

**BELMONT SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES  
CHENERY MIDDLE SCHOOL COMMUNITY ROOM  
JUNE 9, 2015**

Present: Ms. Laurie Slap, Chair  
Ms. Susan Burgess-Cox  
Mr. Thomas Caputo  
Dr. Lisa Fiore, Secretary  
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: Ms. Mary Pederson, Director of Human Resources  
Mr. Scott Stratford, School Committee Liaison to Belmont Media Center  
Daniel Vernick, Student Representative to School Committee

6:30 p.m. – Reception for Belmont Public Schools’ Retirees

7:00 p.m. – Recognition of Belmont Public Schools’ Retirees

Ms. Pederson welcomed members of the Belmont Public Schools staff who are retiring at the end of the school year and thanked them for their years of service.

Resolutions – Exhibit A

School Committee members read a resolution for each of the following retirees.

Ms. Susan Blanchard – Grade 1 Teacher – Butler Elementary School

Ms. Mary Dominguez – Elementary Science Facilitator – District Wide

Ms. Rosanne Mili – Music Teacher – Butler Elementary School

Ms. Anne Mullany – Math Teacher – Belmont High School

Ms. Georgia Patterson – Secretary – Student Services Office

Ms. Ellen Payne – Special Education Teacher – Butler Elementary School

Ms. Rosemary Peterson – Nurse Coordinator – District Wide

Ms. Colleen Ryder – Kindergarten Teacher – Butler Elementary School

1. **OPENING BUSINESS**

1.1 Call to order

Ms. Slap called the meeting to order at 7:08 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

There were no adjustments to the agenda.

1.5 Chair's Report

Ms. Slap congratulated all the retirees and thanked them for their years of service.

Ms. Slap announced that the FY16 school budget had been adopted by Town Meeting. She thanked Superintendent Phelan and Mr. DiCologero for all the work they put into the budget. She also thanked Ms. Burgess-Cox and Mr. Caputo for all their work on the Finance Subcommittee.

Ms. Slap expressed appreciation to Principal Richards and the staff at Belmont High School for the wonderful graduation ceremony held on June 7<sup>th</sup>. She also thanked School Committee Student Representative Daniel Vernick for the time he has given to School Committee.

Ms. Slap updated the School Committee on other recent and upcoming events in the town and schools.

1.6 Student Representative Report

Daniel Vernick thanked the School Committee for welcoming students to the meetings and allowing them to offer their opinions. He also thanked all the volunteers and staff who helped make the All Night Party a great event. He thanked the many teachers in the Belmont Schools, especially those at Belmont High School, for their effort and dedication to their students.

1.7 Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Phelan thanked Daniel Vernick and the other student representatives for taking time out to attend School Committee meetings during the past year. He also thanked Principal Richards and the staff at Belmont High School for organizing a wonderful graduation ceremony. Superintendent Phelan offered his congratulations to all of the seniors and underclassmen who received awards at the recent awards ceremonies held at Belmont High School.

2. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

There was no unfinished business.

### 3. MAJOR BUSINESS

#### 3.1 Digital Citizenship Seminar – Exhibit B

Ms. Ashley Landry and Principal Dan Richards joined the School Committee at the table to offer an overview of the proposed Digital Citizenship Seminar. Ms. Landry explained that the course will be offered next year for freshmen and will take place over three sessions. Student will learn how to find and evaluate online resources to determine what sources of information are the most appropriate and valuable. They will also learn how to create online content. In another session students will be taught about appropriate online relationships, social media privacy settings, and phishing scams. An additional session will include information on health and wellness, and will cover a wide range of topics, from correct posture while working at a computer, to issues around internet addiction, self-worth, and depression. The course will teach students what it means to be a citizen of the digital world and how to navigate online information safely and respectfully. Students will also study the social aspects of online communication related to safety, privacy, and cyber-bullying.

#### 3.2 Report from School Committee Liaison to Belmont Media Center

Mr. Scott Stratford, School Committee Liaison to the Belmont Media Center, updated the School Committee on the activities and classes being held at the Belmont Media Center such as:

- “This I Believe” Video Essays – with 45 BHS 11<sup>th</sup>-grade students & teachers – Spring 2015
- Belmont Schools Now – Started February 2015
- Chenery Middle School Art Show – Spring 2015 – Works created by Chenery art teachers
- Belmont High Film Club – Short films produced and starring BHS students – 2015
- “Make a Movie in a Day” Vacation Class – attended by seventeen Chenery & BHS students – 2015
- BHS Sports TV Coverage – Featuring women & men teams including: hockey, soccer, rugby, lacrosse, football, baseball, basketball – 2014-15
- BHS / Middle School Music: Bandarama, Singarama, etc. 2014-15
- BHS PTO Presents – lectures and presentations – 2014-15
- Annual FBE Spelling Bee – 2014
- Nicholas Kristof @ BHS – 2015
- Butler School Talent Show – 2015
- BHS Senior & Underclassmen Awards 2015
- BHS Graduation Ceremony – 2015

Mr. Stratford noted there are more opportunities for students to get involved if they are interested in media work. He praised Superintendent Phelan for taking the time to tape his new show “Belmont Schools Now.” Superintendent Phelan thanked Mr. Stratford for suggesting the idea and explained that it adds another forum for people to learn what is happening at the schools.

Mr. Stratford explained that he will continue to update the School Committee on BMC events at School Committee meetings twice a year.

### 3.3 Vote on Fees – Exhibit C

Ms. Slap explained that the School Committee had been provided an updated version of Exhibit C. Superintendent Phelan explained that he and Mr. DiCologero had met with the groups who are continuous renters of space in the schools to explain their decision to raise rental fees. In addition to increasing the rental fees, the decision has been made to charge a flat fee for custodial details. Superintendent Phelan also explained the rationale behind the increase in lunch fees by 25 cents per meal, stating that the increased revenue will allow the Food Services Department to maintain their kitchen facilities properly while continuing to provide high quality food to students.

On a motion offered by Ms. Burgess-Cox and seconded by Mr. Caputo, it was

**VOTED** unanimously to approve the increase in fees for the After School Child Care Program and Higginbottom Pool rental.

On a motion offered by Ms. Burgess-Cox and seconded by Dr. Fiore, it was

**VOTED** unanimously to approve the increase in fees for the Belmont Public Schools School Lunch Program.

On a motion offered by Mr. Caputo and seconded by Dr. Fiore, it was

**VOTED** unanimously to increase the fee for Full Day Kindergarten to \$3500 with a possible future adjustment if funding is provided by the State.

### 3.4 Vote on School Committee Representatives to LABBB and EDCO

Ms. Slap explained that the School Committee is required to vote on a representative to LABBB and EDCO each year.

On a motion offered by Ms. Graham and seconded by Ms. Burgess-Cox, it was

**VOTED** unanimously to appoint Superintendent John Phelan as the School Committee Representative to LABBB.

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

**VOTED** unanimously to appoint Ms. Shuster as the School Committee Representative to EDCO.

### 3.5 Space Update (Elementary/Middle School/High School)

Superintendent Phelan explained that the administration has been working on enrollment issues for the past year or so and they are grateful for the override that has allowed the addition of some teachers. Because enrollment has been increasing each year, plans are being made to re-hab some classrooms at Chenery and Butler. Classrooms will also be added the modulars behind the high school. Superintendent Phelan explained that a committee will be formed to study how to gain classroom space

without a large expense. He also noted that the Capital Budget Committee is aware that additional funding may be needed in the future to support the space needs.

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

4.1 Finance Subcommittee

The Finance Subcommittee did not meet this week but will meet on June 16.

4.2 Policy Subcommittee

The Policy Subcommittee met last week and will meet again on June 18. They finalized a draft proposal for a Facilities Naming Advisory Committee.

4.3 Curriculum & Instruction Subcommittee

The Curriculum & Instruction Subcommittee met on June 1.

4.4 Capital Budget Committee

The Capital Budget Committee met before Town Meeting to discuss the final amendments for Town Meeting. The Chair proposed meeting in September to begin discussing capital needs for building such as the library and police station.

4.5 Warrant Committee

The Warrant Committee will meet on June 10.

4.6 Wellington Building Committee

The Wellington Building Committee has not met.

4.7 Financial Task Force

The Financial Task Force may meet in the fall.

5. **OTHER BUSINESS**

5.1 Consent Agenda - none

5.2 Personnel Items - none

5.3 Business Items – None

5.4 Approval of Minutes

May 26, 2015

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

**VOTED** unanimously to approve the minutes of May 26, 2015 as amended.

7. **FUTURE BUSINESS**

Upcoming Meetings:

June 16, 2015  
Finance Subcommittee Meeting  
SAB Conference Room – 7:30 a.m.

June 18, 2015  
Policy and Procedure Subcommittee Meeting  
SAB Conference Room – 8:00 a.m.

June 22, 2015  
School Committee Meeting  
CMS Large Community Room – 7:00 p. m.

8. **ENCLOSURES**


None

8. **ADJOURNMENT**

At 9:00 p.m. on a motion offered by Mr. Caputo and seconded by Ms. Graham, it was

**VOTED** unanimously to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted by



Dr. Lisa Fiore, Secretary