

**BELMONT SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES
CHENERY MIDDLE SCHOOL COMMUNITY ROOM
DECEMBER 18, 2018**

Present: Ms. Susan Burgess-Cox, Chair
Ms. Andrea Prestwich, Secretary
Ms. Kate Bowen
Ms. Tara Donner
Dr. 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

1. **OPENING BUSINESS**

1.1 Call to order

Susan Burgess-Cox called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m.

1.2 Pledge of Allegiance

Susan Burgess-Cox led the Pledge of Allegiance.

1.3 Citizens' Concerns

There were no citizens concerns.

1.4 Adjustments to the Agenda

There were no adjustments to the agenda.

1.5 Chair's Report

Chair Susan Burgess-Cox updated the School Committee on recent events in the district. She offered congratulations to the following participants of the Belmont High School Quiz Show: Cameron Anderson, Eliana Roberts, Matthew Miller, and Tor Metelmann. The team will compete on WGBH's High School Quiz Show and it will be televised on January 20th.

1.6 Student Representative Report

There was no student representative in attendance.

1.7 Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Phelan announced the Belmont High School Boys Varsity Basketball Team will be playing a game at TD Garden in Boston. He also announced there Kindergarten Information Night along with the opening of centralized registration in January. The centralized registration is new this year for incoming Kindergarten students. The goal of having the information night is to allow families to meet the administrators and get information they may need.

Superintendent Phelan thanked the Foundation for Belmont Education (FBE) for the 12 Learning Excellence Grants they have awarded which totals \$34,597.

2. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

3. MAJOR BUSINESS

3.1 Presentation by Marauder Basketball Association

Ralph Jones provided an overview of the proposal to name the Wenner Basketball Court *The Coach Lyons Court*. This proposal is in honor of Paul Lyons who was a basketball coach at Belmont High School for many years. He is also credited with starting the Belmont Youth Basketball Association (BYBA) which has approximately 600 children in the program each year. Coach Lyons also started the Marauder Basketball Association which raises money for the high school basketball program.

David Ramsey joined Ralph Jones at the table to talk about the impact Coach Lyons had on the youth of Belmont over many years. He was not only a coach but a educator who was a humble man and tried to bring out the best in his players.

The Marauder Basketball Association would like to have a plaque at the court with Coach Paul Lyons' name on it and they would provide the funding for the plaque.

The School Committee discussed the next steps required for this proposal and announced they would vote at their meeting in January.

3.2 Rink RFP Update

Superintendent Phelan updated the School Committee on the process for resolving the ice rink issues in Belmont. Belmont resident Robert Mulroy presented a proposal to School Committee a few years ago detailing a public /private partnership to rebuild the ice rink on Concord Avenue at no cost to taxpayers. At the time it was determined to hold off on the project until the high school project was better defined. Mr. Mulroy met with the School Committee again last June to once again talk about the proposal. Superintendent Phelan and Chair Burgess-Cox have since met with Selectmen Tom Caputo and Town Counsel to discuss what might need to be done to move the project forward.

There are two sites proposed for the new rink. One is the current site on high school property and the second at the incinerator site. Superintendent Phelan explained the pros and cons of each site. Once the Town determines which site is more appropriate, a Request for Proposals (RFP) will be drafted by the Town and Town Counsel. The Town will then issue the RFP and seek and choose partnership. A contract will be negotiated for the design and construction of the new rink.

The School Committee discussed the pros and cons of the two sites and agreed to vote on a site at their meeting in January.

Pros and Cons – BHS Site

Pros	Cons
Convenient location for school teams	Added construction work to BHS site
Increase in locker/team space for BHS	Traffic
Few land restrictions	Potential loss of field space during construction
Potential for increase in parking	Potential loss of field space post construction

Pros and Cons – Incinerator Site

Pros	Cons
Less impact on traffic in area	Travel time and expense for BHS students
Potential for two sheets of ice	3-4 year permitting process before construction can begin
No impact to BHSBC 7-12 building project	Current rink issues – wait time a concern
	Foundation on landfill/wetland
	Increase cost due to capping issues
	Limited interest due to high cost of land use

3.3 2019-20 School Calendar Presentation – Exhibit A

Assistant Superintendent Janice Darias discussed some details of the 2019-20 school calendar. School Committee policy states the first day of school will be after Labor Day. The first day of school for teachers in 2019-20 will be September 3rd and the first day for students will be September 4th.

3.4 Start Times Pilot Discussion

The topic of starting school later began in 2014 when several superintendents from the Middlesex League agreed to start school later. Other towns in the Middlesex League have already gone through the process and implemented later start times. Superintendent Phelan thought it best to delay implanting district wide changes due to the high school project. A task force of high school teachers was established to look at the feasibility of Belmont High School starting later, without disrupting current bus schedules or impacting other schools. A survey was sent to parents, teachers and students to determine the impact earlier start times might have. The survey results were tabulated and reviewed and then presented to the School Committee Policy Subcommittee. A recommendation was made to start school high school at 8:05 a.m. instead of 7:35 a.m. The School Committee discussed the recommendation and agreed to pilot the later start time at the high school for one year. During this time, feedback from teachers and the community will be collected and a determination will be made

regarding any traffic or safety issues with students getting to and from school; as well as the impact on sports and after school programs.

On a motion offered by Andrea Prestwich and seconded by Jill Norton, it was

VOTED unanimously to support the pilot study with scenario one for later start times for the 2019-20 school year.

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

4.1 Finance Subcommittee

The Finance Subcommittee met earlier in the day and discussed the first quarter financials. They were also updated on targets for special education. There was discussion about the rink and a presentation by Warrant Committee member Jim Gammill who explained the possibility of a partnership with Minuteman instead of a full membership. He will propose a partnership framework to create a way for Belmont to have more certainty if the Town chooses not to be a full member.

4.2 Policy Subcommittee

The Policy Subcommittee met last week and discussed a survey they are working on for parents who use aftercare. The survey is being finalized and will be sent out via email in January. They also discussed early start times.

4.3 Curriculum & Instruction Subcommittee

The Curriculum and Instruction Subcommittee met earlier today with BPS Directors and some teachers who presented their new Belmont High School courses for next year.

4.4 Capital Budget Committee

The Capital Budget Committee met last Thursday and discussed budget related items.

4.5 Warrant Committee

The Warrant Committee met last week with the Board of Selectmen and received an update on the Collins Center report as well as the creation of a new task force. They discussed the quarter one financials and received a report from working groups.

4.6 Belmont High School Building Committee

The Belmont High School Building Committee has been meeting regularly. They are determining which subcommittees will be created based on areas of expertise.

4.7 Community Path Update

There was no report from the Community Path Committee.

5. **OTHER BUSINESS**

5.1 Consent Agenda

Vote on Disposal of Surplus Technology Items – Exhibit B

Tony DiCologero stated the disposal of surplus technology items is routine notice listing items that are no longer in working order or obsolete. The Technology Department uses a vendor who will dispose of the items after any student data is removed. This disposal comes at no cost to the district and any residuals will be used to purchase new items.

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

VOTED unanimously to dispose of the surplus technology items listed in Exhibit B

5.2 Personnel Items – None

5.3 Business Items – None

5.4 Approval of minutes

November 27, 2018 Minutes

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

VOTED unanimously to approve the November 27, 2018 minutes as amended.

6. **FUTURE BUSINESS**

Upcoming Meetings:

January 8, 2018

School Committee Meeting

CMS Community Room – 7:00 p.m.

7. **ENCLOSURES**

- Strategic Plan
- School Committee Policy 7003 (Dedication of Building & Facilities)
- Acknowledgement of Donation from Lueders Environmental, Inc.
- Board of Selectmen Naming Policy

8. **ADJOURN**

At 8:41 p.m. on a motion offered by Andrea Prestwich and seconded by Lisa Fiore, it was
VOTED unanimously to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted by Andrea Prestwich
Andrea Prestwich, Secretary