

**BELMONT SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES
CHENERY MIDDLE SCHOOL COMMUNITY ROOM
JUNE 6, 2017**

Present: Dr. Lisa Fiore, Chair
Ms. Susan Burgess-Cox, Secretary
Mr. Thomas Caputo
Mr. Murat Bicer
Ms. Kate Bowen
Ms. Andrea Prestwich
Mr. John Phelan, Superintendent
Ms. Janice Darias, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction

Also in attendance: Ms. Mary Pederson, Director of Human Resources

Absent: Mr. Anthony DiCologero, Director of Finance, Business and Operations

Mary Pederson, Director of Human Resources, welcomed everyone to the recognition ceremony honoring the staff members who are retiring at the end of the school year.

School Committee members read resolutions for the following retirees:

- Rhonda Cherry – Special Education Teacher – Chenery Middle School
- Diane E. Lints – Math Teacher – Belmont High School
- Selina Moeller – Grade 1 Teacher – Burbank Elementary School

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

Dr. Fiore announced agenda item 3.3 – First Reading of Policy 6001 would take place before agenda item 3.2 – Modular Update.

1.5 Chair's Report

Dr. Fiore noted there is only one more School Committee meeting this year. She took time to thank everyone for all the work that takes place each day during these final weeks of school.

1.6 Student Representative Report

There was no student representative in attendance.

1.7 Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Phelan thanked members of the school administration for the wonderful graduation ceremony on June 4th. He also thanked Assistant Superintendent Darias for her work with Principal Dan Richards in giving the students a great send-off.

Superintendent Phelan updated the School Committee on recent fine arts and athletic awards. He also congratulated the many students who received awards at the recent underclass and senior awards ceremony.

Superintendent Phelan explained the process for the ongoing student registration. He thanked members of the technology department for putting the new online registration system in place stating it has made the process much more streamlined.

2. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

There was no unfinished business.

3. **MAJOR BUSINESS**

3.1 Hiring Update – Exhibit B

Mary Pederson, Director of Human Resources, provided an update on the hiring that has been taking place. She noted how fortunate the School Department is to have received the override funds that have provided an opportunity to post positions and hire staff early in the year. Of about 35 positions, only 5 remain open.

3.2 First Reading of Policy 6001 – School Calendar (vote) – Exhibit C

Susan Burgess-Cox explained the School Committee Policy Subcommittee had been working on revising the policy related to the first day of school. She presented an amendment to the current policy for the School Committee to review and possibly vote on at the meeting scheduled for June 20, 2017. The current policy states: "The school year shall begin on the first Wednesday in September". The proposed change states: "*When Labor Day occurs on or before September 3rd, the start date for students will be the Wednesday after Labor Day. When Labor Day occurs later than September 3rd, the start date for students will be the Wednesday before Labor Day.*"

3.3 Modular Update

Superintendent Phelan provided an update on the ongoing process of determining the best location for modular classrooms. After his May 9th School Committee presentation at Belmont High School, he met separately with members of both the Butler and Burbank community. He listened to their concerns regarding the addition of parking spaces including the goal of keeping green space at each school. Superintendent Phelan noted the importance of such meetings in giving both the School Department and Town the ability to understand the wishes of community members. Superintendent Phelan will likely present a plan regarding the placement of the modular units to the School Committee at the June 20th meeting.

3.4 Superintendent's Evaluation Exhibit D

Superintendent Phelan provided an overview of his evaluation documents. One document will be sent to School Committee members electronically for their comments. An evaluation performance narrative was attached to his goals and the Superintendent's Rubric is embedded in the goals. Dr. Fiore explained that the School Committee will review the evaluation in preparation for discussion at the June 20th School Committee meeting.

4. SUBCOMMITTEE/LIAISON UPDATES (as needed)

4.1 Finance Subcommittee

The Finance Subcommittee met earlier in the day with representatives from Belmont Goes Solar regarding the possibility of putting solar panels on the Chenery Middle School. The group discussed the financial considerations and the impact on the community. A recommendation will be put forward at the June 20th School Committee meeting.

4.2 Policy and Procedure Subcommittee

There was no report from the Policy and Procedure Subcommittee.

4.3 Curriculum and Instruction Subcommittee

The Curriculum and Instruction Subcommittee will meet on Friday.

4.4 Capital Budget Committee

The Capital Budget Committee met and approved requested items for the School Department including chrome books and updates in technology. They also approved new flooring for the Butler School and re-surfacing for the Chenery gym floor.

4.5 Warrant Committee

The Warrant Committee met last night and unanimously supported the school budget for Town Meeting.

4.6 Belmont High School Building Committee

The Belmont High School Building Committee Subcommittee met recently and reviewed five packets from potential designers. The Committee will be visiting the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) next week to vote on a designer.

4.7 Community Path Committee

Superintendent Phelan recently met with the Community Path Committee for a discussion on the different options for the path. He expressed his concerns about safety and security for any option that brings the path behind the high school. He also noted it may be premature to determine the location prior to a new high school being built.

4.8 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

May 23, 2017

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

VOTED unanimously to approve the minutes of May 23, 2017 as amended.

6. **FUTURE BUSINESS**

Upcoming Meetings:

June 20, 2017

Finance Subcommittee Meeting
SAB Conference Room – 7:30 a.m.

June 20, 2017


School Committee Meeting
CMS Community Room – 7:00 p.m.

7. **ENCLOSURES**

Town Meeting FY18 Budget Report
June 1, 2017 Enrollment
June 1, 2017 Enrollment indicating changes
Strategic Plan

8. **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

At 8:08 p.m. a roll call vote was taken and the School Committee agreed to enter Executive Session with no intent to return to Open Session 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 
Susan Burgess-Cox, Secretary