

**BELMONT SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES
SHELBURNE COMMUNITY CENTER, ROXBURY, MA
OCTOBER 20, 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

Also present: Ms. Diane Wiltshire, METCO Director, K-12

1. **OPENING BUSINESS**

1.1 Call to order

Ms. Slap called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

1.2 Chair's Report

Ms. Slap facilitated brief introductions of everyone present in the room. Following introductions, Ms. Slap introduced representatives from Belmont Against Racism (BAR), who presented a gift of \$6,000 to the Belmont School District.

1.3 Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Phelan welcomed families and shared updates about many initiatives and events, including the use of override funds to hire new teachers across the district, class size and facilities, and METCO enrollment. Mr. Phelan noted the addition of 10 students in the METCO program at the elementary level to sustain overall enrollment in the cohort model, and thanked Belmont Against Racism for their support and fundraising efforts, which total approximately \$20,000 this year.

2. **MAJOR BUSINESS**

2.1 Chenery Update

Principal Kristen St. George provided a report on the after-school program at the middle school and extended her appreciation to the staff and PTO. She noted opportunities for students in the Extended Day and Chen-Ex to join in after-school programs.

2.2 METCO Update

Diane Wiltshire, METCO Director, presented information about the METCO mentoring program. She noted that volunteers are working with students to help close the achievement gap. Community members have begun to volunteer to mentor students, and Ms. Wiltshire shared information about potential for a high school conference, middle school conference, and art show.

2.3 Community Conversation

Questions from meeting participants included a focus on strategies for transportation, what to do in the case of snow days (e.g., when Boston closes yet Belmont is open, inclement weather more broadly), and basic training for students who receive and use iPads in classes.

3. FUTURE BUSINESS

Upcoming Meetings:

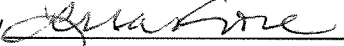
4. ENCLOSURES

None

5. ADJOURNMENT

At 8:00 p.m. on a motion offered by Ms. Burgess-Cox and seconded by Mr. Caputo, it was

VOTED unanimously to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted by 
Dr. Lisa Fiore, Secretary