

BELMONT SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES
EXECUTIVE SESSION Remote Meeting
November 17, 2020
Revised and voted May 18, 2021

Present: Ms. Amy Checkoway
Mr. Michael Crowley
Mr. John Phelan, Superintendent
Ms. Janice Darias, Assistant Superintendent
Mr. Anthony DiCologero, Director of Finance, Business and Operations
Mr. James Pender

CALL TO ORDER IN OPEN SESSION 3:00 pm

Vote to convene in Executive Session by the School Committee's Reopening bargaining subcommittee 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.

Vote (by Reopening Bargaining Subcommittee: 3:02 pm
Amy Checkoway - Y
Michael Crowley - Y

Preliminary discussion among School Committee's team re: opening and health and safety matters to be addressed today when bargaining with the BEA.

Bargaining Session with BEA membership 3:35pm
Phil Katz (MTA rep), John Sullivan, Bethany Fitzsimmons, Colleen Cassidy, Denise LaPolla, Lisa Fagan, Lisa H. (Butler nurse), Marnie Wolfe, Meghan Gallagher, Ben DeLorio, Leon Dyer, Liz Baker, Sarah Pearson. Michael McAllister also joined the meeting.

Discussed the BHS Hybrid Schedule and the district's ability to hire Unit D staff as outlined in the proposed memorandum of agreement. John Phelan noted to BEA whether the hybrid schedule addressed all ELL student needs. Upon request of John Sullivan, Michael McAllister noted recent Unit D hires. The parties also discussed whether the hybrid schedule addresses the social/emotional needs of the students. Participation by quarantined students was discussed by the parties. Upon request by Phil Katz, John Phelan and Michael McAllister outlined, in general terms, accommodations made to certain teachers (unnamed to protect privacy) who had medical needs and increased vulnerability to COVID. Janice Darias explained modifications to educator evaluation system in light of the hybrid schedule.

Caucus by the parties: 4:40 pm

Returned to bargaining 4:55 pm

Jim Pender to the BEA –the school district reserves the right to make any future proposals

Items discussed were specific to our hybrid model options for the opening of school in the 2020/21 school year only.

Items discussed included Snow day, a focus group for lunch, prep and meetings, adding duties, teacher modalities and work location as detailed immediately below.

The BEA made the proposal to continue the use of snow days and not hold remote days. The rationale was that educators may not be able to bring home the necessary tech and materials with little or no notice and that children may benefit from a traditional snow day off the computer screen. The School Committee wanted some discretion to hold a remote day in these circumstances.

There was discussion on the length and amount of prep time and meeting time needed for educators during the day. The BEA noted that the instructional models were new and evolving and educators felt the added time would benefit the instruction. The School Committee discussed the need to maintain or increase instructional time with students wherever possible.

The BEA raised issue of focus groups and ensuring there was sufficient time for that work.

Leon Dyer and Bethany Fitzsimmons outlined additional health & safety provisions sought by the BEA.

The meeting adjourned.

9:56 pm