

**BELMONT SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES
JOINT MEETING WITH BELMONT HIGH SCHOOL BUILDING COMMITTEE
AND BOARD OF SELECTMEN
COMMUNITY ROOM CHENERY MIDDLE SCHOOL
NOVEMBER 2, 2017**

SC Members Present: Dr. Lisa Fiore, Chair
 Ms. Susan Burgess-Cox, Secretary
 Mr. Thomas Caputo
 Ms. Kate Bowen
 Mr. John Phelan, Superintendent

SC Members Absent: Mr. Murat Bicer
 Ms. Andrea Prestwich

BHS-BC Members: Chair Bill Lovallo; Adam Dash, M. Patricia Brusch, Dan Richards, Phyllis
 Marshall, Joe DeStefano, Diane Miller, Chris Messer, and Jamie Shea

Board of Selectmen: Chair James Williams

1. Call to Order

The BHS-BC meeting was called to order at 6:31 p.m., by Chair Lovallo. Introductions were made around the table. The SC had a quorum and called its meeting to order at 6:54 p.m.

2. Approval of Minutes

Upon a motion by Pat Brush, members of the Belmont High School Building Committee (BHS-BC) voted unanimously to approve the minutes of October 19, 2017.

3. Comments from Belmont Residents

No residents offered comments.

4. Treasurer's Report

Ms. Marshall informed the BHS-BC that there are no bills to process. She reviewed what has been paid and encumbered to date. Chair Lovallo confirmed that \$1.75M was initially allocated to the building committee and a little over \$190,000 remains.

5. Public Relations Update (Web Page, Other Media Outlets)

Ms. Shea introduced Belmont High School (BHS) seniors (from her Capstone class) who conducted a study of the traffic at BHS. The students reviewed the data from the traffic study survey that they created and disseminated to BHS students, parents, and teachers/staff.

Data from students showed that there is a traffic backlog of cars between 7:00 and 7:20 a.m. in the morning. There are a large number of students driving to the high school at this time and an even larger number that are being dropped off. There does not appear to be a lot of carpooling, especially among student drivers.

Teachers are also impacted by the traffic, which blocks up Concord Ave. from Belmont Center and heading East toward Cambridge. Parents were also surveyed, and the data was similar. Most of the parent drop-offs were between 7:20 and 7:40 a.m.

Parents noted a lack of biking culture at the high school; more bike racks and better bike lanes may be needed. Parents also suggested staggered start times to mitigate drop off traffic jams.

Upon review, the suggestions seemed to offer ways to improve traffic congestion. The presenting students also discussed various “student incentives” as a means to improve the traffic situation.

The students briefly entertained questions and comments.

6. Project Schedule Update

Chair Lovallo noted that the Preliminary Design Program (PDP) report is being assembled. The PDP will consist of seven sections and the deadline for MSBA submission is December 13, 2017. The BHS-BC, BOS and SC will be able to review and comment on the PDP with the expectation to vote to approve the PDP on November 30, 2017.

7. District Space Summary Update

Superintendent Phelan provided an overview of the possible grade configurations of a new high school and how each will impact the district. The administration is working with the architectural firm SMMA to explore the impact of each high school configuration on the district and identify alternative space options. Superintendent Phelan noted that the MSBA will not contribute to adding space at other schools at this time. That would be a separate project for the district.

8. Space Summary Update

Ms. Trivas explained the Program Tree and the “neighborhood” concept, which concerns placing the programmatic elements (e.g., English, Math, SPED, Art, seminar rooms, teacher planning rooms, etc.) in certain spaces. She reviewed some of the rooms in the “neighborhood.” She discussed shared spaces, learning/civic common spaces, etc. The existing spaces can be compared to the proposed spaces with a graphical representation. This is all preliminary planning, she said, nothing is fixed. Superintendent Phelan added that the elements are being moved around to learn what makes the most sense – the “adjacencies” are moved from location to location within various neighborhoods.

Ms. Trivas reviewed the various options for the placement of classrooms – where students can work individually, collectively, in perimeter classrooms, or in central innovation. She reviewed the cluster of departments that can have flexible space and noted that science is one discipline that cannot be interchanged.

Innovation spaces were briefly discussed. Ms. Trivas reiterated that the planning at this point is preliminary and committed to flexibility.

There was a brief discussion regarding the difficulty in understanding the concepts in order to offer feedback. Selectman Dash asked whether the renderings and virtual reality view of the new building would be ready before the design. Would it be so far along in the process that it could not be

changed if people did not like what they saw in the renderings and virtual reality view? He requested that the renderings and virtual reality view be completed before finalizing plans.

Ms. Trivas reviewed a potential middle school layout.

9. Matrix of Options

Ms. Trivas reviewed various configuration matrixes, e.g, a newly-built building, a building renovation (major or minor), and/or an addition to the existing building. The costs of these three matrixes and their impact on students will be explored.

10. Building Diagrams

Mr. Cunningham and Mr. Kuhn reviewed the “renovation with addition” concept for a grade 7-12 configuration. They touched on various components of the plan, which include a three-story building, a large lobby space, upper/lower school wings, a new auditorium, lots of natural light, etc. There will be multiple, complex phases for this scheme. The nearby neighborhood (the impact to Channing Road) and the nearby railroad tracks were briefly discussed. The efficiency of the building, its compactness, the use of the perimeter, and how it is lit was also explored. The bike path and the walking path are both being considered in this planning process.

The matrix of options presentation was briefly discussed. BOS Chair Williams asked several questions about the three grade configurations. Superintendent Phelan noted the need for a space remedy to the middle and elementary schools if a grade 9-12 school is built.

11. Estimating Project Costs

Mr. Gatzunis reviewed relevant project costs. Over 115 line items go into the project budget. Cost differences exist between the design/bid/build approach versus the construction manager approach. The construction estimates are very detailed.

Concerning cost trends, Mr. Gatzunis stated that the Northeast is booming, which means that costs are increasing. The current trend is upwards of \$500 per square foot. This cost may increase 4-5% each year. Asbestos abatement is an additional cost. Ms. Trivas added that there will be some efficiencies given the tight sight.

Chair Lovallo noted that Daedalus is steeped in cost estimation. Trends are going upward which is why it is important to keep the project moving along.

In answer to a question, Superintendent Phelan explained how he is researching various space configurations. Teachers and administrators are touring newly-built high schools including Scituate and Duxbury. Educational methods are already shifting both at the Chenery and the High School. A new building will need to support these new techniques and staff will need professional development.

12. Next BHS Building Committee Meetings

Thursday, November 16, 2017 at 6:30 p.m. (BHS Library, learning common)

Thursday, November 30, 2017 at 6:30 p.m. (TBD)

13. Other/New Business

None.

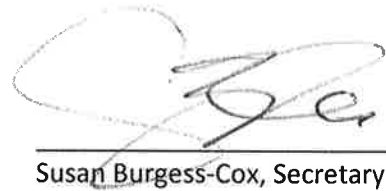
14. Related Meeting Documents

1. Perkins + Will's meeting agenda
2. Daedalus Total Project Cost Summary
3. Perkins + Will's power point presentation materials
4. Daedalus Total Project Budget

15. Adjourn

Upon a motion by Chair Fiore, seconded by Tom Caputo, the SC voted unanimously to adjourn at 8:39 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:



Susan Burgess-Cox, Secretary