

**BELMONT SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES  
BEECH STREET CENTER  
JANUARY 22, 2019**

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

Also in attendance: Adam Dash, Board of Selectmen Chair  
Tom Caputo, Selectman  
Mark Paolillo, Selectman

1. **OPENING BUSINESS**

1.1 Call to order

Susan Burgess-Cox called the meeting to order at 7:00 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.

3. **MAJOR BUSINESS**

3.1 2019-20 BHS Program of Studies – Exhibit A

Susan Burgess-Cox explained the School Committee had reviewed the 2019-20 BHS Program of Studies at their last meeting and asked if anyone had any questions. There were no questions and asked for a motion to approve it.

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

**VOTED** unanimously to approve the 2019-20 BHS Program of Studies.

### 3.2 Public Forum on Rink

Glenn Clancy, Director of Community Development – Engineering Division provided the audience with a presentation on the history of the skating rink as well as the plans to build a new facility.

Because the project is part of a public/private partnership, the Board of Selectmen and School Committee are looking for input from the community. The current ice rink was built in 1968 as a tennis facility. It later became a skating facility which has been used for a number of years. The building now has many deficiencies such as lack of handicap accessibility, leaky roof and antiquated equipment and insufficient insulation. Maintenance is an issue due to the age of the building and any improvements that have been made have been Band-Aid type. The programming in the building is not fully utilized and the rink functions only about four months each year.

One possible way forward is for a private entity to build a new ice rink for the town. The facility would be built privately but used by the high school, youth groups and town in a public/private partnership. The Town would not be responsible for the initial capital and a developer would do all the site work and maintenance. This would allow the facility to be built faster due to not using Town capital.

There are two sites under consideration. The first site is on Concord Avenue in the general location of the current rink and is under the purview of the School Committee. The second site is the location of the former incinerator and is under the purview of the Board of Selectmen. The pros of choosing the existing site are the close proximity to the high school campus as well as the short distance to the main library and town center. There is also the possibility for off-street parking which could alleviate some of the congestion around Concord Avenue and the nearby neighborhoods. The cons of using the existing site include the potential for loss of some playing fields depending on the size of the building.

The second site is currently being analyzed in preparation for capping. The Board of Selectmen has been discussing the potential uses for this site for several months and one suggestion has been the rink. If the rink is constructed on the incinerator site, the current rink could still be used during the construction. The potential for private funding could make up the \$800,000 shortfall needed to cap the site. Some of the cons for using the incinerator site include the fact the site is mostly ash underneath and there would be significant construction costs added to preparing the site for a building. There is no guarantee at this point that the site can be used for a building. Another issue is athletes would have to be bussed to the rink which would incur additional costs to the School Department.

Susan Burgess-Cox invited members of the Board of Selectmen and School Committee to offer comments and/or ask questions.

Members of the Board of Selectmen and School Committee asked questions regarding whether locker rooms could be used by multiple teams if the rink is built on the current site. Mr. Clancy explained there is a lot that has not been determined yet but the facility could potentially provide other programming space if it is stated in the RFP.

Superintendent Phelan thanked the community for their patience with this project which had been brought to the School Committee about a year ago. It was put on hold due to the pending vote on the high school building project.

Susan Burgess-Cox invited members of the public to ask questions and present comments.

Aaron Butler asked why the town is discussing a public/private partnership instead of building the facility on its own. It was explained that given the financial challenges facing the town with other projects including the high school, it is unlikely they could fund an additional project like the ice rink.

Pat Murphy asked how long the ice rink project would take if it was built on the incinerator site. It would take four to five years versus considerably less time for the current site.

A community member asked the pros and cons of a public/private partnership. In a public/private partnership, the town does not own the building but details regarding the use of the building would depend on how the agreement is crafted.

It costs approximately \$68,000 to maintain the existing rink per year. Having a new rink would save on utilities and maintenance and would potentially allow for increased revenue for the town if the facility is open longer than four months.

Superintendent Phelan addressed questions regarding parking. There will be 400 parking spots on the high school site. The High School Traffic Working Group is working on traffic patterns and drop off-pick up.

Anne Paulsen suggested if the rink was built on the incinerator site, there would be the potential for having tennis courts again. She also voiced concern about losing playing fields if the rink is built on the current site.

#### 4. **FUTURE BUSINESS**

##### Upcoming Meetings:

January 29, 2019  
Finance Subcommittee Meeting  
SAB Conference Room – 8:00 a.m.

February 4, 2019  
School Committee Meeting  
CMS Community Room – 7:00 p.m.

5. **ENCLOSURES**  
Strategic Plan  
Class Size Working Group Report

6. **ADJOURN**

At 8:48 on a motion offered by Andrea Prestwich and seconded by Kate Bowen, it was

VOTED           unanimously to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted by Andrea Prestwich  
Andrea Prestwich, Secretary