

**BELMONT SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES
CHENERY MIDDLE SCHOOL COMMUNITY ROOM
JANUARY 24, 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 announced the following upcoming events:

- FBE Annual Dinner – March 18
- Chenery Middle School Chamber Music Concert – February 2
- Acapella Concert – BHS Auditorium
- Chenery Middle School & Belmont High School Jazz Night – BHS Auditorium – February 9
- Chenery Middle School Talent Show – January 26 – CMS Auditorium

- Improv – BHS Little Theater – February 3

Dr. Fiore stated people have been asking how they can learn more about the new Secretary of Education and the impact the appointment may have on education. She encouraged anyone who is interested to contact either of the two Massachusetts Senators, Elizabeth Warren and Edward Markey.

1.6 Student Representative Report

There was no student representative in attendance.

1.7 Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Phelan thanked Belmont Boosters including Curtis Cole and Larry Christofori for the new scoreboard at the Viglirolo Ice Rink. The donation was accepted by the Town and the scoreboard was installed by the Belmont Department of Public Works (DPW). He also thanked Athletic Director Jim Davis for his help in coordinating this effort.

Superintendent Phelan thanked the Burbank PTO for reaching out and supporting the crossing guard who was recently struck by a car in front of Burbank. The crossing guard is home and doing well. Superintendent Phelan also thanked the Burbank PTO for organizing meetings to discuss how to make the streets around Burbank safer for children and pedestrians.

Superintendent Phelan provided an overview of the planning for snow days. He has a lot of dialogue leading up to a storm with the DPW. He also speaks to Superintendents from surrounding towns before making a decision to cancel school.

2. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

3. MAJOR BUSINESS

3.1 Community Path Update

Jeffrey Wheeler, Town of Belmont Senior Planner, provided a brief overview of the plans for the Community Path. He explained the path was initially considered at the time the Minuteman Bikeway was built in 1997. The existing path ends at Brighton Street and the plan is to continue it on to Waltham. Mr. Wheeler presented several different options that are being studied and explained the pros and cons of each. All of the presentations that have taken place are on the Town of Belmont website for anyone who would like to review them. He invited community members to email any suggestions or concerns to him at jwheeler@belmont.ma.gov and each one would be forwarded to the consultants working on the project.

3.2 Elementary Instrumental Music Proposal – Exhibit A

Arto Asadoorian, Director of Visual and Performing Arts, presented the School Committee with a proposal to revise the Elementary Music Program. The proposal suggests beginning instruction for

Strings in grade 4 and Band in grade 5 rather than the current option of Strings in grade 3 and Band in grade 4. Currently all grade 5 students attend two General Music classes per 6-day cycle. Grade 5 students will now choose between Instrumental Music (Band or Orchestra) or General Music/Chorus. These changes will eliminate the need for three teachers to travel to four elementary schools each day and allow to two new courses at Belmont High School – Honors Chamber Orchestra and Music Theory 1.

3.3 Presentation of 2017-18 BHS Program of Studies – Exhibit B

Mr. Dan Richards, Belmont High School Principal presented the BHS 2017-18 Program of Studies. The School Committee will vote on the program at the next meeting on February 7th.

Principal Richards explained the process of putting together the Program of Studies. It begins in the fall when administrators start looking at what classes to offer. In January, teachers provide recommendations for the next year. Guidance Counselors meet with students to be sure each student has classes that are a good fit and their schedule is balanced. Directors then meet in April to review numbers and create sections for each class. The master schedule is built through July.

Principal Richards then invited Director of Visual and Performing Arts, Arto Asadoorian, Director of Physical Education, Health and Athletics, Jim Davis, Director of Science, Liz Baker, Director of Math, Patty Soliozy to provide an overview of each of the new courses that will be offered as part of their curriculum for 2017-18. Each provided an overview of the new courses and their reasoning behind offering the course.

3.4 Belmont High School Update

Principal Dan Richards began by stating the enrollment at Belmont High School has increased by 158 students since 2010. Class size has increased across the school and there has been an increase in the need for additional guidance counselors, nurses and school psychologists. There is also a need for additional space. Benches have been purchased for hallways to alleviate students having nowhere to sit when the library is full.

Principal Richards updated the School Committee on some new Leadership opportunities for students including:

Core Training Leadership

This program selects students who are not in leadership roles to go through full day trainings on what they can do to impact their school culture.

Pinkerton Academy

Students go to Pinkerton Academy to hear a Mike Smith Leadership Conference. They learn leadership skills in developing school climate and culture.

Model UN

Students attended the Columbia Model United Nations Conference and Exposition. They emphasize the real-world simulation of implications scenarios-debate.

Science Quiz Bowl

The Science Quiz Bowl is produced by WBGH. The High School Quiz Show is a competition for high school students in Massachusetts.

Ten80 Education

Ten80 Education develops and publishes K-12 Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) curriculum. The goal is to inspire students to engage in STEM learning by competing in events.

4. SUBCOMMITTEE/LIAISON UPDATES (as needed)

4.1 Finance Subcommittee

The Finance Subcommittee met earlier to discuss the FY18 budget planning. They also discussed circuit breaker funding for the upcoming year.

4.2 Policy & Procedure Subcommittee

There was no report from the Policy and Procedure Subcommittee.

4.3 Curriculum & Instruction Subcommittee

There was no report from the Curriculum and Instruction Subcommittee.

4.4 Capital Budget Committee

There was no report from the Capital Budget Committee.

4.5 Warrant Committee

The Warrant Committee recently toured the Belmont Police Department and Department of Public Works (DPW) yards. Dr. Fiore thanked Chief McLaughlin and Assistant Chief MacIsaac for taking the time to show them around and explain the facility needs.

4.6 Belmont High School Building Committee

The Belmont High School Building Committee will meet on February 2nd.

4.7 Space Task Force

There was no report from the Space Task Force.

4.8 Community Path Update

The Community Path update was presented by Jeffrey Wheeler.

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**

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

VOTED unanimously to approve the December 13, 2016 minutes as amended.

❖ **January 10, 2017**

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

VOTED unanimously to approve the minutes of January 10, 2017.

6. **FUTURE BUSINESS**

None

7. **ENCLOSURES**


Strategic Plan

8. **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

8.1 At 8:40 p.m., on a roll call vote, the School Committee voted to enter Executive Session for the purpose of discussing strategy with respect to collective bargaining given that a discussion in open session may have a detrimental impact on the School Committee's bargaining position.

9. **ADJOURN**

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by 
Ms. Susan Burgess-Cox, Secretary