

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

**VOTED** unanimously to approve the minutes of March 25, 2014.

7. **FUTURE BUSINESS**

Upcoming Meetings:

April 9, 2014

Community Budget Discussion

Board of Selectmen Meeting Room – 9:00 a.m.

April 15, 2014

Finance Subcommittee Meeting

SAB Conference Room – 8:00 a.m.

April 16, 2014  
Joint Finance Subcommittee / Warrant Committee Education Subcommittee Meeting  
SAB Conference Room – 8:00 a.m.

April 28, 2014  
Finance Subcommittee Meeting  
SAB Conference Room – 8:00 a.m.

April 29, 2014  
School Committee Meeting  
CMS Large Community Room – 7:30 p.m.

8. **ENCLOSURES**


April 1, 2014 Enrollment  
April 1, 2014 Enrollment indicating changes

9. **ADJOURNMENT**

At 8:42 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