

**BELMONT SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES
WELLINGTON COMMUNITY ROOM
APRIL 23, 2019**

Present: Ms. Susan Burgess-Cox, Chair
Ms. Andrea Prestwich, Secretary
Ms. Catherine Bowen
Ms. Amy Checkoway
Mr. Michael Crowley
Ms. Andrea Prestwich
Mr. John Phelan, Superintendent
Ms. Janice Darias, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction
Mr. Anthony DiCologero, Director of Finance, Business and Operations

1. **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

2. **OPENING BUSINESS**

2.1 Call to order

Susan Burgess-Cox called the meeting to order at 7:11 p.m.

2.2 Pledge of Allegiance

Susan Burgess-Cox led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2.3 Citizens' Concerns

Belmont resident Phil Thayer stated the School Committee had voted unanimously in favor of zero net energy. He explained it can only be achieved if solar is included in the construction budget. The School Department will realize \$5 million in savings. If solar is not included, the new building cannot be called a zero net energy building. Mr. Thayer urged the School Committee to get behind the wishes of the students, teachers, Belmont Energy Committee, Board of Selectmen and residents.

2.4 Adjustments to the Agenda

There were no adjustments to the agenda.

2.5 Chair's Report

Susan Burgess-Cox announced the following events:

- o Chenery Middle School Concert – April 24 at 7:00 p.m.

- SEPAC Parent Information Series – Basic Rights Presentation – April 24 at 7:30 p.m.
- Belmont SEPAC Coffee/Tea at Brueggers – May 25
- Chenery Ensemble Concert – April 25
- POPS at BHS – May 3 and May 4
- One Act Play at BHS – May 10 and May 11

2.6 Student Representative Report

Belmont High School Sophomore Lilah Isenberg updated the School Committee on the recently implemented Student/Teacher Shadowing program. Teachers have been shadowing students while they go about their day attending classes. Everyone generally thinks the program has gone well and will be a benefit to both students and teachers. Lilah explained the program has given teachers the opportunity to get a sense of student life day to day. It has also been helpful in understanding the stressors in student life.

2.7 Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Phelan announced he would forgo his Superintendent's report in the interest of time.

3. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

4. MAJOR BUSINESS

4.1 Budget Hearing – Exhibit A

Superintendent Phelan explained draft one of the budget is presented to School Committee in January or February. Work on the budget continues with the Finance Subcommittee through the late fall and winter. Superintendent Phelan and Town Administrator Patrice Garvin then present the budget to the Warrant Committee and Board of Selectmen. The final budget is presented to School Committee prior to Town Meeting.

The FY19 General Fund budget totaled \$56,985,592 and the FY20 budget totals \$60,649,451 which is an increase of 6.43% or \$3,663,859. The strategic plan cost drivers total \$880,524 and includes 3.60 positions including health insurance, charging a larger portion of extracurricular costs and stipends to the general fund, texts, materials and supplies. There are also relocation costs which will be incurred due to the BHS construction. The external cost drivers total \$785,919 which is due to an increase in Special Education tuition, transportation and contract services. The amount also reflects an 8% FY19 increase in health insurance.

The FY20 budget includes 3.60 FTES which include the following:

- 1.40 Elementary Guidance Counselors
- 0.40 Middle School Foreign Language Teacher
- 0.40 High School Teachers
- 0.40 High School Assistant Principal
- 1.0 District-Wide English Language Learner Program Director

Also included in the FY20 budget are federal grants budgeted in FY20 as level funded from FY19 plus contractual increases for staff allocated to grants. A larger share of program expenses will be charged to the General Fund in FY20 due to expenses for fee-based programs outpacing revenue. User fees will remain the same for FY20

The School Department Administration is recommending and requesting that the School Committee approve the FY20 Draft 2 General Fund Budget of \$60,649,451; and a total budget, which includes anticipated state and federal grants, and revolving fees of \$68,989,228.

The FY20 School Budget will be presented to Town Meeting for approval in June 2019.

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

VOTED unanimously to approve the Belmont Public Schools 2019-2020 budget.

4.2 BHSBC Update on High School Energy and Zero Net Energy Design – Exhibit B

William Lovallo, Belmont High School Building Committee Chair explained that after a presentation by the Design Team last month, he felt it was important to bring the topic of zero net energy and how the high school project will be built to be a sustainable green building to the public. Mr. Lovallo invited Rob Demers, one of the architects working on the project to provide an overview of how the high school building project is being built to be a zero net energy building.

Mr. Demers provided a status report on zero net energy. He first addressed the energy model to analyze the energy usage followed by a discussion on renewable energy. The energy model analysis was based on the eQUEST energy model. This analysis compared renewable energy by; end use, time period and building type. It also provided a contrast of annual cooling versus heating building loads. Details were provided on the model inputs. The next steps for the energy model included confirmation of occupancy schedules and the design refinement of: architectural, mechanical systems and lighting. Energy use after occupancy is up to the individuals in the building. The School Committee discussed the possibility of forming a committee to explore future energy use guidelines.

The second portion of the presentation addressed renewable energy with a specific focus on roof mounted photovoltaic arrays (PVC). Details were provided on annual energy generation and the anticipated shortfall. The annual renewable energy shortfall requires additional panel area of 154,800 square feet which is approximately 7328 additional PV panels. The recommendations to address the shortfall include increased roof mounted PV and offsite opportunities. Opportunities to improve performance include mechanical systems, plumbing, pool, plug loads and commissioning.

4.3 Rink Update – Exhibit C & C1

Superintendent Phelan updated the School Committee on five different options for the placement of the new ice rink if the project goes forward. There are pros and cons with each option which include the potential loss of some field space and different locations and numbers of spaces for parking.

Superintendent Phelan introduced Patrice Garvin, Town Administrator and Tom Caputo, Selectman who provided an overview of the draft calendar for the skating rink project if it receives a favorable vote. Ms. Garvin asked the School Committee if they were in agreement that the Board of Selectmen and School Committee should follow through on the planning of the project along with scheduling a date for a community forum to allow resident to provide input on the project. Once the School Committee is in agreement, the Town will submit a skeleton Request for Proposal (RFP) to the Board of Selectman (BOS) and School Committee (SC). The BOS and SC will then schedule a public forum on the Public/Private Partnership. In June, the BOS and SC will vote on the public/private partnership to construct and manage the ice skating rink. It is the School Committee's responsibility to vote on the size of the rink, develop the operational program and select the location for the rink on high school property. After some discussion, the School Committee voted a straw vote to work with the Board of Selectmen in the planning for the new ice rink as well as scheduling a public forum sometime in May.

4.4 Community Path Update

Selectman Tom Caputo updated the School Committee on the planning for the Community Path. The Community Path Committee and Board of Selectmen have been working with a consulting group who reviewed both north and south options. Their recommendation was to go with the south option. The south option has a significant pinch point which would require an easement with Purecoat; a company located close to the high school. Former Selectman Mark Paolillo and Community Path member Bob McLaughlin met with the owner of Purecoat and offered him a proposal regarding the easement. After reviewing the proposal, the Purecoat owner determined Purecoat would not be interested in pursuing the easement. The Town does have the option to take the property by eminent domain but felt it would not be in the anyone's best interest. The Board of Selectmen voted last night to shift the path to the north and proceed with a design that will not impact the high school campus at all.

4.5 School Name – Vote – Exhibit D

Superintendent Phelan reminded the School Committee of the following three names they had chosen for the new high school building:

- Belmont Middle-High School
- Belmont Middle and High School
- Belmont Middle High School

Assistant Superintendent Darias stated a survey had been given to all staff and students asking for input on their choice of name. Unfortunately, the file with the student survey results was corrupted somehow and the results are not available. Based on the results of the staff survey, the first choice for a name for the new building is Belmont Middle and High School. The School Committee had some discussion about the choices before taking a vote.

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

VOTED unanimously to name the new school building Belmont Middle and High School.

5. **SUBCOMMITTEE/LIAISON UPDATES (as needed)**

5.1 Finance Subcommittee

The Finance Subcommittee met earlier today with members of the Warrant Committee Education Subcommittee who were impressed with how the school department funds are being used. They discussed Special Education funding and FTEs. Superintendent Phelan thanked Anthony DiCologero for his work with the Warrant Committee Education Subcommittee throughout the year and thanked them for being great partners with the School Department.

5.2 Policy and Procedure Subcommittee

The Policy and Procedure Subcommittee will be meeting soon.

5.3 Curriculum and Instruction Subcommittee

The Curriculum and Instruction Subcommittee is working on a meeting schedule.

5.4 Capital Budget Committee

The Capital Budget Committee will meet before Town Meeting.

5.5 Warrant Committee

The Warrant Committee provided a quarter 2 update at their last meeting.

5.6 Belmont High School Building Committee

There was no additional report from the Belmont High School Building Committee.

5.7 Community Path Update

The Community Path Committee has released an RFP and posted it on the Central Register. Proposals are due on May 29th.

5.8 Financial Task Force II

There was no report from the Financial Task Force.

5.9 High School Traffic Working Group

The High School Traffic Working Group met recently with the Hittinger Street neighborhood. There are positive plans for a multi-use path on Concord Avenue which is supported by the neighbors.

6. **OTHER BUSINESS**

6.1 Consent Agenda - none

6.2 Personnel Items - none

6.3 Business Items – None

6.4 Approval of Minutes

- o April 9, 2019

On a motion offered by Kate Bowen and seconded by Michael Crowley, it was

VOTED unanimously to approve the April 9, 2019 School Committee minutes as amended.

7. **FUTURE BUSINESS**

Upcoming Meetings:

April 30, 2019

Finance Subcommittee Meeting
SAB Conference Room – 8:00 a.m.

May 7, 2019

School Committee Meeting
CMS Community Room – 7:00 p.m.

8. **ENCLOSURES**

- o Strategic Plan
- o School Committee Goals

9. **ADJOURNMENT**

At 9:30 p.m. on a motion offered by Kate Bowen and seconded by Tara Donner, it was

VOTED unanimously to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted by Andrea Prestwich
Andrea Prestwich, Secretary