

BELMONT SCHOOL COMMITTEE - COMMUNITY SAFETY FORUM

REMOTE MEETING

MAY 31, 2022

**RECEIVED
TOWN CLERK
BELMONT, MA**

DATE: June 8, 2022
TIME: 3:23 PM

Present: Ms. Meghan Moriarty, Chair
Mr. Michael Crowley
Mr. Jeffrey Liberty
Mr. Jamal Saeh
Mr. John Phelan, Superintendent
Ms. Janice Darias, Assistant Superintendent

Absent: Ms. Amy Checkoway, Secretary
Ms. Kate Bowen

Call to Order at 6:01 PM by Chair Moriarty

The Chair welcomed Chief Maclsaac, Chief DeStefano, Director of Facilities Dave Blazon and Select Board Member Dash and thanked everyone for attending the forum and for their investment in keeping Belmont Public Schools students and staff safe. In the last three weeks, unsettling, scary, and senseless acts have occurred in schools, on both a local and national level. One of the goals of hosting this forum is to provide information on BPS Emergency Response plans. Chair Moriarty read the SC Policy 1025 Emergency Response and acknowledged that while the last 3 weeks have heightened concerns, work has been going on in the district for years, every day. She let the public know that after a brief presentation by the Supt she would turn to the second reason for hosting this forum - to hear questions and comments from the public before ending at 8 PM.

Superintendent Phelan gave a brief presentation titled "Safety in Schools." He called attention to the BPS Emergency Response Manual, which is updated regularly and provided to all teachers and staff. The Manual has procedures for responding to numerous types of emergencies including lockdowns, bomb threats, and suicide threats as well as many others. He noted that Administrators from each building have been meeting over the last week to review safety protocols. Additionally, he has met with Police, Fire, Facilities, SB and SC Chairs and Town Administrator Garvin to discuss facilities needs and review trainings. The Supt ended his presentation by stressing that the mental health of our students and adults in our community is a concern and while the one time federal funds have helped provide additional social workers this year, those funds are temporary but the work will need to continue because good mental health is the first line of preventing many of these emergencies.

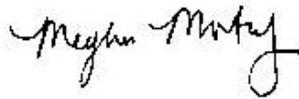
Chair Moriarty then took questions and comments from the public and from SC members. Community members inquired about SROs for the Chenery, emergency access to school buildings, social worker caseloads, technology safety measures in newer schools, and monitoring/responding to social media threats. A member of the Belmont Day School requested that they begin to align their policies with

those of BPS and Belmont Police/Fire. Two parents expressed disappointment in the lag between incidents and communications from the School Department to families. They urged the School Department to do better. School Committee member Jeff Liberty asked whether a “no trespass” order had been delivered to the individual who entered the Chenery and took photos, which appeared on social media. The Superintendent will check and get back to Jeff with an answer.

Seeing no additional questions or comments, Chair Moriarty thanked everyone for their participation.

Adjourned at 7:45 PM

Respectfully Submitted by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Meghan Moriarty". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial 'M'.