

**BELMONT SCHOOL COMMITTEE FINANCE SUBCOMMITTEE JOINT
MEETING WITH SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES**

**REMOTE MEETING
September 14, 2021**

**RECEIVED
TOWN CLERK
BELMONT, MA**

DATE: November 3, 2021
TIME: 2:48 PM

Present: Ms. Amy Checkoway, Chair
Mr. Michael Crowley, FSC Chair
Mr. Jamal Saeh
Ms. Kate Bowen
Mr. John Phelan, Superintendent
Mr. Anthony DiCologero, Director of Finance, Business and Operations

1. Call to Order 8:02 am by Mike, FSC
2. FY22 Planning and Reporting

LABBB is requesting a change to the capital allocation of \$900,000. This increases capital support but does not change Belmont's contribution.

Superintendent Phelan reviewed uses of federal Covid funds. Among the positions supported are 2 nurses, 1 social worker for the high school, 1 social worker for the middle school, and 4 METCO paraprofessionals. The district added lunch hours to keep student numbers down, which requires additional lunch aides. The district is also reporting some operating shifts to include adding a 0.4 math specialist to support the Chenery Middle School accelerated math program and a 1.0 SPED teacher position for the high school. There was also discussion of Covid mitigations and tent rentals, including whether the district should purchase tents instead of renting or leasing. The district also received an unexpected \$200,000 additional federal funds for support of SPED, an ARP IDEA grant.

Resident Lisa Pargoli asked a question about Recovery Act funding and remote learning.

3. Fee Discussion

The Superintendent discussed the proposal to not charge gate fees on West Harris Field for the fall. This could cause a reduction to the revolving fund of about \$50,000. However, the alternative is to spend funds on temporary fencing before the site is redeveloped, which also would be wasteful. The plan is for the School Committee to take a vote on the proposal at its next full committee meeting.

Discussion continued about how the district charges for use of facilities, including whether it distinguishes between non-profits, whether an organization primarily serves Belmont students, etc. The practice has been to not charge other town departments, including the Recreation

department, for use of facilities as these departments are serving Belmont residents and taxpayers. The Superintendent indicated that the Lexington Chinese School, which serves some Belmont families in addition to other families, will use the Chenery Middle School for the next two years, and then it will need to be determined which facility they might have access to. The pool comes online in October and there was discussion about what the district charges for use of the pool. In thinking about facilities rentals, the Superintendent said that the district always thinks of Belmont students as being first in line, and we need to consider how organizations are serving students and the town as we think about pricing.

4. Meeting schedule

The FSC will generally meet every other Tuesday morning at 8am on the Tuesdays that the School Committee does not meet.

5. The meeting adjourned at 9:30am.

Respectfully Submitted by:


Michael F. Crowley