

**BELMONT SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES
CHENERY MIDDLE SCHOOL COMMUNITY ROOM
SEPTEMBER 16, 2014**

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

Also present: Mr. Thomas Zembowicz, Student Representative

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 recommended having the Student Representative's Report take place right after the Superintendent's Report. The School Committee members agreed.

1.5 Chairman's Report

Ms. Slap welcomed everyone to the first School Committee meeting of the year. She noted that the school year was off to a good start and thanked the staff for all of their hard work over the summer. Ms. Slap was pleased to welcome Superintendent Phelan stating that he brings the right combination of skills to Belmont. Ms. Slap noted changes to the School Committee Policy Subcommittee and thanked Ms. Kathy Miller, Ms. Deborah Emello and Ms. Elizabeth Gibson for their many years of work on the subcommittee. Ms. Graham will continue to chair the Policy Subcommittee and Ms. Shuster will join her this year. Ms. Lougée will replace Ms. Slap as the School Committee's representative to the Warrant

Committee this year. Ms. Slap also extended thanks to Mr. Rick Jones and other members of a committee that helped organize the renovation of the White Field House.

1.6 Superintendent's Report

Mr. Phelan updated the School Committee on his recent meetings with members of the community, town officials, and school staff. He thanked the staff for all the work over the summer that took place to get the schools ready for opening. Mr. Phelan also thanked Dustin O'Brien, Director of Food Service for his work with Belmont Acres to help bring fresh local food to the cafeterias. He also thanked the staff in the Business Office for their hard work in seeing that the buses were on time and students arrived at school and home again safely. Mr. Phelan reported that student enrollment is up approximately 115 students over last year (at 10/1/13) and that it was necessary to assign the children of eight families to schools other than their neighborhood school in order to balance class sizes.

4.1 Student Representative

Ms. Slap welcomed Thomas Zembowicz to the meeting. Thomas thanked the staff of Belmont High School for a smooth start to the school year. He acknowledged the changes to the library stating that the students are very appreciative of the new furniture, work rooms, study carrels and carpet. He noted that seniors are becoming familiar with the new senior thesis process. Thomas also acknowledged that there are nine National Merit Scholarship Finalists who had been named earlier in the week.

2. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

There was no unfinished business.

3. **MAJOR BUSINESS**

3.1 Leadership Council Retreat Report Out/Superintendent's Entry Plan – Exhibit A

Mr. Phelan updated the School Committee on the recent retreats that took place over the summer. The retreats took place over 3 days and included members of the Leadership Council, Central Office Administrators and School Committee. The attendees spent time planning the work for the 2014-2015 school year using data they received from the Modeling Group Reports.

Mr. Phelan gave an overview of his Superintendent's Entry Plan explaining that it is intended to serve as a road map for gathering information and data. He stated that Phase I will include conversations with key stakeholders and a comprehensive review of artifacts and documents. Phase 2 will include analysis of the data he has gathered, identifying themes and trends therein. These findings will be used to develop preliminary goals and strategies for the system (Phase 3).

3.2 Update on 2014-2015 Trips

Ms. Darias updated the School Committee on trips that may be taken by Belmont students during the 2014-2015 school year. She reminded the School Committee that any international trip must

be approved the year before travel takes place. Ms. Darias informed the School Committee that the Solar Car Club had planned a trip to Texas during the summer for a competition but ran into some complications getting their car completed on time. As a result they were unable to make the trip. She also mentioned the AP Art students' trip to Paris has been cancelled due to low enrollment. The group may try to plan a state-side trip at a later date.

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

4.1 Finance Subcommittee

Mr. Cunningham stated the Finance Subcommittee met for the first time on 9/12 to discuss the FY14 closeout.

4.2 Policy Subcommittee

The Policy Subcommittee has not met.

4.3 Curriculum & Instruction Subcommittee

Ms. Darias stated that the Curriculum & Instruction Subcommittee will be meeting soon to discuss the new report card format.

4.4 Capital Budget Committee

Ms. Lougée stated that the Capital Budget Committee has not formally met but that, at the suggestion of Chairperson Anne Marie Mahoney, several members attended the recent presentation about the reconstruction of Belmont Center held at Town Hall.

4.5 Warrant Committee

The Warrant Committee will meet on October 1.

4.6 Wellington Building Committee

The Wellington Building Committee will meet on October 1.

5. **OTHER BUSINESS**

5.1 Consent Agenda

5.2 Personnel Items

New Hires – Unit A – 2014-2015

5.3 Business Items – None

5.4 Approval of Minutes

June 24, 2014

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

VOTED unanimously to approve the minutes of June 24, 2014 as amended.

6. **FUTURE BUSINESS**

Upcoming Meetings:

September 23, 2014
Finance Subcommittee
SAB Conference Room – 8:00 a.m.

September 23, 2014
School Committee Meeting
CMS Large Community Room – 7:30 p.m.

7. **ENCLOSURES**

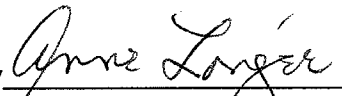
September 3, 2014 Enrollment

8. **ADJOURNMENT**

At 8:30 p.m. on a motion offered by Ms. Graham and seconded by Ms. Lougée, it was

VOTED unanimously to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted by


Anne Lougée, Secretary