

**BELMONT SCHOOL COMMITTEE FINANCE SUBCOMMITTEE MINUTES**  
**REMOTE MEETING**  
**NOVEMBER 5, 2020**

Present: Ms. Andrea Prestwich, Chair  
Ms. Catherine Bowen, Secretary  
Ms. Amy Checkoway  
Mr. Michael Crowley  
Ms. Tara Donner  
Ms. Evelyn Gomez  
Mr. John Phelan, Superintendent  
Ms. Janice Darias, Assistant Superintendent  
Mr. Anthony DiCologero, Director of Finance, Business and Operations  
Mr. Michael McAllister, Director of Human Capital

**1. Opening Business**

1.1 Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 a.m.

**2. FY22 Budget Discussion: Contingent and Non-contingent Scenarios**

The Finance Subcommittee members continued their discussion of the FY22 budget. The goal is to create a three-year set of positions related to costs along with addressing the academic work.

Tony DiCologero, Director of Finance, Business and Operations provided documents listing the positions. The goal is to meet the due date of November 23 to propose a draft FY22 budget contingent upon an override. This information will need to be shared with the community in January in order to receive feedback from them. It will then need to be finalized by February as part of the normal budget season. A side list of COVID related expenses is being kept in case needed and to keep the public informed. These positions would be seen as one-time costs. The budget being created to show a “no” vote on the override will be presented to the community in a Community Forum on December 3 and December 9. The goal of those meetings will be to present to the community what challenges and cuts of services the Town departments will be facing.

The School Committee discussed the potential costs of moving into the new building, that are not included in the Building Committee budget. Tony DiCologero noted there were dollar amounts for one-time moving expenses in the task force model. He will confirm those expenses.

Tony DiCologero shared the list of positions the district would like to fill for the next few years. Some additional positions the district would like to add are Special Education Chair, additional Unit D and B positions. A district-level Equity position is another addition for next year’s budget. The district would like to implement an audit this year to determine the functionality of that

position. There are four middle school and two high school positions included. The middle school positions will help the district move into the new configuration in 2024. Additional positions hoped for going forward are math specialists; team Chairs and an additional social worker.

As the district moves into FY24 there will be the need for four teams for grades 5, 7, and 8 with teaching positions to represent that. Chair Prestwich stated the need for a central office position related to community engagement. She suggested it should be addressed in the upcoming budget and be a full-time position.

School Committee members discussed the possibility of combining the community engagement position with the equity position if necessary. The committee discussed concerns about class size going forward. If the district is still dealing with COVID next year, it will need to bring back the Technology Integration Specialist. If we are in person, a .4 nurse will be important. The committee also agreed on the importance of discussing pros and cons of virtual school.

Superintendent Phelan reminded the School Committee of the joint meeting of the Warrant Committee, Select Board, and School Committee regarding FY22. The meeting will take place on November 23.

### **3. Adjourn**

*On a motion offered by Tara Donner and seconded by Amy Checkoway, the School Committee **VOTED** unanimously on a roll call vote to adjourn the meeting at 9:30 a.m.*

Respectfully Submitted by



Catherine Bowen, Secretary