

**BELMONT SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES  
CHENERY MIDDLE SCHOOL COMMUNITY ROOM  
APRIL 24, 2018**

Present: Ms. Susan Burgess-Cox, Chair  
Ms. Andrea Prestwich, Secretary  
Ms. Kate Bowen  
Ms. Tara Donner  
Ms. Lisa Fiore  
Mr. John Phelan, Superintendent  
Ms. Janice Darias, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction  
Mr. Anthony DiCologero, Director of Finance, Business and Operations

1. **WORKING SESSION**

1.1 Call to order

Susan Burgess-Cox called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

2. **OPENING BUSINESS**

2.1 Pledge of Allegiance

Susan Burgess-Cox led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2.2 Citizens' Concerns

There were no citizens' concerns.

2.3 Adjustments to the Agenda

There were no adjustments to the agenda.

2.4 Chair's Report

Susan Burgess-Cox updated the School Committee on recent and upcoming events in the Town and Schools including the Becca Pizzi 5K Road Race which raises money for student athletic scholarships. She announced the Teacher of the Year event on May 1<sup>st</sup> at Chenery Middle School. A teacher from each school who was chosen as Teacher of the Year of this school year will be honored. Families are invited to attend the ceremony and reception after.

2.5 Student Representative Report

There was no student representative in attendance.

2.6 Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Phelan discussed the surprise visits for each of the teachers who were chosen Teacher of the Year this year. He, along with Assistant Superintendent Darias and members of the Foundation for Belmont Education (FBE) surprised each teacher in their classrooms on a day prior to April vacation. The teachers were very grateful to be recognized and it was great fun for their students.

3. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

There was no unfinished business.

4. **MAJOR BUSINESS**

4.1 **Budget Hearing – Exhibit A**

Superintendent Phelan provided a brief overview of the FY19 budget. This budget will be voted on by the School Committee on May 22<sup>nd</sup> after it is presented to Warrant Committee and the Board of Selectmen.

The roll forward amount (the cost of continuing at current staffing levels into next year with no changes) is \$1,751.263, corresponding to increase of 3.3%. The strategic cost drivers are due to increased enrollment and include: 9 new positions plus the corresponding health insurance and funding shifts for baseline texts, materials, equipment and furniture. These costs result in a 1.6% increase. The external cost driver amounts to a 2.7% increase and include rising costs in SPED tuitions, transportation, and contract services. There is an expected 14% increase in Chapter 70 State Aid which is a difference of \$1,090.992.

Superintendent Phelan noted the following additional positions for FY19:

1.0 Elementary Classroom Teacher

0.10 Elementary Physical Education Teacher

0.60 Elementary Special Education Teacher

0.20 Elementary Music Teacher

2.00 Middle School Classroom Teacher

1.00 Middle School Administrator

2.50 High School Teachers

1.00 District Wide English Language Learner Teacher

Replacement of an 0.60 Elementary Art Teacher with a 0.60 Elementary Guidance Counselor

Superintendent Phelan explained User Fees will remain the same for FY19. Full Day Kindergarten revolving funds will offset a portion of the salaries for Kindergarten teachers and aides. School building rentals revolving funds will be used to support the maintenance and repairs of school facilities.

The School Department Administration is recommending the School Committee vote to approve the FY19 Draft 2 General Fund Budget of \$56,985,592 and a total budget, which includes anticipated state and federal grants, and revolving fees, of \$64,668,040.

Superintendent Phelan provided a brief explanation of the updated enrollment projections provided by McKibben Associates. McKibben Associates completed an enrollment projection report in 2016 and the Administration decided to update the predictions. The new report shows increases in enrollment in the next 5 to 10 years above and beyond that expected in the 2016 report.

#### 4.2 Hockey Rink Presentation – Exhibit B

Mr. Robert Mulroy, member of Belmont Youth Hockey Association provided a presentation on the proposed hockey rink. Belmont Youth Hockey is a non-profit 501.c3 organization. They run 8 development programs and 22 teams with youth members ages 4-18. Belmont Youth Hockey had presented a proposal in 2016 but the project was put on hold. The current hockey rink is in danger of having major systems fail at any time. This proposal offers to expand the facility as a multi-purpose recreation center integrated with the new high school and pool. Belmont Youth Hockey proposes a public-private partnership with the Town of Belmont. The land would be leased with Belmont Youth Hockey who would raise private capital to fund, build and operate the facility. The proposal includes athletic areas as well as meeting space and potential for 180 parking spaces. Mr. Mulroy explained the Town would lease the land for a 30 year term of financing in exchange for Belmont High School utilization of the facility. The Town would have the option of assuming operation of the facility when the loan is paid off. BYHA would secure private financing to build the facility and would hire a professional management company to operate it.

#### 4.3 Diversity Week Update – Exhibit C

Assistant Superintendent Darias introduced Kristin Comment and Gabrielle Garschina who are both teachers at Belmont High School as well as advisors to the Diversity Club. They along with some Belmont High School students provided an overview of the Diversity Week activities that took place over during the weeks of January 29 – February 2 and April 2 – April 6. Diversity Week has been a tradition at Belmont High School since 2000. In 2018, Diversity Week became part of a Professional Learning Team. Presentations related to diversity subjects take place over the weeks and teachers bring classes to the programs.

The topics discussed this during the January 29-February 2 weeks included the following:

- Regie Gibson - Slam Poet
- Raul Gonzalex - Graphic Novelist
- Minding Your Mind with John Mattleman
- Marc Mamigonian on the Armenian Genocide
- Laura Wooster – Professional Psychic Intuitive & Medium
- Mark O’Leary from Cambridge Zen Center on Buddhism
- Mormonism Panel – Tina John, BHS students, and Parent
- BHS GSA panel – Current BHS students and Alumni

The topics included in the April 2-6 week included:

- Students Against Teen Dating Abuse
- Armenian Panel
- Different Learning Styles
- Hunger Banquet
- Black in Belmont/METCO Student Presentation
- Boston Latino International Film Festival
- Many Voices & Talents of BHS Students
- Belmont Idol (fundraiser)

The group shared feedback they received from students regarding the different presentations and events.

#### 4.4 Rugby Trip Vote – Exhibit D

Ms. Burgess-Cox reminded the School Committee they had reviewed the Rugby Trip proposal at a previous meeting and asked for a motion to vote approval.

On a motion offered by Dr. Lisa Fiore and seconded by Kate Bowen, it was

**VOTED** unanimously to approve the 2019 Rugby Trip to Spain.

#### 4.5 School Resource Officer (SRO) Vote

Discussion on the hiring of a School Resource Officer for Chenery Middle School had taken place at a previous meeting.

On a motion offered by Andrea Prestwich and seconded by Kate Bowen, it was

**VOTED** unanimously to approve the minutes of April 10, 2018.

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

##### 4.1 Finance Subcommittee

The Finance Subcommittee did not meet today but will hold their next meeting on May 1<sup>st</sup>.

##### 4.2 Policy and Procedure Subcommittee

The Policy and Procedure Subcommittee will be scheduling a meeting in the near future.

##### 4.3 Curriculum and Instruction Subcommittee

The Curriculum and Instruction Subcommittee have not met.

#### 4.4 Capital Budget Committee

The Capital Budget Committee is scheduled to meet on April 26<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 a.m.

#### 4.5 Warrant Committee

The Warrant Committee will meet on April 25<sup>th</sup> to discuss the articles of agreement for Town Meeting.

#### 4.6 Belmont High School Building Committee

The Belmont High School Building Committee (BHSBC) has had several meetings over the last couple of weeks. Today they met with the Curriculum Directors and Leadership Council to discuss the layout of the new building. They will meet with the 7-12 Steering Committee tomorrow. The BHSBC will meet on April 26<sup>th</sup> in the Wellington Cafeteria. Superintendent Phelan thanked everyone who has been involved with all of these meetings.

#### 4.7 Community Path Committee

There was no report from the Community Path Committee.

### 5. **OTHER BUSINESS**

#### 5.1 Consent Agenda

#### 5.2 Personnel Items – none

#### 5.3 Business Items – None

#### 5.4 Approval of Minutes

- April 10, 2018

On a motion offered by Kate Bowen and seconded by Tara Donner, it was

**VOTED** unanimously to approve the minutes of April 10, 2018

### 6. **FUTURE BUSINESS**

Upcoming Meetings:

May 8, 2018

Finance Subcommittee Meeting

SAB Conference Room – 7:30 a.m.

May 8, 2018  
Joint Meeting of School Committee/BHSBC/Board of Selectmen  
CMS Community Room – 7:00 p.m.

7. **ENCLOSURES**

- Strategic Plan
- Important Dates for School Committee

8. **ADJOURN**

At 9:10 p.m. on a motion offered by Dr. Lisa Fiore and seconded by Andrea Prestwich, it was

**VOTED** unanimously to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted by Andrea Prestwich  
Andrea Prestwich, Secretary