

**BELMONT SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES
CHENERY MIDDLE SCHOOL COMMUNITY ROOM
MARCH 8, 2016**

Present: Ms. Laurie Slap, Chair
Dr. Lisa Fiore, Secretary
Mr. Thomas Caputo
Ms. Susan Burgess-Cox
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. **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

1.1 At 6:30 p.m. the School Committee entered Executive Session for the purpose of discussing strategy with respect to contract negotiations given that a discussion in Open Session may have a detrimental impact on the School Committee's bargaining position. Ms. Slap stated the School Committee would return to Open Session at the conclusion of Executive Session.

2. **OPENING BUSINESS**

2.1 Call to order

Ms. Slap called the meeting to order at 7:08 p.m. She explained the School Committee had met previously in Executive Session.

2.2 Pledge of Allegiance

Ms. Slap led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2.3 Citizens' Concerns

There were no citizens' concerns.

2.4 Adjustments to the Agenda

There were no adjustments to the agenda.

2.5 Chair's Report

Ms. Slap thanked Superintendent Phelan for his monthly newsletter keeping everyone up to date on events in the schools. She reminded the Committee of the many music performances taking place this time of year as well as the Coffeehouse at Belmont High School and Wellington Carnival.

Ms. Slap stated there are still a few tickets left for the Foundation for Belmont Education (FBE) Spring Dinner on March 19. She thanked the FBE for their support, stating they have gifted over 3 million dollars over the years.

2.6 Student Representative Report

There was no student representative in attendance.

2.7 Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Phelan congratulated Belmont athletes on a great season, noting that boys basketball, wrestling, and track all made post season play.

Superintendent Phelan announced the resignation of Chenery Principal Kristen St. George and Chenery Assistant Principal Daniel Coplon-Newfield, who will both be leaving at the end of this school year. He stated they were both valuable employees and wished them well. Superintendent Phelan acknowledged this is a big transition for parents and students and stated he will keep everyone informed regarding the search process.

Superintendent Phelan congratulated students who took part in last week's Science Olympiad in Worcester. He explained the event covered 23 events in all fields of science and engineering and over 40 students competed in the 20 school competition.

Superintendent Phelan reminded everyone that Summer Enrichment registration has begun. The classes are held at Chenery Middle School for grades 1 – 6.

3. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

4. MAJOR BUSINESS

4.1 Vote on School Choice

Ms. Slap explained the School Committee is required to vote each year on whether Belmont Public Schools will offer School Choice. Belmont has not participated in the program for several years.

On a motion offered by Ms. Burgess-Cox and seconded by Mr. Caputo, and in accord with MGL Chapter 76, Section 128, Belmont Public Schools

VOTED unanimously to decline participation in School Choice for the 2016-2017 school year.

4.2 School Calendar Presentation – Exhibit A

Superintendent Phelan provided an overview of the calendar survey that was taken by parents and teachers. He explained the survey was created by a Calendar Group made up of the following teachers and administrators: Janice Darias, Assistant Superintendent; Ben Delorio, Math Teacher and BEA Representative; Lindi Delorio, ELL Teacher; Leon Dyer, Tech Ed Teacher; Cliff Gallant, Grade 4 Teacher; Robin Morrison, Grade 2 Teacher; Mary Pederson, Human Resources Director; John Phelan, Superintendent. The group studied different options for the 2016-2017 school calendar related to religious holidays. They created the survey in order to receive feedback from teachers and parents. In addition, the survey allowed people to offer information on whether they preferred the school year to begin before or after Labor Day. Superintendent Phelan noted 1836 responses were received indicating people are very interested in this topic.

Ms. Slap invited members of the audience to ask questions and provide comments and the School Committee had some discussion on the survey. Ms. Slap stated the School Committee would vote on the calendar at the March 22nd meeting.

5. SUBCOMMITTEE/LIAISON UPDATES (as needed)

5.1 Finance Subcommittee

The Finance Subcommittee met earlier in the day and discussed the FY17 budget. They were joined by members of the Warrant Committee Education Subcommittee. They spent some time discussing the Special Education budget as well as the Special Education Stabilization Fund and whether or not it should be re-created.

5.2 Policy and Procedure Subcommittee

The Policy and Procedure Subcommittee has not met recently. Ms. Burgess-Cox stated they will discuss how to move forward with committee work.

5.3 Curriculum and Instruction Subcommittee

The Curriculum and Instruction Subcommittee will meet in April to discuss curriculum changes for grade 5.

5.4 Capital Budget Committee

The Capital Budget Committee will meet on Thursday, 3/10/16.

5.5 Warrant Committee

The Warrant Committee met on Wednesday and discussed CPA projects.

5.6 Wellington Building Committee

The Wellington Building Committee met last week. They are in the final stages of paying remaining bills, which should be completed within the next month.

5.7 Financial Task Force

There was no report from the Financial Task Force.

5.8 Community Path Update

There was no report on the Community Path.

5.9 Library Long Range Planning Committee

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

6. **OTHER BUSINESS**

6.1 Consent Agenda - none

6.2 Personnel Items - none

6.3 Business Items – None

6.4 Approval of Minutes

- o February 2, 2016

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

VOTED 4-0-1 to approve the minutes of February 2, 2016 as amended. There was one abstention.

- o February 23, 2016

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

VOTED 4-0-1 to approve the minutes of February 23, 2016 as amended. There was one abstention.

7. **FUTURE BUSINESS**

Upcoming Meetings:

March 15, 2016
Finance Subcommittee Meeting
SAB Conference Room – 7:30 a.m.

March 22, 2016
Finance Subcommittee Meeting
SAB Conference Room – 7:30 a.m.

March 22, 2016
School Committee Meeting
CMS Large Community Room – 7:00 p.m.

March 29, 2016
Finance Subcommittee Meeting
SAB Conference Room – 7:30 a.m.

8. **ENCLOSURES**

- Strategic Plan
- March 1, 2016 Enrollment
- March 1, 2016 Enrollment indicating changes

9. **ADJOURNMENT**

At 8:32 p.m. on a motion offered by Mr. Caputo and seconded by Ms. Burgess-Cox, it was

VOTED unanimously to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted by



Dr. Lisa Fiore, Secretary