

**BELMONT SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES  
CHENERY MIDDLE SCHOOL COMMUNITY ROOM  
APRIL 26, 2016**

Present: Dr. Lisa Fiore, Chair  
Ms. Susan Burgess-Cox, Secretary  
Mr. Murat Bicer  
Mr. Thomas Caputo  
Ms. Andrea Prestwich  
Ms. Elyse Shuster  
Mr. John Phelan, Superintendent  
Ms. Janice Darias, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction  
Mr. Anthony DiCologero, Director of Finance, Business, and Operations

1. **OPENING BUSINESS**

1.1 Call to order

Dr. Fiore called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

1.2 Pledge of Allegiance

Dr. Fiore led the Pledge of Allegiance.

1.3 Citizens' Concerns

There were no citizens' concerns.

1.4 Adjustments to the Agenda

Dr. Fiore suggested switching the order of the following agenda items:

- 3.1 Curriculum Report Out – Exhibit B-1 & B-1
- 3.2 FY16 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Update – Exhibit C
- 3.3 Budget Hearing – Exhibit A
- 3.4 FY17 Budget Vote
- 3.5 Vote on Last Day of School

## 1.5 Chair's Report

Dr. Fiore updated the School Committee on the following upcoming events:

- Foundation for Belmont Education Outstanding Teacher Award Ceremony on April 27

The following teachers were selected for this honor:

Martha Bloom – BHS English Teacher  
Kathleen Calhoun – Winn Brook Grade 2 Teacher  
Justin Chiu – Butler Grade 4 Teacher  
Michelle Connors – Chenery Grade 8 English Teacher  
Cheryl Lyons – Wellington Grade 1 Teacher  
Lisa O'Sullivan – Burbank Grade 3 Teacher  
Sharon Phipps – Multi-School Music Teacher

- Belmont Special Education Parent Advisory Council (SEPAC) Appreciation Award on May 18 at 6:30 pm. – Butler School
- State of LABBB with Director Patrick Barbieri and Program Director, Donna Goodall – April 27 at 6:30 – Winn Brook School
- Stress and Teens – April 27 at 7:00 p.m. – BHS Little Theater
- Belmont Boosters Benefit Basketball Game on May 16 – BHS Fieldhouse

## 1.6 Student Representative Report

There was no Student Representative in attendance.

## 1.7 Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Phelan announced Butler Principal Michael McAllister has been chosen as the new Chenery Middle School Principal. He offered congratulations to Principal McAllister and stated he was chosen from three very qualified candidates including Mr. John Muldoon, Assistant Principal at Belmont High School. He stated the position of Chenery Assistant Principal as well as Butler Principal has been posted.

Superintendent Phelan congratulated students who traveled to China and Spain over school vacation. He noted the interesting sites students had visited and thanked the adults who accompanied them.

Superintendent Phelan reminded the School Committee tomorrow, April 27 is the second meeting of the Belmont High School Building Committee.

2. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

2.1 No unfinished business.

3. **MAJOR BUSINESS**

3.1 Curriculum Report Out – Exhibit B-1 & B-2

Grade 5 Report Card

Ms. Darias introduced Deborah McDevitt, Director of Social Studies and Kristen St. George, Chenery Principal. Ms. McDevitt and Ms. St. George explained the proposal for the new grade 5 report card. The goal is to modify the current report card so that it defines student progress and is aligned with current elementary and 6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grade report cards.

Ms. McDevitt and Ms. St. George explained the process taken to come to a decision on the new format for the report card. The 4<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade report cards were reviewed through Professional Learning Teams and criteria was established for measuring student progress. The new report card was then drafted. Ms. McDevitt and Ms. St. George provided examples of the new report card for the School Committee and they will be presenting the information through PTO meetings, parent meetings and email to keep parents aware of the updates. The report card will be presented as a pilot for the 2016-2017 school year; feedback will be collected and adjustment will be made as needed for the 2017-2018 school year.

Grade 5 Health

Ms. Elizabeth Baker, Director of Science presented a proposal for a change in the grade 5 health curriculum. The proposal moves the puberty teaching from grade 6 to grade 5. Ms. Baker explained during the 2013-2014 school year, members of a Professional Learning Team collaborated to bring the puberty teaching to grade 5 as a stand-alone lesson. They had found during their research that surrounding school districts already teach about puberty in grade 5. They also found medical research that indicates ages 9-10 as the most developmentally appropriate age to learn about puberty. Nursing funds were used to purchase a curriculum title, “the Great Puberty Workshop” which was created by health educators and physicians. The curriculum will be taught separately to boys and girls.

Superintendent Phelan explained that since this involves a change in curriculum, the School Committee is required to vote on it.

On a motion offered by Ms. Shuster and seconded by Mr. Bicer, it was

**VOTED** unanimously to approve the change in the grade 5 health curriculum to move the study of puberty from grade 6 to grade 5.

3.2 FY16 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Budget Update – Exhibit C

Anthony DiCologero, Director of Finance, Business and Operations updated the School Committee on the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter budget. He explained this is information as of March 31, 2016. He is projecting a year end negative balance of close to \$25,000. He explained this number is based on how the year is tracking so far but he hopes to have it down to 0 by the end of the year. Mr. DiCologero

stated he projects a positive balance in salaries due to turnover at the end of the school year. In the non-salary area he projects a deficit due to the Special Education tuition accounts.

Superintendent Phelan thanked the Town for the override which has helped counter the budget deficit.

### 3.3 Budget Hearing – Exhibit A

Superintendent Phelan thanked members of the Finance Subcommittee for their work on the budget. He explained the budget presentation this evening is in draft form which will allow subtle changes to be made before being presented to Town Meeting in June. He explained there is an increase of \$2,995,930 from FY16 to FY17. The total budget for FY17 is \$52,656,000. The updated FY17 School Department budget is \$50,126,583. The total of \$52,656,000 is before the reallocation of \$2.5 million of School Department facilities lines to the Town Facilities Department budget in FY17.

Superintendent Phelan explained the FY17 budget was guided by the School District's Strategic Plan and a zero-based budgeting process was implemented for all principals and directors for salary and non-salary lines. He went on to explain the district identified two areas of mandated student needs which will require addition positions: 1.0 Special Education teacher and 1.0 English Language Learner teacher. The budget also includes the per diem cost for summer days worked by school year staff in Guidance and Nursing as well as stipends to support Special Education administration and social-emotional student needs.

### 3.4 FY17 Budget Vote

On a motion offered by Mr. Caputo and seconded by Ms. Burgess-Cox, it was

**VOTED** unanimously to approve the FY17 School Department Budget.

### 3.5 Vote on Last Day of School

Superintendent Phelan explained that each year the School Committee is required to officially vote on the last day of school. He stated since there was only one snow day this year, he was asking the School Committee to vote June 16, 2016 as the last day of school.

On a motion offered by Ms. Shuster and seconded by Ms. Burgess-Cox, it was

**VOTED** unanimously to approve June 16, 2016 as the last day of school for the 2016-2017 school year.

## 4. SUBCOMMITTEE/LIAISON UPDATES (as needed)

### 4.1 Finance Subcommittee

The Finance Subcommittee has had ongoing discussions related to the Special Education Stabilization Fund and support for unallocated funds. On May 4<sup>th</sup> Town Meeting will entertain allocations of \$1.4 million for modular units at the Chenery Middle School. The will also be asked to

vote \$1.7 million to hire a project manager and architectural firm to begin the feasibility study for the Belmont High School building project.

#### 4.2 Policy Subcommittee

There was no report from the Policy Subcommittee.

#### 4.3 Curriculum & Instruction Subcommittee

There was no report from the Curriculum & Instruction Subcommittee.

#### 4.4 Capital Budget Committee

The Capital Budget Committee met two weeks ago to do a straw poll of capital projects. The Committee is in the process of considering funding for sidewalk repairs on Maple Terrace and classroom furniture for the high school and Burbank Schools. They also agreed to possibly fund a new boiler at the Winn Brook School and some security upgrades.

#### 4.5 Warrant Committee

The Warrant Committee met on April 13<sup>th</sup> and discussed Special Town Meeting Articles regarding funding for the Belmont High School Building Committee and the Chenery modulars. The Committee voted to recommend favorable action on both. They will meet again tomorrow, April 27<sup>th</sup> to discuss funding for the Minuteman Building Project.

#### 4.6 Wellington Building Committee

The Wellington Building Committee has almost completed the final tasks of tying up funding and getting final reimbursements from the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA).

#### 4.7 Financial Task Force

There was no report from the Financial Task Force

#### 4.8 Community Path Update

There was no report from the Community Path Committee.

#### 4.9 Library Long Range Planning Committee

There was no report from the Library Long Range Planning Committee.

#### 4.10 Belmont High School Building Committee

There was no report from the Belmont High School Building Committee.

5. **OTHER BUSINESS**

- 5.1 Consent Agenda
- 5.2 Personnel Items
- 5.3 Business Items
- 5.4 Approval of Minutes

April 12, 2016

Ms. Shuster suggested adding information related to the assignment of subcommittees to the April 12 minutes stating it had been discussed at the meeting.

On a motion offered by Ms. Shuster and seconded by Mr. Caputo, it was

**VOTED** unanimously to approve the minutes of April 12, 2016 as amended.

6. **FUTURE BUSINESS**

Upcoming Meetings

May 2, 2016  
School Committee Meeting  
BHS – room 101

May 10, 2016  
Finance Subcommittee Meeting  
SAB Conference Room – 7:30 a.m.

May 10, 2016  
School Committee Meeting  
CMS Large Community Room – 7:00 p.m.

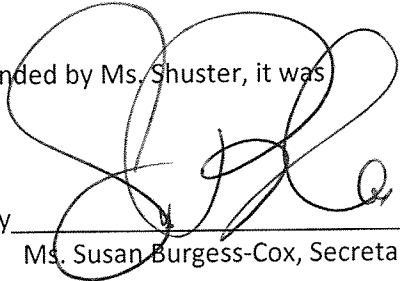
7. **ENCLOSURES**

Strategic Plan

8. **ADJOURNMENT**

At 8:30 p.m. on a motion offered by Mr. Caputo and seconded by Ms. Shuster, it was

**VOTED** unanimously to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted by   
Ms. Susan Burgess-Cox, Secretary