

**BELMONT SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES
CHENERY MIDDLE SCHOOL COMMUNITY ROOM
SEPTEMBER 29, 2015**

Present: Ms. Laurie Slap, Chair
Ms. Susan Burgess-Cox
Mr. Thomas Caputo
Dr. Lisa Fiore, Secretary
Ms. Laurie Graham
Mr. John Phelan, Superintendent
Ms. Janice Darias, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction
Mr. Anthony DiCologero, Director of Business, Finance and Operations

Absent: Ms. Elyse Shuster

1. **OPENING BUSINESS**

1.1 Call to order

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 thanked Deb McDevitt, Director of Social Studies and Dan Richards, Belmont High School Principal for arranging the visit from two Medal of Honor recipients. She stated it was an honor to see them and exciting to see the reaction of the students.

Ms. Slap updated the School Committee on her attendance at a recent Foundation for Belmont Education (FBE) meeting she attended, stating that the FBE raised over \$430,000 for Belmont Public Schools. She explained that they provided \$26,000 of that money to help fund work this year on Social Emotional Learning (SEL). They also funded additional professional development for teachers.

Ms. Slap reminded the School Committee of two upcoming events, including the Dan Scharfman 5K Race/Run and companion 2K run which will take place on Sunday, October 4th. The proceeds fund

the Dan Scharfman FBE Innovative Teaching Initiative. Ms. Slap also reminded everyone of the annual Spelling Bee, which will take place on November 14. She also thanked the many volunteers in Belmont, such as members of the Belmont Boosters, who continue to raise money to help support Belmont athletics.

Ms. Slap announced the Safe Routes to School Pilot program, which begins this week. Red flags will be placed at street crossings around town for parents and students to use while crossing the intersections.

1.6 Student Representative Report

There was no student representative in attendance.

1.7 Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Phelan stated he enjoyed meeting with all the PTO/PTA presidents last week to discuss plans for this year. He thanked them for all the work they do for the students of Belmont. He stated the he and Assistant Superintendent Darias have been visiting schools each week and spoke about how exciting it is to see the students and teachers active and learning. He also discussed the work that is being done with Social Emotional Learning (SEL).

Superintendent Phelan explained that he and Town Administrator David Kale have been meeting regarding the proposal to build a new hockey rink. He will be presenting more information to the School Committee at a future meeting.

Superintendent Phelan invited Laurie Graham to tell the School Committee about the upcoming meeting involving Be Well Belmont. The group is affiliated with the Belmont Food Collaborative and has received a grant to run programming and conduct a survey on healthy eating in Belmont. They will meet with leaders from the schools, Health Department, Council on Aging and sports groups. They will then hold a larger community dialogue to discuss healthy eating and recreation habits among residents.

2. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

There was no unfinished business.

3. **MAJOR BUSINESS**

3.1 ITAC Appointment

Ms. Slap explained that the School Committee is required to re-appoint members to the Information Technology Advisory Committee, and that the Committee is happy that Jonathan Greene and Phil Lawrence have both agreed to this re-appointment. Steve Mazzola, Director of Technology, will continue to serve as school liaison. Mr. Greene stated that he is very happy to continue to serve and has enjoyed working with the great people on ITAC.

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

VOTED 5-0-1 to appoint Jonathan Greene and Phil Lawrence as representatives to the Information Technology Advisory Committee (ITAC).

3.2 iPad Update – Exhibit A

Assistant Superintendent Darias invited Deb McDevitt, Director of Social Studies, Dan Richards, Belmont High School Principal, and Steve Mazzola, Director of Technology, to present an update of the iPad program at Belmont High School.

Principal Richards explained how the use of iPads has enhanced learning by allowing students to express themselves in ways they were not able to before. The use of iPads has created an atmosphere of innovation that promotes healthy academic risk-taking and allows students and teachers to be open to new ideas. Mr. Mazzola explained that Belmont is currently into the third year of supplying students with iPads and by next year every student will have one. He reached out to faculty during the summer and asked them to discuss how iPads have enhanced their teaching. He created a video of the discussions, which he shared with the School Committee. Ms. McDevitt stated they are seeing more student-centered classrooms and increased focus on collaborative teaching opportunities. iPads provide immediate feedback that helps teachers check in with students' progress and understanding more regularly. iPads also help students with organization by allowing all of their notes as well as text books to be kept in one place. Ms. McDevitt discussed plans for more professional development for teachers using iPads in the classroom.

3.3 Facilities Updates:

- New Field House Floor
- Workout Room
- Softball Field
- Recreation Center Update

Superintendent Phelan shared pictures of the renovations completed at the Belmont High School Field House floor and the workout room. He thanked all the donors who contributed funding and time to all the projects.

3.4 BYBA Donation to Chenery Middle School – Exhibit B

Superintendent Phelan explained that the Belmont Youth Basketball Association (BYBA) has donated the funding for a new scoreboard at the Chenery Middle School gymnasium. He thanked the members of the BYBA for their generosity.

Moved: That, in accord with Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44, 53A, the Belmont School Committee gratefully accepts gifts and services from the Belmont Youth Basketball Association (BYBA) in an equivalent amount not to exceed \$6,296 for replacement of the scoreboard at the Chenery Middle School gymnasium. A motion was offered by Mr. Caputo and seconded by Ms. Graham. It was approved 5-0-1.

BHS Alumni Donation to BHS Golf Team

Superintendent Phelan explained that members of the Belmont High School Alumni Association learned of the need for equipment for the Belmont High School Golf Team and they generously donated \$500. He thanked the members of the Alumni Association.

Moved: That, in accord with Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44, 53A, the Belmont School Committee gratefully accepts gifts and services from the Belmont High School Alumni Association in an equivalent amount not to exceed \$500, to provide support to the Belmont High School Golf Team. A motion was offered by Ms. Burgess-Cox and seconded by Ms. Graham. It was approved 5-0-1.

3.5 Superintendent's Evaluation

Ms. Slap read through each of the Superintendent evaluation standards, which she stated are available to the public at the Central Office if anyone chooses to read them. Each standard has one of the following ratings:

1. Developing
2. Proficient
3. Exemplary

Ms. Slap explained that it is unusual for someone to receive a rating of exemplary. Superintendent Phelan received a rating of proficient on all of the following standards.

1. Instructional Leadership
2. Management and Operations
3. Family and Community Engagement
4. Professional Culture

He also received a rating of proficient on each of his four goals. Ms. Slap thanked Superintendent Phelan for his leadership this past year.

4. SUBCOMMITTEE/LIAISON UPDATES (as needed)

4.1 Finance Subcommittee

Mr. Caputo stated the Finance Subcommittee spent time at their meeting earlier today going through revolving accounts and discussing how to handle those accounts going forward. The Committee also discussed transportation.

4.2 Policy and Procedure Subcommittee

There was no report from the Policy and Procedure Subcommittee.

4.3 Curriculum and Instruction Subcommittee

There was no report from the Curriculum and Instruction Subcommittee.

4.4 Capital Budget Committee

Ms. Burgess-Cox stated the next meeting of the Capital Budget Committee is on Thursday to discuss long-term capital projects.

4.5 Warrant Committee

Ms. Slap stated the Warrant Committee will hold their first meeting tomorrow evening.

4.6 Wellington Building Committee

Ms. Graham stated the Wellington Building Committee will meet on October 7.

4.7 Financial Task Force

There was no report from the Financial Task Force.

4.8 Community Path Update

Ms. Graham stated the Community Path Committee met on Monday and will meet again in October.

4.9 Library Long Range Planning Committee

Ms. Graham stated the Library Long Range Planning Committee plans to meet four times and then will hold an open forum.

6. **OTHER BUSINESS**

6.1 Consent Agenda - none

6.2 Personnel Items - none

6.3 Business Items – None

6.4 Approval of Minutes

September 8, 2015

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

VOTED 5-0-1 to approve the minutes of September 8, 2015 as amended.

7. **FUTURE BUSINESS**

Upcoming Meetings:

October 6, 2015

School Committee Meeting

CMS Large Community Room

6:00 p.m. – Reception for teachers receiving Professional Status

6:30 p.m. – Recognition Ceremony for teachers receiving Professional Status

7:00 p.m. – Business Meeting

October 20, 2015

Finance Subcommittee Meeting

SAB Conference Room – 7:30 a.m.

October 20, 2015 – Meeting with Boston Parents

School Committee Meeting

Shelburne Community Center

2730 Washington Street

Roxbury, MA

8. **ENCLOSURES**

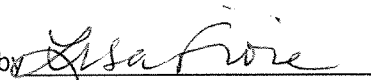
No enclosures

8. **ADJOURNMENT**

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

VOTED 5-0-1 to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by



Dr. Lisa Fiore, Secretary