

**BELMONT SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES  
CHENERY MIDDLE SCHOOL COMMUNITY ROOM  
FEBRUARY 27, 2018**

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

Absent:                    Mr. Tom Caputo

1.     **OPENING BUSINESS**

1.1     Call to order

Dr. Lisa Fiore called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

1.2     Pledge of Allegiance

Dr. Lisa Fiore led the Pledge of Allegiance.

1.3     Citizens' Concerns

There were no citizen's concerns.

1.4     Adjustments to the Agenda

1.5     Chair's Report

Dr. Fiore asked for a moment of silence in remembrance of the victims of the tragic school shooting in Florida.

Dr. Fiore noted some upcoming events such as the Foundation for Belmont Education's Annual Fundraiser which will be held on March 17<sup>th</sup>. She encouraged everyone to attend this great event which raises money for the Belmont Public Schools. She also encouraged everyone to check the Belmont Public Schools website for detailed information on upcoming music events as well as some parent lecture series.

1.6 Student Representative Report

There was no student representative in attendance.

1.7 Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Phelan stated he has sent out emails to parents/guardians and staff regarding the recent school shooting in Florida. The emails explained the trainings that take place related to potential violence in schools. Belmont Public Schools has a strong relationship with the Police Department and other town departments and they all work together to keep schools safe. He acknowledged the work the staff has done with Social Emotional Learning which helps to build relationships between students with other students and students with teachers to create a culture where student is known and supported.

Superintendent Phelan has reached out to a teachers and students on how they want to organize the March 14<sup>th</sup> walkout that has been gaining interest across the country. It would not be safe to have students entering buildings without supervision event for a short time. A letter will be sent to parents/guardians related to this issue in the coming days.

2. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

There was no unfinished business.

3. **MAJOR BUSINESS**

3.1 Vote on 2018-19 School Calendar – Exhibit A

Dr. Lisa Fiore asked for a motion to vote on the 2018-19 Belmont Public Schools calendar which the School Committee had received for review at the previous meeting.

On a motion offered by Murat Bicer and seconded by Andrea Prestwich, it was

**VOTED** unanimously to approve the Belmont Public Schools 2018-19 Calendar – Exhibit A.

3.2 Vote on 2018-19 Performing Arts Trip – Exhibit B

Dr. Lisa Fiore asked for a motion to vote on the 2018-19 Performing Arts trip which the School Committee had reviewed and discussed at the previous meeting.

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

**VOTED** unanimously to approve the 2018-19 Performing Arts Trip – Exhibit B

### 3.3 FY19 Budget Presentation – Exhibit C

Superintendent Phelan presented a draft version of the FY19 budget. He stressed how helpful it has been to have the funding from the override that was voted in FY17. This funding increase allowed the school department to hire 20 FTE teaching positions between FY16 and FY18, funds for Student Services, Out-of-District tuitions, and Special Education Transportation.

The goal of the FY19 budget is to align the budget to the priorities of the district's strategic plan. Primary cost drivers are increased student enrollment, health insurance premiums which are expected to increase by 11% for FY19, and Special Education tuitions, transportation and contracted services which are expected to increase 7%. Some unknown variables include: further increases in student enrollment and increases or decreases in State and Federal Grants.

Superintendent Phelan provided some financial highlights related to staff and contractual increases, health insurance, special education tuitions, etc. When the FY19 general fund roll-forward amounts are taken into consideration, there is a 3.7% increase in the FY19 budget from the FY18 budget.

Strategic Plan-based Cost Drivers which include 9.0 additional FTEs will add an additional 1.6% increase over the FY18 budget for a total of \$828,366. External Cost Drivers include health insurance rates increases, (11%) special education tuition increases (7%), special education transportation increases (7%), and special education contractual services increases (7%) for a total of \$2,042,336. The total FY19 School Department General Fund Budget is \$56,985,592.

Superintendent Phelan reminded everyone that the FY19 budget presentation and the executive summary will be available on the Belmont Public Schools website tomorrow.

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

##### 4.1 Finance Subcommittee

The Finance Subcommittee met earlier today to discuss details of the budget along with underlying cost drivers.

##### 4.2 Policy and Procedure Subcommittee

The Policy and Procedure Subcommittee will meet on March 6<sup>th</sup> to discuss policy issues related to afterschool care programs and school start times.

##### 4.3 Curriculum and Instruction Subcommittee

There was no report from the Curriculum and Instruction Subcommittee.

##### 4.4 Capital Budget Committee

The Capital Budget Committee will meet on March 8<sup>th</sup>.

4.5 Warrant Committee

The Warrant Committee will meet tomorrow.

4.6 Belmont High School Building Committee

The Belmont High School Building Committee (BHSBC) is preparing for the first meeting of the newly formed BHSBC Steering Committee made up of teachers and staff to determine programming for the grade 7 – 12 model. The design team will join to suggest some topics for discussion.

4.7 Community Path Committee

There was no report from the Community Path Committee.

4.8 Library Long Range Planning Committee

There was no report from the Library Long Range Planning Committee but Dr. Fiore reminded everyone of the upcoming Books in Bloom event.

5. **OTHER BUSINESS**

5.1 Consent Agenda

Vote on Acceptance of Donation from Butler PTA – Exhibit D

Vote on Acceptance of Donation from David and Seetha Burtner – Exhibit E

On a motion offered by Murat Bicer and seconded by Andrea Prestwich, it was

**VOTED** unanimously to approve the Donation from Butler PTA – Exhibit D.

On a motion offered by Susan Burgess-Cox and seconded by Kate Bowen, it was

**VOTED** unanimously to approve the Donation from David and Seetha Burtner – Exhibit

E.

5.2 Personnel Items – none

5.3 Business Items – None

5.4 Approval of Minutes

- February 6, 2018

Due to the fact that two School Committee members were absent on February 6<sup>th</sup> and one was absent this evening, the School Committee did not have a quorum to vote on the February 6<sup>th</sup> minutes. The School Committee will vote on these minutes at the next meeting.

6. **FUTURE BUSINESS**

Upcoming Meetings:

March 13, 2018  
Finance Subcommittee Meeting  
SAB Conference Room – 7:30 a.m.

March 13, 2018  
School Committee Meeting  
CMS Community Room – 7:00 p.m.


7. **ENCLOSURES**

Strategic Plan  
Important Dates for School Committee

8. **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

At 8:21 p.m. on a roll call vote, the School Committee entered Executive Session for the purpose of discussion contract negotiations 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