

**BELMONT SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
**RETREAT – Day 2**  
**CHENERY MIDDLE SCHOOL COMMUNITY ROOM**  
**August 21, 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 Finance, Business and Operations  
Ms. Mary Pederson, Director of Human Resources

1. **OPENING BUSINESS**

1.1 Call to order

Ms. Slap called the meeting of the School Committee to order at 8:21 a.m.

1.2 Framing the Strategic Planning Work

Mr. Phelan reviewed for the School Committee through a PowerPoint presentation that guided the Leadership Council's work on its first retreat day. In summary, it incorporated the existing Strategic Plan, data from the modeling group reports, data that has informed his entry plan, and the FY15 budget. The culmination of the work of the Leadership Council was a revised and prioritized Strategic Plan for the current year. A summary of these initiatives can be found in the minutes of August 20<sup>th</sup>.

1.3 Superintendent Update: Opening of School

Due to the statewide election scheduled on Tuesday, September 9<sup>th</sup>, the School Committee decided to reschedule its next meeting to September 16<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Phelan informed the Committee that the Athletic Department has asked to dispose of football practice jerseys that are no longer being used. Mr. Phelan explained that according to Massachusetts General Law the de-accession of materials requires a vote of approval by the School Committee.

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

**VOTED** 5-0-1, with one abstention, to de-accession the surplus items and that they are disposed of appropriately.

Mr. Phelan reported that all staff are preparing for the opening day of school. He also noted that the renovation of Harris Field and improvements to the White field house are complete. The field renovation was funded through the Capital Budget and the improvements to the field house were funded privately with donations of funds and labor by many members of the community. The School Committee and the Board of Selectmen have been invited to attend a tour of both facilities on Monday, August 25<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 a.m.

Mr. Phelan explained that the remodeling of the high school library and mezzanine has been temporarily stopped due to permitting issues. Much of the work to create group project rooms and to expand the capacity for student study space has been completed but it is likely that the work will not be completed before the start of school. Committee members expressed their hope that this work can take place outside of school hours so as to minimize disruption to the students and staff.

The group discussed and decided upon the following subcommittee assignments and School Committee representation to other committees and boards:

- Curriculum Subcommittee – Ms. Fiore, Ms. Graham, Ms. Shuster
  - Policy/Procedure Advisory Subcommittee – Ms. Graham, Ms. Shuster
  - Finance Subcommittee – Mr. Cunningham, Ms. Lougée, Ms. Slap
  - Capital Budget Committee – Ms. Lougée (voting member)
  - EDCO Board – Ms. Shuster (voting member)
  - Warrant Committee – Ms. Lougée (voting member)
  - Joint Labor/Management Task Force – Ms. Fiore
- Mr. Phelan noted that at least once or twice a year issues that arise out of the monthly, voluntary building-level meetings between Principals and staff will be communicated to the School Committee or its representative.
- PTA/PTO: BHS, Elyse Shuster; Burbank, Laurie Graham; Butler, Kevin Cunningham; CMS: Lisa Fiore; Wellington, Laurie Graham; Winn Book, Laurie Slap.  
Ms. Slap will communicate with PTA/PTO chairs and let each school know who the liaison will be and the nature of the role.

## 2. **FUTURE BUSINESS**

Upcoming Meetings:

August 28, 2014

New Teacher Luncheon with School Committee and Leadership Council

BHS Cafeteria

12:00 – 1:00 p.m.

September 2, 2014

Staff Breakfast

BHS Cafeteria

8:00 – 8:45 a.m.

Convocation

BHS Auditorium  
9:00 – 10:00 a.m.

2. **ADJOURNMENT**

At 2:38 p.m. on a motion offered by Ms. Lougée and seconded by Ms. Fiore, it was

**VOTED**           unanimously to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted by



Anne Lougée, Secretary