

**BELMONT SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES  
MAIN OFFICE CONFERENCE ROOM  
BELMONT HIGH SCHOOL, BELMONT, MA  
NOVEMBER 13, 2018**

Present: Ms. Susan Burgess-Cox, Chair  
Ms. Andrea Prestwich, Secretary  
Ms. Kate Bowen  
Ms. Tara Donner  
Ms. Jill Norton  
Mr. John Phelan, Superintendent  
Ms. Janice Darias, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction

Absent: Dr. Lisa Fiore

1. **OPENING BUSINESS**

Susan Burgess-Cox called the meeting to order at 6:08PM

Grace Kane, the BHS representative, gave an update on activities at BHS. She reports that students are particularly excited about the student "pep rally" to be held on Wednesday Nov 21 (just before the Thanksgiving Break).

2. **MAJOR BUSINESS**

Several topics pertinent to the Town Meeting which was held immediately after the School Committee meeting were discussed.

2.1 K-12 High School Project

On November 6 2018 the town of Belmont overwhelmingly passed the debt exclusion to fund the proposed new 7-12 school. The final approval of the debt exclusion was voted on by Town Meeting immediately after the School Committee meeting (Article 2: Appropriation of Belmont High School Construction Project). Although the School Committee has previously voted on the grade configuration of the new school, the SC had not voted to formally support the debt exclusion. Susan Burgess-Cox stated that SC approval was important input for the Town Meeting.

A motion offered by Tara Donner And seconded by Andrea Prestwich to support Article 2 at Town Meeting was passed unanimously.

## 2.2 Ice Rink

John Phelan gave a brief update on the status of the ice rink. The ice rink is in need of repair and/or rebuilding. One possibility is for a private organization to raise funding for the new facility and to charge user fees over a 20 or 30 year period to cover the costs. The organization would manage the facility during the time period that the costs are recovered. Thereafter, the town would have the option of taking over management of the facility or allowing the original organization to continue its work. If this course of action is approved, the town will issue a Request for Proposals with input from the school committee and administration.

Two locations currently being considered: the current ice rink or the town incinerator site.

## 2.3 Minuteman School

John Phelan gave an update on the status of vocational education for Belmont students. In 2016 town meeting voted to leave the Minuteman district in part due to the funding structure of the new Minuteman school whereby member districts pay a disproportional share of the building costs relative to non-member districts. Thereafter a group was set up by Superintendent Phelan to look at options for vocational training for Belmont students. After examining several options they recommend continued membership of Minuteman. Minuteman offers high quality vocational training, the funding structure is now more equitable between member and non-member districts, and membership guarantees places for Belmont students.

## 2.4 Community Path

The proposed community path will connect the Mass Central Rail Trail on the Waltham/Belmont border to the existing Fitchburg Cutoff Path on the Belmont/Cambridge border. The path will run through Belmont along the commuter rail that borders school grounds. The first segment of the project (Phase 1a) is an underpass under the MBTA rail at Alexander Ave that will connect the Winn Brook area with Concord Ave. The proposed path will cross school property.

Article 5 before town meeting was a vote to appropriate Community Preservation Funds for a study of the feasibility of the Alexander Ave underpass. The proposed path is consistent with current plans for the new high school and has the potential to reduce traffic and encourage students in the Winn Brook neighborhood to walk to school. A motion to support Article 5 was offered by Tara Donner and seconded by Jill Norton. The motion was passed with 5 votes in favor. Andrea Prestwich abstained because she lives on Alexander Ave and has a conflict of interest.

## 3. OTHER BUSINESS

### Consent Agenda

#### Disposal of Surplus Property – Chenery

Superintendent Phelan presented a list of materials and equipment to the School Committee to review; declare as surplus and authorize their disposal.

On a motion offered by Jill Norton, second by Tara Donner, it was

**VOTED** unanimously to approve of the disposal of surplus property listed in Exhibit A.

4. **FUTURE BUSINESS**

November 14, 2018  
School Committee Town Meeting Pre-Meeting  
6:00 p.m. – BHS Room 101

November 14, 2018  
Town Meeting  
7:00 p.m. – BHS Auditorium

November 15, 2018  
School Committee Town Meeting Pre-Meeting  
6:00 p.m. – BHS Room 101

November 15, 2018  
Town Meeting  
7:00 p.m. – BHS Auditorium

November 20, 2018  
Finance Subcommittee Meeting  
8:00 a.m. – SAB Conference Room

November 27, 2018  
School Committee Meeting – Student Advisory Council  
7:00 p.m. – CMS Community Room

5. **ENCLOSURES**

BHS Performing Arts Trip to New York City  
November 1, 2018 Enrollment  
Strategic Plan

6. **ADJOURN**

At 6:35 p.m. on a motion offered by Tara Donner and seconded by Jill Norton, the School Committee

**VOTED** unanimously to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted by Andrea Prestwich  
Andrea Prestwich, Secretary