

BELMONT SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES
EXECUTIVE SESSION Remote Meeting
October 13, 2020
Revised and voted May 18, 2021

Present: Ms. Andrea Prestwich, Chair
Ms. Kate 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 DiColohero, Director of Finance, Business and Operations
Mr. James Pender

CALL TO ORDER IN OPEN SESSION

5:30 pm

Vote to convene in Executive Session for the purpose of discussing contract negotiations given that a discussion in Open Session may have a detrimental impact on the School Committee's bargaining position.

5:35 pm

VOTE:

Andrea Prestwich – Y
Kate Bowen – Y
Amy Checkoway – Y
Michael Crowley – Y
Tara Donner – Y
Evelyn Gomez - Y

Hybrid Learning Models

Committee members conveyed their desire for more instruction time in the proposed High School model for both in-person and synchronous learning time.

The group also discussed transitioning between remote and hybrid learning and the metrics that would support those decisions. The BEA proposed and negotiated contract language on both of these issues. Michael McAllister noted that other school districts were doing hard bargaining on reopening issues in August and September 2020 and Belmont is now bargaining those issues but has the benefit of knowing issues that other school district found problematic in those earlier negotiations, including academic curriculum and coverage. John Phelan noted that academics need to be kept at the forefront and that the focus cannot be primarily on bargaining health & safety issues without ensuring academic needs are being addressed by the remote and hybrid models. Evelyn Gomez and Kate Bowen asked about the social-emotional needs of the students are addressed by the learning models to be bargained. Possible staffing issues in the learning models were discussed.

BEA- Other Unit Discussion (Non Unit A)

The School Committee team discussed percent of COLA and/or increase to base and the process for base and non-base building stipends.

The meeting adjourned.

6:30 pm