

**BELMONT SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES
CHENERY MIDDLE SCHOOL COMMUNITY ROOM
APRIL 9, 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. **ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING**

A. **REQUIRED MATTERS**

1.1 Call to order

Ms. Burgess-Cox called the Organization Meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.

1.2 Nomination/Election of Chair

Ms. Burgess-Cox explained this portion of the meeting was the Organizational Meeting where a new Chair and Secretary are elected. She asked for a motion to vote on the election of School Committee Chair.

On a motion offered by Andrea Prestwich and seconded by Tara Donner, it was

VOTED unanimously to elect Susan Burgess-Cox as School Committee Chair.

1.3 Nomination/Election of Secretary

Ms. Burgess-Cox asked for a motion to vote on the election of School Committee Secretary.

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

VOTED unanimously to elect Andrea Prestwich as School Committee Secretary.

2. OPENING BUSINESS

Ms. Burgess-Cox announced that the School Committee would now hold their regular Business Meeting. She welcomed new members Amy Checkoway and Michael Crowley.

2.1 Pledge of Allegiance

Susan Burgess-Cox led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2.2 Citizens' Concerns

There were no citizen's 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 a recent sabbatical request from a foreign language teacher. The teacher requested the sabbatical to spend time on curriculum development. She explained the request was denied due to the fact that the district has its own curriculum development and also due to budgetary concerns.

The following upcoming events are planned in the district.

- April 11 – Parent Teacher Band Concert – Chenery Middle School
- April 24 – Honors Concert – Chenery Middle School
- April 29 – Solo Ensemble Concert – Chenery
- May 2 – No School for Kindergarten
- May 3 – Belmont High School Pops

2.5 Student Representative Report

There was no student representative in attendance.

2.6 Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Phelan noted the recent events in the district.

- Chenery Multi-cultural Night
- Winn Brook Map Night which was organized by the Winn Brook PTA
- Burbank Reads Across America
- Butler Library Night

Superintendent Phelan announced the hiring of Wellington Principal Heidi Paisner-Roffman. Dr. Paisner-Roffman is an Assistant Principal and English Learners Program Coordinator in the Wayland school district. She was awarded a Ph.D. in Curriculum and Instruction from Boston College, a Master's

degree in special education from Bank Street College, and a Bachelor's degree from Columbia University. Superintendent Phelan stated he is looking forward to having Dr. Paisner-Roffman join the Belmont Public Schools community in July.

Superintendent Phelan congratulated the Boys Ice Hockey Team on winning the James F. Molloy Sportsmanship Award.

Assistant Superintendent Darias announced the second in the series of the 5th Annual Parent Lecture Series which will take place at Chenery on April 10th at 6:30 p.m. Debby Irving, author of the book *Waking Up White* will speak on issues of race and how to talk about race.

3. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

There was no unfinished business.

4. **MAJOR BUSINESS**

4.1 ITAC Report – Exhibit A

Susan Burgess-Cox welcomed Glen Wong and Paul Roberts, members of the Information Technology Advisory Committee (ITAC) who provided an update on the work the ITAC Committee has been doing. The committee is comprised of nine members; four of whom are appointed by the Board of Selectmen, four by School Committee and one by the Belmont Public Library Board. The Committee has been working on projects requested by Town Administrator Patrice Garvin. They recently spent time with Chris Roy, General Manager of Belmont Light who presented information related to work he did in a previous role. ITAC is beginning to create subcommittees to study topics of general interest to the Town. They are also looking at public education efforts around cyber-security, fake news and artificial intelligence (AI). Their hope is to increase efficiency and transparency of the work of all the Committees in Belmont. A survey on the use of technology was provided to community members and Town Committees. ITAC members hope to eventually create more efficient ways for Committees to schedule meetings and share work and simplify ways for public participation.

4.2 School Committee Subcommittee Assignments

Susan Burgess-Cox suggested appointing members to subcommittees for the remainder of this school year and then re-visit the appointments over the summer for the upcoming year. After some discussion it was determined which School Committee members would be appointed to each subcommittee.

Finance Subcommittee: Susan Burgess-Cox, Andrea Prestwich, Amy Checkoway, Kate Bowen, Michael Crowley

Policy and Procedure Subcommittee: Susan Burgess-Cox, Tara Donner, Kate Bowen, Andrea Prestwich, Amy Checkoway

Curriculum and Instruction: Tara Donner, Andrea Prestwich

Warrant Committee: Michael Crowley

Capital Budget Committee: Susan Burgess-Cox

EDCO Representative: Amy Checkoway

BHSBC – Superintendent Phelan indicated Town Moderator Michael Widmer might have to weigh in on the appointment.

4.3 School Name Update

Superintendent Phelan read a list of names that had been recently presented to the School Committee at the last meeting. The goal is to narrow down the list to three or four which will then be shared with educators and students to determine the choice for a name for the high school. After some discussion, the School Committee chose the following three names to put forward to the staff and students: *Belmont Middle High School*, *Belmont Middle-High School* and *Belmont Middle and High School*. Once the staff and students are surveyed, the School Committee will make the final decision on the name.

4.4 Acceptance of Donation from D.A.R.E. - Exhibit B

Superintendent Phelan expressed thanks to Belmont D.A.R.E Officer Michael Horan who helped facilitate a \$1,000 donation to Chenery Middle School from the D.A.R.E. Program. Superintendent Phelan explained it is a great asset to have not only a D.A.R.E. officer at the middle school but a School Resource Officer as well and expressed gratitude for the great working relationship between the School Department and Police Department.

5. SUBCOMMITTEE/LIAISON UPDATES (as needed)

5.1 Finance Subcommittee

The Finance Subcommittee discussed questions sent by the Warrant Committee and also had a discussion on the FTE count. Superintendent Phelan provided information to Warrant Committee member Chris Doyle regarding enrollment and Minuteman. There was also a discussion about revolving accounts and fees.

5.2 Policy and Procedure Subcommittee

The Policy and Procedure Subcommittee had a recent discussion about Harris Field and what will be needed for athletic practices during the construction. There was also further discussion on the Community Path and whether it is more appropriate to have it on the north side or the south side.

5.3 Curriculum and Instruction Subcommittee

The Curriculum and Instruction Subcommittee will meet in the near future to discuss the Senior Capstone Project and new standards for Social Studies.

5.4 Capital Budget Committee

The Capital Budget Committee will meet on Thursday.

5.5 Warrant Committee

The Warrant Committee will meet on Wednesday to discuss the School Departmente Q2 update.

5.6 Belmont High School Building Committee

The Belmont High School Building Committee has been preparing the design details which will be presented to the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) soon. The Committee met with MSBA on April 5th at Perkins and Will to go over the layout of the building. MSBA was very happy with the work that has been ongoing. On Friday, Superintendent Phelan and members of the building committee will meet at Skanska to price out the entire job.

5.8 Community Path Update

The Community Path Committee has been working on an RFP for the project. They have also met with the Belmont High School Building Committee on the overlay of the high school.

Kate Bowen provided an update on the recent meetings of the High School Traffic Working Group. They will be having a public hearing for neighbors living near Belmont High School who will be most impacted by the construction. The meeting will take place on April 13th at 7:00 p.m. the Beech Street Center.

Kate Bowen also provided an update on the Financial Task Force II. The group has discussed capital assessments. The School Committee will be updated on various possible budget scenarios derived from the Collins Report.

Superintendent Phelan suggested adding the High School Traffic Working Group and Financial Task Force II as regular updates on the School Committee agendas going forward.

5. OTHER BUSINESS

5.1 Consent Agenda - none

5.2 Personnel Items - none

5.3 Business Items – None

5.4 Approval of Minutes

- o March 26, 2019

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

VOTED 4-0-2 to approve the March 26, 2019 School Committee minutes as amended.

6. **FUTURE BUSINESS**

Upcoming Meetings:

April 23, 2019

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

April 23, 2019 – Budget Hearing

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

7. **ENCLOSURES**

- April 1, 2019 Enrollment
- Strategic Plan
- School Committee Goals

8. **ADJOURNMENT**

At 8:44 p.m. on a motion offered by Michael Crowley and seconded by Amy Checkoway, it was

VOTED unanimously to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted by Andrea Prestwich
Andrea Prestwich, Secretary