

**BELMONT SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES
CHENERY MIDDLE SCHOOL COMMUNITY ROOM
OCTOBER 9, 2018**

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

Absent: Ms. Andrea Prestwich

Mary Pederson, Human Resources Director invited each teacher receiving Professional Status – listed below - to come up to receive a certificate and small gift as a token of gratitude from the School Committee and Belmont School Administration. Superintendent Phelan congratulated all the Professional Status Recipients along with Mary Pederson and Susan Burgess-Cox, School Committee Chair.

Baker	Elizabeth	High School	Director of Science
Beebe	David	Chenery	Technology Engineering
Bonfiglio	Maria	Burbank	Special Education
Brandt	Jane	Chenery	ESL
Chancey	Lauren	Winn Brook	Grade 2
Dufault	Abbie	Butler	Grade 1
Ebdon	Kate	Wellington	Grade 2
Fink	Laura	Burbank	Grade 2
Flam	Ezra	High School	Theatre Arts
Fraher	Caeli	Winn Brook	Grade 1
Glick	Timothy	Chenery	Math, Grade 8
Golden	Jonathan	Chenery	Math, Grade 7
Gonzales	David	Chenery	Health + Physical Education
Guastella	Anna	High School	English
Hartunian	Jonathan	Chenery	Assistant Principal
Judge	Jenna	Wellington	Grade 1
Knapp	Catrina	Chenery	Grade 5, Math/Science
Marincic	Megan	Winn Brook	ESL
Masterson	Kimberly	High School	English
McLeod	Kathryn	High School	Technology Engineering
Messing	Stephanie	Butler	Grade 2

Ogilvie	Aaron	Wellington	Grade 4
Olowinski	Mark	High School	Math
Pulido	Jessica	High School	Math
Scranton	Jennifer	Elementary	Elementary Science Facilitator
Severy	Erin	Wellington	Grade 4
Shea	Jamie	High School	Social Studies
St. Clair	Cynthia	Wellington	Grade 3
			Foreign Language (French +
Sullivan	Leslie	High School	Spanish)
Cohen	Robyn	Chenery	Guidance Counselor
Waters	Crystal	Chenery	Math, Grade 6
Yegen	Grace	Chenery	ESL

1. **OPENING BUSINESS**

1.1 Call to order

Chairperson Burgess-Cox called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. The meeting began after a reception and ceremony honoring teachers receiving Professional Status.

1.2 Pledge of Allegiance

Chairperson Burgess-Cox led the Pledge of Allegiance.

1.3 Citizens' Concerns

A citizen expressed concern about a bus stop and traffic safety, noting that the current location seems to pose risk for children who may need to wait in the street due to space.

1.4 Adjustments to the Agenda

There were no adjustments to the agenda.

1.5 Chair's Report

Chairperson Burgess-Cox shared notable events that are coming up soon, including the FBE Spelling Bee, the Trick-or-Treating at Town Hall, and Broadway Night at BHS.

1.6 Student Representative Report

The student reported that happenings at Belmont High School seem to be great so far. He noted athletic teams' successes, the marching band sounding "unreal," and that 9th grade anecdotal reports indicate that all is "going well."

1.7 Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Phelan recounted a recent visit to Belmont High School, noting that the tone of the school seems a bit calmer than it has been during prior visits, and that there seems to be a slight shift in the culture. Superintendent Phelan congratulated the folks who organized Soccer Night, including staff from Belmont Savings Bank, Director of Athletics Jim Davis, and parent volunteers. He congratulated custodian Bob Johnson on his retirement from the Butler Elementary School, thanking community members who came out to share in this occasion.

2. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

There was no unfinished business.

3. **MAJOR BUSINESS**

3.1 ITAC Appointment (Vote)

Mr. Jonathan Greene has served for 16 years, and Mr. Philip Lawrence has served for 12 years in these capacities.

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

VOTED 4-0-1 to approve the appointments of Jonathan Greene and Philip Lawrence to the Informational Technology Advisory Council (ITAC).

3.2 BHSBC Update

Mr. Bill Lovallo, Chair of the Belmont High School Building Committee (BHSBC) shared with the School Committee a leaflet that was provided at the recent Energy Summit, held on October 4, 2018. He then presented an update that included understanding of terms, such as Zero Net Energy (ANE) and Renewable Energy (NAEB: D); energy reduction strategies; geothermal resource basics; how Belmont can build a “green” culture (e.g., plug-load drivers); the photovoltaic array (80,000-90,000 square feet); and spending costs and savings that result from choosing geothermal, rooftop solar, and AECs (\$0 cost, over \$5,000,000 savings)

3.3 DESE Status Update – Exhibit A

Assistant Superintendent Janice Darias presented a report describing MCAS Scores and Accountability Data. She discussed the new Accountability Categories from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE), Accountability Indicators, and gave examples of scores over the past few years, including the English Language Arts (grades 3-8 and 10) exam, Science (grades 5 and 8), Math (grade 10), and Physics (grades 9 and 10).

Assistant Superintendent Darias commended the staff for working hard to serve all students and meet their various needs. She explained that all of the Belmont schools have been acknowledged by the DESE for a variety of accomplishments, and she noted that the Butler Elementary School has been commended in three separate categories.

Assistant Superintendent Darias explained that Belmont has a high percentage of students doing quite well on these measures, and she thanked all Belmont administrators, curriculum leaders, teachers, and staff for their commitment to helping all students achieve high standards through:

- Continuous improvement of instruction
- Adoption of new curricula, and a
- Focus on creating a safe and supporting learning environment for each student

3.4 School Committee Representative to EDCO

Ms. Andrea Prestwich had indicated that she is willing to continue to serve in this role.

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

VOTED 5-0-1 to approve Andrea Prestwich serving as the School Committee representative to EDCO for the 2018-19 school year.

3.5 MASC Resolutions

The School committee discussed several resolutions that will come before delegates at the upcoming MASC conference. Resolution 4 (Regional School Transportation) was noted by two members as being one that they would prefer to receive more information about before voting to support or not.

Members weighed in on Resolution 9, clarifying the language of the resolutions and whether or not it is feasible for the district to provide these services in the timely manner outlined in the resolution.

Resolution 1 – Rejecting the Arming of Educators

On a motion offered by Jill Norton and seconded by Kate Bowen, it was

VOTED 5-0-1 to approve the resolution of rejecting the arming of educators.

Resolution 2 – Small and Rural Districts

On a motion offered by Kate Bowen and seconded by Jill Norton, it was

VOTED 5-0-1 to approve the resolution for the call for the creation of a working group to advise the legislature on the best public policy solutions to support small and rural school districts; and further that this working group propose modifications to the Foundation Budget and other elements of the Chapter 70 financial assistance program; designate specific instances where excessive regulation interfere with the ability of school leaders to direct the academic improvement of children; identify and advise on eligibility for state and federal programs to support public education; and find strategies to ameliorate the impact of forces that jeopardize the growth, stability and success of these school districts; and further MASC oppose legislation or unlegislated regulations that would attempt to undermine the right of any city, town or regional district to have

imposed upon it a mandate to restructure, expand, regionalize, or dissolve its school district without its consent.

Resolution 3 – *Elimination of the Federal Department of Education*

On a motion offered by Kate Bowen and seconded by Jill Norton, it was

VOTED 5-0-1 to reject any notion of combining the U.S. Department of Education with any other government departments.

Resolution 4 – *Regional School Transportation – no vote*

Resolution 5 – *Reporting and Accountability Standards*

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

VOTED 5-0-1 to approve that MASC works with the legislature and Board of Elementary and Secondary Education to ensure that all students or persons in schools that receive public funds under the authority of the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education or a local public school district are held to the same standards and requirements in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Resolution 6 – *Reproductive Health Education*

On a motion offered by Lisa Fiore and seconded by Tara Donner, it was

VOTED 5-0-1 to support evidence based reproductive health curricula. Further, to call upon the U.S. Department of Education and the Executive Branch to stop their support of abstinence-only education.

Resolution 7 – *Gender Identity Inclusive Athletic Participation Policy*

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

VOTED 5-0-1 to support legislation which would have the effect of protecting LGBTQ students from discrimination, harassment and bullying by that schools should treat students based on their gender identify, protecting their privacy, providing access to gender-neutral restrooms, locker rooms and private stall showers, using their preferred pronouns, embedding sensitivity training in professional development and providing them accommodations.

Resolution 8 – *Sports Wagering*

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

VOTED 5-0-1 to request that, should the General Court enact legislation to legalize wagering on sporting events, the General Court, shall commit a portion of the revenues generated from sports wagering to public education.

Resolution 9 – Access to Information for Parents Who Are Clients of Special Education

On a motion offered by Jill Norton and seconded by Lisa Fiore, it was

VOTED 4-0-1-1 to support MASC in urging the legislature to amend state law to require that parents and students be provided with a copy via email or mail of all the assessments that are performed for students in the families' preferred language, at least five days prior to any meeting at which parents and students will review a proposed Individual Education Plan (IEP).

3.6 Enrollment Update

Superintendent Phelan presented a report about enrollment, noting in particular that the predicted enrollment growth that was indicated in the McKibben Demographic Research report has been highly accurate. Forecasts will eventually stabilize into new baseline enrollment averages that are significantly higher than several years ago. Our district's long-term plan included the grade 7-12 configuration, and because of the careful forecasting, there are no surprised this year.

3.7 High School Traffic Working Group

Chairperson Burgess-Cox explained that a request had been made for the School Committee to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Board of Selectmen and Belmont High School Building Committee, which details commitment to collaboration and providing information that will inform decision-making regarding traffic as it relates to the 7-12 school and student safety. Chairperson Burgess-Cox confirmed the School Committee's ongoing collaboration with town offices and personnel regarding traffic and student safety as well as the ongoing commitment to this work through various channels and with numerous town officials and residents. She articulated the School Committee's support of the spirit of the document, while expressing caution about the date of the November 6, 2018 as one where the School Committee and administration would commit to take on specific tasks to resolve outstanding issues. While the School Committee agrees with the idea of the proposal, the terms are not necessarily ones that the School Committee can commit to, given the nature of the ongoing work and continuously evolving collaboration.

On a motion offered by Tara Donner and seconded by Lisa Fiore, it was

VOTED 5-0-1 to approve the School Committee's preference to continue its regular practice on ongoing collaboration and commitment to the work (e.g., safety, traffic, building) without signing the agreement as currently written.

4. SUBCOMMITTEE/LIAISON UPDATES (as needed)

4.1 Finance Subcommittee

The Finance Subcommittee met last week and identified priorities for meetings this year. They discussed the Collins Report and budgeting forecasting, and some assumptions inherent in the tool and the work.

4.2 Policy and Procedure Subcommittee

The Policy and Procedure Subcommittee has not met since the last School Committee meeting, but there is a need to schedule a meeting due to certain recommendations related to specific populations of students. Some new policies will be created across the state, based on recommendations from the state department. These new policies will support new operations/procedures.

4.3 Curriculum and Instruction Subcommittee

The Curriculum and Instruction Subcommittee has not met but a meeting will be scheduled shortly.

4.4 Capital Budget Committee

The Capital Budget Committee has not met since the last School Committee meeting.

4.5 Warrant Committee

The subcommittees are currently being organized. At the suggestion of the Chairperson, working groups will be convened to consider annual report, pension work, Collins Center reports, and property taxes. At the most recent meeting, the 7-12 configuration was discussed and the committee asked thoughtful questions, clarifying what the alternative plan would be and what this means.

4.6 Belmont High School Building Committee

The Belmont High School Building Committee will meet on Wednesday at 7:30 a.m. in the Homer Building followed by several presentations at school PTO/PTA meetings.

4.7 Financial Task Force

There was no report from the Financial Task Force.

4.8 Community Path Committee

The Board of Selectmen has renamed the charge of the committee. A member of the School Committee will be asked to participate in this work.

5. **OTHER BUSINESS**

5.1 Consent Agenda

5.2 Personnel Items - none

5.3 Business Items – None

5.4 Approval of Minutes

September 11, 2018

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

VOTED 4-0-1 to approve the minutes of September 11, 2018 as amended.

6. **FUTURE BUSINESS**

Upcoming Meetings:

October 16, 2018
School Committee Working Session
SAB Conference Room – 4:30 p.m.

October 23, 2018
School Committee Meeting
Shelburne Community Center
2730 Washington Street, Roxbury, MA
Reception – 6:00 p.m.
Business Meeting – 7:00 p.m.

7. **ENCLOSURES**

October 1, 2018 Enrollment
Strategic Plan
Important Dates for School Committee

8. **ADJOURNMENT**

At 9:12 p.m. on a motion offered by Jill Norton and seconded by Tara Donner, it was

VOTED 5-0-1 to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted by



Lisa Fiore, Secretary for Andrea Prestwich