

**BELMONT SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES
CHENERY MIDDLE SCHOOL COMMUNITY ROOM
JUNE 22, 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: Daniel Vernick, Student Representative

1. **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

1.1 The School Committee entered Executive Session at 6:15 p.m. for the purpose of discussing contract negotiations with union personnel given that a discussion in Open Session may have a detrimental impact on the School Committee's bargaining position.

2. **OPENING BUSINESS**

2.1 Call to order

Ms. Slap explained that the School Committee had been in Executive Session and would return to Executive Session at the conclusion of the business portion of the meeting.

2.2 Pledge of Allegiance

Ms. Slap led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2.3 Citizens' Concerns

Several students, teachers, and parents were present to offer support for a particular teacher who had been recently dismissed. Ms. Slap invited people to speak, stating that the comments would need to be kept to a minimum due to the fact that the School Committee had a full agenda. Several students and community members articulated their support for the teacher.

2.4 Adjustments to the Agenda

There were no adjustments to the agenda.

2.5 Chair's Report

Ms. Slap extended thanks to the excellent educators in the district as well as families who provide support. She also thanked various groups such as the PTA, PTO, and Foundation for Belmont Education for all their work this year. Ms. Slap thanked Superintendent Phelan for the excellent job he has done in his first year as Superintendent.

2.6 Student Representative Report

Daniel Vernick thanked the School Committee and Superintendent Phelan for their work this year and for allowing the student representatives to take part in the School Committee meetings. He also expressed support for the aforementioned teacher and read a petition signed by 222 students and recent graduates in support of this individual.

2.7 Superintendent's Report

There was no report from Superintendent Phelan.

3. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

There was no unfinished business.

4. **MAJOR BUSINESS**

4.1 Acceptance of Donations

Ms. Slap explained that three groups have offered donations to the School Department for various upgrades to facilities. Mr. Phelan invited Mr. Jim Davis, Director of Physical Education, Athletics and Health, to introduce each of the donors. Each donor provided a brief description of the work that will be done with the funding they are providing.

Boosters – Fitness Center Renovation Proposal – Exhibit A-1

Mr. Jim Reynolds, President of Belmont Boosters, explained that the Boosters will be donating \$23,000 to upgrade the high school fitness center. The work will involve putting in a new floor, new lighting, replacement of ceiling tiles, and painting. They will also be adding new weight-lifting equipment. Mr. Reynolds stated that the work will be completed by the end of July and will be done by local tradesmen.

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

VOTED unanimously in accord with Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44, Section 53A, that the School Committee accepts gifts and services from the Belmont Boosters in an equivalent

amount not to exceed \$23,000 for repairs and enhancements to the Belmont High School Fitness Center.

Belmont Youth Basketball – Field House Renovation Proposal – Exhibit A-2

Mr. John Carson explained that members of the Belmont Youth Basketball Association organized a proposal that involves refurbishing the volleyball and basketball courts, as well as the track surface at Belmont High School. He explained that Belmont Savings Bank has provided a substantial donation and funding has also been raised by proceeds from a recent golf tournament. Mr. Carson thanked Mr. Davis and Mr. Michael Santoro for finding space for activities during the summer while the work is being completed.

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

VOTED unanimously in accord with Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44, Section 53A, the Belmont School Committee gratefully accepts gifts and services from Belmont Youth Basketball Association, anonymous donor and community donations in an equivalent amount not to exceed \$125,000 for repairs and enhancements to the Belmont High School Field House.

Brendan Grant Foundation – Exhibit A-3

Mr. Casey Grant, President of the Brendan Grant Foundation, explained that the funding being provided will be used to install batting cages and pitching mounds at the varsity softball field on Concord Avenue. Additionally, two bullpen mounds will be installed – one at the Brendan Grant Memorial Field and the other at the JV baseball field.

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

VOTED unanimously in accord with Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44, Section 53A, the Belmont School Committee gratefully accepts gifts and services from the Brendan Grant Foundation in an equivalent amount not to exceed \$22,000 for repairs and enhancements to the Belmont High School Softball Field and Baseball Field.

4.2 Community Path Implementation Advisory Committee – Exhibit B

Mr. Russ Leino, Chair of the Community Path Implementation Advisory Committee (CPIAC), explained to the School Committee that this particular committee is a successor to the Community Path Advisory Committee. That committee completed their work last summer with a recommendation of a number of route segments for sections of the path. The Board of Selectmen constituted the current committee to continue with that work. Mr. Leino stated that the charge from the Board of Selectmen is to take the route segments recommended in the final report of the Community Path Advisory Committee and procure an engineering feasibility study on those sections of routes. The CPIAC would then provide recommendations to the Board of Selectmen. Once the Board of Selectman has voted on the route, the CPIAC will work on establishing funding for the project. Mr. Leino explained that the group would like input from all of the Town departments and committees that will be impacted by this

project, so he is asking the School Committee appoint a member to the CPIAC as a liaison. The role of this person will be to address any concern that the School Committee has regarding the project.

Mr. Ben Staton, member of CPIAC, stated that the Board of Selectmen will also consider the concerns of property owners.

Ms. Slap stated that she appreciates the outreach from the CPIAC members and asked if any of the School Committee members would like to volunteer as the liaison. Ms. Graham offered to be that designated person.

4.3 Vote on 2015-2016 School Committee Calendar – Exhibit C

Ms. Slap discussed possible adjustments to the 2015-2016 School Committee calendar. The School Committee agreed to review the changes and vote on the calendar in September.

4. SUBCOMMITTEE/LIAISON UPDATES (as needed)

4.1 Finance Subcommittee

Mr. Caputo explained that the Finance Subcommittee worked on closing out the FY15 year at their last meeting. They also discussed plans for work over the summer and to look at specific budget items.

4.2 Policy and Procedure Subcommittee

The Policy and Procedure Subcommittee will meet on June 24th. The group is focusing on sponsorship and advertising. Ms. Burgess-Cox has been providing information from other towns.

4.3 Curriculum & Instruction Subcommittee

There was no report from the Curriculum & Instruction Subcommittee.

4.4 Capital Budget Committee

There was no report from the Capital Budget Committee.

4.5 Warrant Committee

Ms. Slap explained that the Warrant Committee de-briefed on Town Meeting items 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.

5. **OTHER BUSINESS**

5.1 Consent Agenda - none

5.2 Personnel Items - none

5.3 Business Items – None

5.4 Approval of Minutes

June 9, 2015

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

VOTED unanimously to approve the minutes of June 9, 2015.

7. **FUTURE BUSINESS**

Upcoming Meetings:

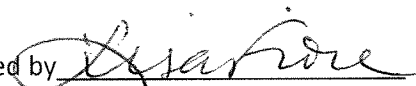
8. **ENCLOSURES**

None

8. **ADJOURNMENT**

Ms. Slap announced that the School Committee would be returning to Executive Session.

Respectfully submitted by



Dr. Lisa Fiore, Secretary