

**BELMONT SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES  
CHENERY MIDDLE SCHOOL COMMUNITY ROOM  
December 15, 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

1. **OPENING BUSINESS**

1.1 Call to order

Ms. Slap called the meeting to order at 7:00 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 announced the resignation of long time School Committee member Laurie Graham which will take place the end of January. She thanked Ms. Graham for her years of service to the School Committee and Town of Belmont.

Ms. Slap reminded the School Committee and public of the upcoming Belmont Special Education Advisory Council presentation on December 16 as well as a gathering at Brueggers on December 16 for parents of students who are receiving services. Ms. Slap thanked the FBE for continuous support: the profit from the Dan Scharfman Road Race was \$26,000 which will all go towards helping the schools. She also announced the cycle one learning excellence grants totaled \$50,000. Ms. Slap reminded

everyone of the Martin Luther King Breakfast that will take place on January 18 in the Belmont High School Cafeteria. She noted a productive recent meeting of the Labor-Management task force that includes members of the BEA and School Committee. A subsequent meeting is scheduled for January 26.

1.7 Student Representative Report

There was no student representative in attendance.

1.8 Superintendent’s Report

Superintendent Phelan stated the items that were brought to the attention of the School Committee at the last meeting by the Student Representatives are being addressed at Belmont High School. He thanked the students for bringing the issues forward. Superintendent Phelan noted the successful food drive held by Chenery students in support of the Belmont Food Pantry, and thanked the Foundation for Belmont Education for their continued support to Belmont Public Schools. He also announced dates for SEL presentations, and noted a recent award presented to Butler Elementary School by the Belmont Council on Aging.

2. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

There was no unfinished business.

3. **MAJOR BUSINESS**

3.1 District Accountability Status – Exhibit A

Ms. Darias provided an update of the accountability designation for Belmont Public Schools. She stated that overall the performance of Belmont students was very impressive. She did note that the designation for Belmont High School changed from Level 1 to Level 2 because the progress of students in the “high needs” group was not sufficient to meet their specific gap narrowing goals. Ms. Darias also noted that the Butler School was commended for high progress and the Winn Brook School was commended for high achievement. The summary of information for each of Belmont’s schools is listed below:

School	Cumulative PPI*	Accountability and Assistance Level	School Percentile
Burbank Elementary School	All students 100	Level 1	97
Butler Elementary School	All students 89 Subgroups 76	Level 1	95
Wellington Elementary School	All students 96	Level 1	91
Winn Brook Elementary School	All students 100	Level 1	98

Chenery Middle School	All students 100 Subgroups 96	Level 1 [held harmless – participation rate]	98
Belmont High School	All students 90 Subgroups 73	Level 2	92
District	All students 100 Subgroups 75	Level 1 [held harmless]	n/a

### 3.2 PARCC Vote

Ms. Slap reminded the School Committee of the PARCC update, which Ms. Darias presented at a previous School Committee meeting. She stated that since the district has chosen to have students take the PARCC test on paper the School Committee needs to vote on the decision.

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

**VOTED** unanimously to approve the recommendation to have students in grades 3-8 take the PARCC test on paper in 2016.

### 3.3 Vote on Disposal of Surplus Technology Equipment – Exhibit B

Mr. DiCologero presented the School Committee with a list of surplus technology items that are no longer working and are ready to be disposed of.

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

**VOTED** unanimously to approve the disposal of surplus technology equipment listed in Exhibit B

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

### 4.1 Finance Subcommittee

Mr. Caputo updated the School Committee on the recent Finance Subcommittee meeting which included discussion of space needs and the January report out of the Space Task Force. He also noted that time was spent discussing FY15 Capital Budget requirements and reviewing an economic analysis of possible solar panels for the Wellington School.

### 4.2 Policy and Procedure Subcommittee

Ms. Graham stated she will be meeting with the Policy and Procedure Subcommittee as well as Superintendent Phelan and Assistant Superintendent Darias before she leaves the School Committee. They will discuss what needs to be done before she leaves.

### 4.3 Curriculum and Instruction Subcommittee

The Curriculum and Instruction Subcommittee met with Deb McDevitt, Director of Social Studies, and Jaynene Dellitt-Young, Elementary Curriculum Specialist, to review the plan of action presentation they will bring to a future School Committee meeting. The subcommittee will meet again on December 21.

#### 4.4 Capital Budget Committee

There was no report from the Capital Budget Committee.

#### 4.5 Warrant Committee

The Warrant Committee reviewed budget projections for next year at their last meeting.

#### 4.6 Wellington Building Committee

There was not report from the Wellington Building Committee.

#### 4.7 Financial Task Force

There was no report from the Financial Task Force.

#### 4.8 Community Path Update

Ms. Graham explained members of the Community Path Advisory Committee walked in the area near the tracks to view and discuss the challenges of that space for the community path. They also spoke of the need for a tunnel from the Winn Brook area to Concord Avenue and where that might go.

#### 4.9 Library Long Range Planning Committee

Ms. Graham stated that the Library Long Range Planning Committee has completed their initial task and no further meetings are scheduled at this time.

### 6. **OTHER BUSINESS**

6.1 Consent Agenda - none

6.2 Personnel Items - none

6.3 Business Items – None

6.4 Approval of Minutes

- o December 1, 2015

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

**VOTED** unanimously to approve the minutes of December 1, 2015.

7. **FUTURE BUSINESS**

Upcoming Meetings:

December 21, 2015  
Curriculum and Instruction Subcommittee Meeting  
BHS Conference Room – 8:00 a.m.

December 22, 2015  
Finance Subcommittee Meeting  
SAB Conference Room – 7:30 a.m.

January 5, 2016  
Finance Subcommittee Meeting  
SAB Conference Room – 7:30 a.m.

January 5, 2016  
School Committee Meeting  
CMS Large Community Room – 7:00 p.m.

8. **ENCLOSURES**

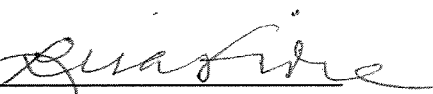
- Strategic Plan

8. **ADJOURNMENT**

At 8:15 p.m. on a motion offered by Ms. Graham and seconded by Dr. Fiore, it was

**VOTED** unanimously to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted by



Dr. Lisa Fiore, Secretary