

**BELMONT SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES  
CHENERY MIDDLE SCHOOL COMMUNITY ROOM  
JANUARY 10, 2017**

Present:

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

**1. OPENING BUSINESS**

1.1 Call to order

Dr. Fiore called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

1.2 Pledge of Allegiance

Dr. Fiore 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

Dr. Fiore provided an update of the following events:

January 16 – 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual MLK Breakfast – BHS Cafeteria  
January 18 – SEPAC information session – Wellington  
January 18 – Singarama – BHS Auditorium  
January 19 – Chenery Middle School Chamber Music Concert – CMS Auditorium  
January 22 – BHS team competing in the 8<sup>th</sup> season of WGBH Quiz Show  
March 18 – FBE Annual Dinner

Dr. Fiore also thanked the Belmont Media Center for filming the recent podcast which she and Susan Burgess-Cox participated in. They discussed the role and work of the School Committee.

#### 1.6 Student Representative Report

There was no student representative in attendance.

#### 1.7 Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Phelan announced that the Chenery teachers would be moving into the modular classrooms this weekend. The students will move in on Tuesday, January 17<sup>th</sup>. He thanked the custodians who have been working overtime to get everything ready. A hallway monitor will be hired to support the transition of students from the main building to the modular units.

Superintendent Phelan updated the School Committee on the recent meetings with education facilitator Frank Locker who is helping with communication regarding the new high school building project. The Space Task Force will meet on January 12<sup>th</sup> to discuss the enrollment issues.

Superintendent Phelan announced \$43,962 in Learning Excellence Grants had been distributed to staff. He thanked the Foundation for Belmont Education (FBE) for all they do for the schools.

## 2. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

## 3. MAJOR BUSINESS

### 3.1 Full Day Kindergarten Update – Exhibit A

Mr. DiCologero explained that the full day kindergarten grant provided by the state was eliminated last year. Belmont could receive a state aid increase to fund full day kindergarten if it eliminated the current full day kindergarten tuition. This change would require Belmont to fund full day kindergarten for one year on its own and then receive state funding to cover full day kindergarten in future years. The School Committee discussed possible ways to cover the costs to fund one year of full day kindergarten. The cost would be \$831,733 in FY18 if the district opted to eliminate tuition.

### 3.2 FY18 Budget Development Update – Exhibit B

Mr. DiCologero provided an overview of the FY18 budget development. The process begins by creating a historical budget worksheet which is provided to the Leadership Council. The Leadership Council then submits their budget requests and meets with Central Office Administrators to review these requests. Central Office Administrators are currently reviewing and approving budget requests and incorporating salary and non-salary accounts for the creation of the draft 1 budget. This draft will be reviewed with the Town Administrator and Finance Subcommittee during the fourth week of January. It will then be presented to School Committee, Board of Selectmen and Warrant Committee during the second week of February.

### 3.3 Chenery Middle School Update

Principal Michael McAllister provided an update on the Chenery Middle School. One of the issues facing the staff is the increased enrollment which is currently at 1359 students. This has changed the way resources are used but has not changed the attention given to students. Mr. McAllister provided an overview of new initiatives that have been implemented such as hall passes, additional hall monitors and stairwell banners indicating which grade uses a particular stairwell. He also discussed changes to the cafeteria such as a line up protocol and “quiet lunch” which is held in the community room for students who feel the need for more quiet. Mr. McAlister explained some new scheduling information as well as changes to discipline policies.

### 3.4 Class Size Report – Exhibit C

Superintendent Phelan updated the School Committee on the latest class size report. He provided data on the increase in enrollment from last year. At the elementary level there are an additional 51 students, at the middle school an additional 36 students, and at the high school an additional 18 students which brings the total to 105 additional students across the district.

Superintendent Phelan also provided an overview of the guidelines for class size and how they compare to the actual numbers:

Kindergarten

Guidelines: 18-24

Actual Range: 22-24

Grade 1

Guidelines: 19-23

Actual Range: 21-23

Grade 2

Guidelines: 19-23

Actual Range: 16-25

Grade 3

Guidelines: 20-24

Actual Range: 22-26

Grade 4

Guidelines: 20-24

Actual Range: 20-25

Classes are also larger in the middle and high school and discussions will take place about the possibility of adding additional modular space.

### 3.5 2017-18 School Calendar Vote – Exhibit D

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

**VOTED** 5-0-1 to approve Option 1 of the 2017-18 school calendar which is consistent with the existing policy of having the first Wednesday in September as the first day of school. The vote included a decision to have the Policy Subcommittee review the existing policy and explore other options for start dates.

### 3.6 Vote on Acceptance of Donations

Superintendent Phelan presented information regarding 3 different donations to the Belmont Public Schools from members of the community.

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

**VOTED** unanimously in accord with Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44, Section 53A, the Belmont School Committee gratefully accepts the following gifts:

\$50 donation from Irene and Lawrence Verner

\$100 donation from Lueders Environmental, Inc.

\$35,000 donation from anonymous donor for the purchase of a piano for Belmont High School.

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

### 4.1 Finance Subcommittee

The Finance Subcommittee met this morning to and discussed the future hiring of 5 additional Full-Time Employees (FTEs).

### 4.2 Policy & Procedure Subcommittee

There was no report from the Policy and Procedure Subcommittee.

### 4.3 Curriculum & Instruction Subcommittee

The Curriculum and Instruction Subcommittee met on Monday, January 9<sup>th</sup> and discussed a change to the elementary instrumental music program as well as the high school program of studies for next year.

### 4.4 Capital Budget Committee

The Capital Budget Committee will meet on January 26<sup>th</sup>.

### 4.5 Warrant Committee

At their last meeting, the Warrant Committee discussed the use of the census as a tool for planning purposes

#### 4.6 Belmont High School Building Committee

The Belmont High School Building Committee met last week with members of the Wellington Building Committee to discuss how that Committee addressed issues that arose during the building of the Wellington School.

#### 4.7 Space Task Force

The Space Task Force will meet on January 12<sup>th</sup>. A separate Space Task Force Steering Committee of teachers and administrators has been formed and meets separately.

#### 4.8 Community Path Update

Superintendent Phelan has reached out to Jeffrey Wheeler of the Planning Department to provide an update on the Community Path at a future School Committee meeting.

#### 4.9 Library Long Range Planning Committee

There was no report from the Library Long Range Planning Committee.

### 5. **OTHER BUSINESS**

5.1 Consent Agenda - None

5.2 Personnel Items – None

5.3 Business Items – None

5.4 Approval of Minutes

❖ December 13, 2016

The December 13<sup>th</sup> minutes will be voted on at the next School Committee meeting.

### 6. **FUTURE BUSINESS**

Upcoming Meetings:

January 24, 2017

Finance Subcommittee Meeting

SAB Conference Room – 7:30 a.m.

January 24, 2017

School Committee Meeting

CMS Large Community Room – 7:00 p.m.

7. **ENCLOSURES**

Superintendent's Goals – Draft 2  
January 1, 2017 Enrollment  
January 1, 2017 Enrollment indicating changes  
Letter to Lueders Environmental re: donation  
Motion for Donation Acceptance

8. **EXECUTIVE SESSION/ADJOURNMENT**

Upon a motion by Lisa Fiore, a roll call vote was taken, and it was

**VOTED** unanimously to adjourn into Executive Session with no intent to reconvene for the purpose of discussing strategy with respect to collective bargaining with union personnel given that a discussion in Open Session may have a detrimental impact on the School Committee's bargaining position.

Respectfully submitted by



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Ms. Susan Burgess-Cox, Secretary