

**BELMONT SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES
CHENERY MIDDLE SCHOOL COMMUNITY ROOM
JANUARY 8, 2019**

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

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

Susan Burgess-Cox announced the following events.

January 14th – grade 5 concert at Chenery

January 21st – Martin Luther King Breakfast at Belmont High School

January 28th – Chenery Ensemble concert

January 29th – Orchestra concert at Belmont High School

March 15th – Foundation for Belmont Education Spring Fundraiser

1.6 Student Representative Report

There was no student representative in attendance.

1.7 Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Phelan announce he would defer his Superintendent's Report to allow the present staff to present their Summer Enrichment update.

2. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

There was no unfinished business.

3. **MAJOR BUSINESS**

3.1 Summer Enrichment Update – Exhibit A

Superintendent Phelan welcomed Pete Tausek and Crystal Waters who are both teachers at Chenery Middle School. Pete has been working with the Summer Enrichment Program for the last several years and Crystal is joining the program this year. Superintendent Phelan thanked Katie Kelley who had worked in the program for the last several years.

Pete Tausek and Crystal Waters provided an overview of the Belmont Summer Enrichment Program. The program has been running for at least eight years. The goal of the program is to provide students with enrichment opportunities to keep them engaged in learning over the summer and to help maintain skills, routines and academic they learned during the school year. Classes are run by grade level, Grade 1, grade 2, grade 3 / 4 and grade 5 /6. The program also offers an internship program for older students interested in working with the Summer Enrichment Program.

3.2 2019-20 BHS Program of Studies – Exhibit B

Superintendent Phelan welcomed Belmont High School Principal Tom Brow and the following member of his staff:

Arto Asadoorian – Director of Visual and Fine Arts

Liz Baker – Director of Science

Deb McDevitt, Director of Social Studies

Dan Moresco – Math Teacher

Dan O'Brien – Assistant Principal

Patty Soliozy – Math Teacher

Jamie Shea – Social Studies Teacher

Assistant Principal Dan O'Brien explained the 2019-20 changes to the Belmont High School Program of Studies and how the changes take place. The curriculum directors, several teachers and

Assistant Principal Dan O'Brien worked together to provide changes to the program of studies that would improve learning opportunities for students. They made the decision to add six new courses listed below.

- 4 art courses: *3D Art 2, Digital Art 2, Animation 2, and Improvisation for Actors.*
- 1 science course: *physics tutor*
- 1 interdisciplinary course for Math/Social Studies: *Social Justice by the Numbers*

Members of the Belmont High School faculty explained details of each of the courses. A draft version of the 2019-20 BHS Program of Studies was provided to School Committee members for their review.

3.3 2019-20 School Calendar – Exhibit C (vote)

Susan Burgess-Cox stated the School Committee had received the 2019-20 school calendar at their previous meeting for review. She asked for a motion to approve the calendar.

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

VOTED approve the 2019-20 School Calendar.

3.4 Lyons Court (vote)

Susan Burgess-Cox reminded the School Committee of the presentation at the last School Committee meeting by supporters of the Paul Lyons Court. Superintendent Phelan expressed appreciation to the Marauder Basketball Association for taking this on for the Lyons family. The School Committee is responsible for voting to allow the basketball court at the Wenner Field House to be named The Coach Lyons Court. The School Committee is also responsible for voting to allow a plaque to be placed at the field house in honor of Coach Lyons.

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

VOTED unanimously to approve the naming of the BHS Basketball Court; The Coach Lyons Court.

3.5 Rink – Community Meetings Update

Superintendent Phelan provided some background information regarding the hockey rink proposal. He noted the School Department and School Committee have been working with Belmont Youth Hockey who are in support of a new rink. There has been recent discussion on the best location for the new rink. The options are to build the rink on the high school site or the incinerator site. Superintendent Phelan, School Committee Chair Susan Burgess-Cox and Selectman Tom Caputo have been in discussions planning a community forum to allow community members to hear the pros and cons of each location. Superintendent Phelan met with Town Administrator Patrice Garvin who will draft a generic RFP for the forum. He suggested the possibility of having the community forum as part of the January 22nd School Committee meeting.

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

4.1 Finance Subcommittee

The Finance Subcommittee will meet on January 15th.

4.2 Policy Subcommittee

There was no report from the Policy Subcommittee.

4.3 Curriculum & Instruction Subcommittee

There was no report from the Curriculum and Instruction Subcommittee.

4.4 Capital Budget Committee

The Capital Budget Committee will meet on January 10th.

4.5 Warrant Committee

There was no report from the Warrant Committee.

4.6 Belmont High School Building Committee

The Belmont High School Building Committee met prior to winter recess and will meet tomorrow. The Steering Committee has been meeting regularly. Chair Bill Lovallo is asking members of the Building Committee to take part in approximately five subcommittees.

The architect had three days of meetings with educators regarding space needs in the new building. Round two of those meetings will take place in the next two weeks or so. The construction company did some exploratory work over the break. Superintendent Phelan thanked the custodial staff who kept the building open 24 hours each day for this work to take place. The air quality was tested prior to re-opening the building to staff and students. Superintendent Phelan thanked Facilities Director Steve Dorrance and Fire Chief David Frizzell as well as other departments who have helped get this work complete.

4.7 Community Path Update

A schedule is being worked out for the Community Path Liaison to School Committee to provide regular updates to the School Committee.

5. **OTHER BUSINESS**

5.1 Consent Agenda

Chenery Surplus Items for Disposal – Exhibit D (vote)

Tony DiCologero, Director of Business, Finance and Operations explained the process for disposing of surplus items. Once it is determined the items cannot be used or sold, the School Committee must vote on the disposal of the items. The items in question are from the Chenery Middle School.

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

VOTED unanimously to approve the disposal of the Chenery surplus items.

5.2 Personnel Items – None

5.3 Business Items – None

5.4 Approval of minutes

- December 4, 2018
- December 18, 2018

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

VOTED unanimously to approve the minutes of December 4, 2018.

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

VOTED unanimously to approve the minutes of December 18, 2018.

6. **FUTURE BUSINESS**

Upcoming Meetings:

January 15, 2019

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

January 22, 2019

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

January 29, 2019

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

7. **ENCLOSURES**

Strategic Plan

8. **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

At 8:14 p.m. on a roll call vote, the School Committee entered Executive Session for the purpose of discussing strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation given that a discussion in open session may have a detrimental impact on the School Committee's bargaining or litigation position.

Respectfully submitted by Andrea Prestwich
Andrea Prestwich, Secretary