

# BELMONT SCHOOL COMMITTEE FINANCE SUBCOMMITTEE MINUTES

## REMOTE MEETING

### March 30, 2021

Present: Ms. Andrea Prestwich, Chair  
Ms. Catherine Bowen, Secretary  
Ms. Amy Checkoway  
Mr. Michael Crowley  
Ms. Evelyn Gomez  
Mr. John Phelan, Superintendent  
Mr. Anthony DiCologero, Director of Finance, Business and Operations

Absent: Ms. Tara Donner

#### 1. Opening Business

Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 8:03 a.m. as subcommittee, and 8:13 am as a School Committee.

The Warrant Committee Education Subcommittee – Anne Helgen, *Geoff Lubien, Liz Goss, Jack Weis, and Paul Rickter- joined the School Committee Finance Subcommittee meeting.*

#### 2. FY22 Budget Planning and Preparation

Superintendent Phelan presented an outline of the budget work going forward, which will focus on four main prioritizations: increased enrollment and class size; equity, access and SEL; district configuration and visioning work; and increased mandated services. The technical assumption is the school general fund budget for FY22 is \$68,275,558 and that Federal grants are level funded. There are many unknown variables that may affect the budget such as the override vote with potential reduction of \$2.07M, further increase in enrollment, COVID related impacts.

Known COVID impacts are hosting a summer recovery academy and a virtual school option, needed academic tools, and PPE. The district will evaluate and assess how the past COVID experience will influence teaching and learning going forward, focusing on the status of students to prepare for social and emotional learning work.

A “no” vote on the override will mean a budget reduction of \$2.07M. The approach will be to look at the impact of priority based budget vs. retaining all existing staff with an eye to preserve 4 prioritized areas mentioned previously. While the district would like to keep the ten existing educator positions, it would focus on keeping Technology Integration Specialists, SPED elementary chairs and the district equity position.

Committee members discussed fees, the desire to have a thorough understanding of how they are serving students uniquely in extra-curriculars, recognizing that fees are relatively high and have not gone up in several years. Members discussed a desire to protect the core curriculum and using other possible consolidations to keep teaching positions, as well as evaluate closely the needs and costs in administrative positions. Also noted was the future cost impact of a mandated remote school.

**3. COVID Parking Lot Update**

The administration will begin reviewing the list of needed materials in the “parking lot” list.

**4. Spring Athletic Fee Update**

Fee structure for spring proposed to be similar to fall, winter, fall2 (reduced fee). Spring season begins after April break. The 4<sup>th</sup> sport fees will be similar to other seasons. Member Bowen asked that the administration look to include the athletic options at Chenery, particularly those that are low cost and Covid-friendly, such as Cross-country.

**5. Approval School Committee and Finance Subcommittee Minutes**

- School Committee Meeting Minutes – February 23, 2021
- School Committee Meeting Minutes - March 9, 2021
- School Committee Meeting Minutes – March 26, 2021
- Finance Subcommittee Meeting Minutes – February 23, 2021
- Finance Subcommittee Meeting Minutes – March 23, 2021

The School Committee deferred the vote of School Committee Meeting Minutes of February 23 and March 9 and Finance Subcommittee Meeting Minutes of February 23 and March 23 to a future meeting.

**On a motion offered by Amy Checkoway and seconded by Mike Crowley, the School Committee approved the minutes of the March 26, 2021, School Committee meeting by a vote of (5-0-1)**

**6. Adjourn**

The Finance Subcommittee adjourned at 9:04 am

**On a motion offered by Mike Crowley and seconded by Kate Bowen, the School Committee unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting at 9:04 am.**

  
Catherine Bowen, Secretary

Respectfully Submitted by: