

**BELMONT SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES
CHENERY MIDDLE SCHOOL COMMUNITY ROOM
OCTOBER 11, 2016**

Present:

Ms. Susan Burgess-Cox, Secretary
 Mr. Murat Bicer
 Mr. Thomas Caputo
 Ms. Andrea Prestwich
 Mr. John Phelan, Superintendent
 Ms. Janice Darias, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction
 Mr. Anthony DiCologero

Absent:

Dr. Lisa Fiore, Chair
 Ms. Elyse Shuster

Ms. Mary Pederson, Human Resources Director read a brief bio for each of the teachers listed below who were receiving professional status and presented each one with a small gift of appreciation. Ms. Burgess-Cox then read a resolution on the retirement of Donna Pini, Secretary to the Director of Finance, Business and Administration. Donna was also presented with a gift and the School Committee and Superintendent thanked her for her many years of very dedicated service.

Abruzzese	Mark	High School	Science
Donahue	Ellen	Winn Brook	Speech & Language Pathologist
Dube	Karen	Chenery	Grade 5, Math/Science
Fink	Ellen	Wellington	Kindergarten
Greenwood	Jason	Wellington + Butler	Speech & Language Pathologist
Hogrefe	Kimberly	Chenery	Nurse
Keough	Michela	Winn Brook	Grade 1
Livermore	Vickie	Butler	Music
Macnow	Emily	High School	Special Education
Markley	Nathaniel	High School	English
Mason	Lois	Chenery	Reading
McBride	Colleen	Wellington	Grade 2
Moeller	Michelle	Wellington	ESL
Roler	Margaret	Wellington	Grade 2
Stephan	Priscilla	Winn Brook	Special Education
Thompson	Kimberly	Chenery	English, Grade 7

1. OPENING BUSINESS

1.1 Call to order

Ms. Burgess-Cox called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.

1.2 Pledge of Allegiance

Ms. Burgess-Cox 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. Burgess-Cox explained Dr. Fiore was not in attendance this evening. She remarked on the very nice ceremony that had just taken place for all the deserving teachers receiving professional status as well as Donna Pini on her retirement.

1.6 Student Representative Report

There was no student representative in attendance.

1.7 Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Phelan informed the School Committee of the following events:

- Belmont Boosters announced Carey Allard, Belmont High School Varsity Soccer player as Female Student Athlete of the Month and Ben Jones, Belmont High School Football player as male Student Athlete of the Month.
- Superintendent Phelan will be presenting at the League of Women Voters meeting on October 17th. He will be discussing the potential Minuteman withdrawal plan. He will also present at Town Meeting on October 19th where Town Meeting members will vote on whether or not to withdraw from Minuteman.
- The 5th annual Foundation for Belmont Education (FBE) Spelling Bee will take place on November 5th at Chenery Middle School.
- Superintendent Phelan thanked the Friends of the Belmont Public Library for inviting teachers to come to the library to choose books for their classrooms ahead of the Annual Book Sale.
- Superintendent Phelan announced he will be in attendance at the Butler PTA meeting on October 26th and Wellington PTA on November 7th as well as a Special Education Parent Advisory Council (SEPAC) meeting on November 16th.

- Superintendent Phelan updated the School Committee on a citizens' concern that was expressed at the September 27 School Committee meeting explaining the administration looked into her concerns and resolved the issue. Ms. Thompson will be participating in the Belmont High School Advisory Council as a non-member.

2. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

There was no unfinished business.

3. **MAJOR BUSINESS**

3.1 Butler School Blue Ribbon Recognition

Superintendent Phelan invited Chenery Middle School Principal Michael McAllister and Butler Elementary School Principal Danielle Betancourt to the table. He announced that the Daniel Butler School had been named 2016 Blue Ribbon School for being an Exemplary High Performing School. Butler is one of 279 public schools in the country receiving this award and is one of three in Massachusetts. Superintendent Phelan explained that schools are nominated by the Department of Education based on two performance categories; Exemplary High Performing Schools and Exemplary Achievement Gap Closing Schools. Superintendent Phelan congratulated Mr. McAllister and the staff of the Butler School for their achievement. Mr. McAllister will represent Butler School at the award ceremony in Washington D.C. on November 7th and 8th. Superintendent Phelan stated Butler is a unique and wonderful school with great families and the high energy and expectations will continue with new Principal Danielle Betancourt.

3.2 SEL Update – Exhibit A

Ms. Darias updated the School Committee on the ongoing work of the Social Emotional Learning framework in Belmont. She explained the District SEL Steering Committee members began planning the second year of SEL work in May 2016. They worked with consultant Rachel Poliner to plan for the next steps for 2016-17. Planning consisted of SEL Institutes for all steering committee members. The goal of the institutes was to continue to develop the capacity of the Steering Committee members who would then develop and facilitate the professional learning experiences for educators in each school.

Thirty two teachers and administrators attended a workshop led by Rachel Poliner on August 29. The workshop provided attendees the chance to plan for the Professional Development Workshops that on September 28. Ms. Darias announced the creation of a new SEL web page for the district site sometime this year. She also thanked the Foundation for Belmont Education for the SEL grant which totaled \$38,000. The grant helps to fund the work with Rachel Poliner.

3.3 Enrollment Update – Exhibit B

Superintendent Phelan provided an update on enrollment. He explained the official enrollment numbers used by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education are the October 1st numbers. From October 1, 2011 to October 1, 2016, enrollment in Belmont Public Schools has increased by 508 students. The total number of students currently is 4408 but that number is projected to increase to 4705 by 2019.

Superintendent Phelan explained the three different grade configurations Belmont has submitted to the MSBA for the Belmont High School building project; 9 – 12, 8 – 12, and 7 – 12. He mentioned the need to determine a plan for the elementary schools in the event the grade configuration is 8 – 12 or 9 – 12. He also noted the number of English Language Learners (ELL) and Out of District (OOD) students is increasing as well. Superintendent Phelan also reminded the School Committee of the efforts so far to help alleviate some of the space issues such as the 3 modular units added at the Chenery. The Burbank School also reconfigured a computer lab to be used as a classroom. Superintendent Phelan also mentioned the addition of an extra bus to transport students and in some cases students have to leave their elementary districts.

3.4 EDCO Articles of Agreement – Exhibit C

Superintendent Phelan provided an overview of the memo from EDCO Executive Director, Colleen Dolan dated April 29, 2016. On April 28, 2016 the EDCO Collaborative Board of Directors approved an amendment to the Articles of Agreement dated May 19, 2015. The amendment is proposed as a result of Wellesley Public Schools withdrawal from EDCO on June 30, 2016. Due to this change, member School Committees are required to vote on the Articles of Agreement as amended. Superintendent Phelan explained that the School Committee would vote on the EDCO Articles of Agreement at the next School Committee meeting on October 25th. Elyse Shuster is the School Committee Representative to EDCO and Superintendent Phelan is a non-voting Board member.

3.5 Minuteman Presentation and Discussion – Exhibit D

Superintendent Phelan provided the School Committee with a plan for the withdrawal of Minuteman in the event the Town Meeting votes the withdrawal at the Town Meeting on October 19. He explained Belmont will be able to continue as a member district for three years, through 2019-2020. In the meantime, Belmont Public Schools will explore additional ways to provide Chapter 74 programming. There are two options to choose from regarding the Chapter 74 programming going forward.

1. Minuteman Pathway

- Belmont residents will continue to attend Minuteman High School as “member” students for the next three years.
- On July 1, 2020 Belmont residents can continue to attend Minuteman as “non-member” students beginning the 2020-2021 school year and beyond.
- During this three year time frame as a Minuteman member, the district will monitor the non-member capacity of Minute Man and any changes in state policy that might affect non-member access to Minuteman.

2. Alternative Pathway

- The Belmont School administration will make contact with four districts that provide DESE approved Chapter 74 programming to research each school’s program of studies, their ability to take non-member students and commit to such a partnership and member access to Minuteman.
- The schools in closest proximity to Belmont that will be contacted are: Waltham, Newton, Cambridge, and Somerville.

- By May 2017 an executive report will be presented to School Committee with a “program of studies” and enrollment capacity offered by each district.
- During the 2017-2018 school year a Task Force will be created to analyze these programming options to create a document to show which schools and programs would benefit Belmont students.
- The Task Force will review and analyze these programs as they relate to Minuteman attendance and provide an analysis to the Superintendent and the School Committee.
- By March of 2018, the School Committee, in conjunction with the Board of Selectmen, will consider both pathways as they plan the FY19 and FY20 budgets as well as the School Department’s preparation to provide our grade 8 students, families and staff the appropriate guidance for these decisions.
- During the 2018/2019 school year formal and final agreements will be secured, two years in advance of the due date of the 2020-2021 school year. Guidance staff will work with the partnering schools to ensure that information is provided to students and families.
- During the 2019-2020 school year guidance staff will work with the partnering schools to ensure that information is provided in advance to students and families. The School Department and Town will prepare the FY21 budget with updated information. Students will start new programming in September 2020.

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

4.1 Finance Subcommittee

The Finance Subcommittee discussed Minuteman, enrollment data and also made plans for future agenda topics.

4.2 Policy and Procedure Subcommittee

The Policy and Procedure Subcommittee will meet next week to discuss future policy updates.

4.3 Curriculum and Instruction Subcommittee

Ms. Darias will schedule a meeting of the Curriculum and Instruction Subcommittee for sometime in November. A topic of discussion will be the Fine and Performing Arts Department Plan of Action.

4.4 Capital Budget Committee

The Capital Budget Committee will meet on October 13th to discuss the Minuteman vote and other capital projects.

4.5 Warrant Committee

The Warrant Committee discussed the potential withdrawal from Minuteman at their last meeting.

4.6 Belmont High School Building Committee

The Belmont High School Building Committee discussed the confirmation letter received from the MSBA regarding the three different options for grade configuration. They are waiting for the final enrollment certification letter which, once received, will need to be signed by Superintendent Phelan, Selectman Paolillo and School Committee Chair Lisa Fiore. A formal contract was reviewed by Town Council and requests for minor changes were sent to MSBA and the BHS BC is awaiting receipt of that letter as well.

4.7 Community Path

There was no report.

4.8 Library Long Range Planning Committee

There was no report.

5. **OTHER BUSINESS**

5.1 Consent Agenda - none

5.2 Personnel Items - none

5.3 Business Items – None

5.4 Approval of Minutes

September 13, 2016

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

VOTED unanimously to approve the September 13, 2016 minutes.

September 27, 2016

Ms. Burgess-Cox suggested and the School Committee agreed to postpone the vote on the September 27, 2016 minutes until it is determined if any particular language is required to note there was not a quorum at the meeting.

6. **FUTURE BUSINESS**

Upcoming Meetings:

October 25, 2016

Finance Subcommittee Meeting

SAB Conference Room – 7:30 a.m.

October 25, 2016

School Committee Meeting

Shelburne Community Center

2730 Washington Street

Roxbury, MA

Reception – 6:30 p.m.

Business Meeting – 7:00 p.m.

7. **ENCLOSURES**

Strategic Plan

October 1, 2016 Enrollment

Resolution for Donna Pini

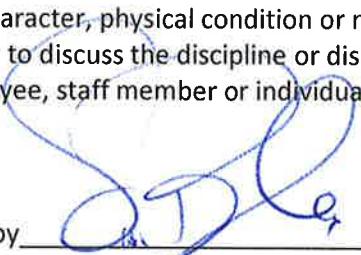
September 2016 Issue of Educational Leadership (Relationships First)

8. **ADJOURNMENT**

At 8:36 p.m. on a roll call vote, it was

VOTED unanimously to adjourn into Executive Session with no intent to reconvene for the purpose of conducting business related to the reputation, character, physical condition or mental health, rather than professional competence, of an individual, or to discuss the discipline or dismissal of, or complaints or charges brought against, a public officer, employee, staff member or individual.

Respectfully submitted by


Ms. Susan Burgess-Cox, Secretary