

**BELMONT SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES
CHENERY MIDDLE SCHOOL COMMUNITY ROOM
JUNE 7, 2016**

Present: Dr. Lisa Fiore, Chair
 Ms. Susan Burgess-Cox, Secretary
 Mr. Thomas Caputo
 Ms. Andrea Prestwich
 Ms. Elyse Shuster
 Mr. John Phelan, Superintendent
 Ms. Janice Darias, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction

Absent: Mr. Anthony DiCologero, Director of Finance, Business, and Operations
 Mr. Murat Bicer

 Ms. Prestwich left the meeting at 8:50 p.m.

Also in attendance: Ms. Mary Pederson, Director of Human Resources

Mary Pederson, Director of Human Resources, welcomed everyone to the recognition ceremony honoring the staff members who are retiring at the end of the school year.

School Committee members read resolutions for the following retirees:

- Kathy Hogan, Grade 1 Teacher at the Burbank Elementary School
- Suzanne Lijek, Biology Teacher at Belmont High School
- Cheryl Lyons, Grade 1 Teacher at the Wellington Elementary School
- Connie Page, Nurse at the Butler Elementary School

1. **OPENING BUSINESS**

1.1 Call to order

Dr. Fiore called the meeting to order at 7:00 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 the following adjustment to the agenda: moving the discussion and vote on the School Committee policies (3.4) to the second item on the agenda (3.2)

1.5 Chair's Report

Dr. Fiore updated the School Committee on the following:

The Foundation for Belmont Education STAR Awards Program is underway
The Chenery Middle School Washington D.C. Trip – Dr. Fiore thanked everyone who works to coordinate this trip each year particularly Leon Dyer and Daniel Coplon-Newfield.

1.6 Student Representative Report

There was no student representative in attendance.

1.7 Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Phelan thanked the Belmont High School String Quartet for their performance during the retiree reception. He congratulated the retirees and wished them well.

Superintendent Phelan announced that the School Administration and School Committee will be presenting the School Department FY17 budget tomorrow night at Town Meeting. Superintendent Phelan thanked everyone involved in making Sunday's graduation ceremony a success. In particular, the members of the Facilities Department and Kelly Brothers Landscaping who worked to prepare the space inside and outside the high school.

Superintendent Phelan congratulated the many students who received academic and athletic awards at the recent Belmont High School Award Ceremony.

Superintendent Phelan announced that the Wellington Garden Party will take place on June 13, 2016. He updated the School Committee on the work to resolve the reimbursement issue surrounding the complications with the Ferry Beach Trip. Families will receive reimbursements and he will communicate how that will take place.

Superintendent Phelan announced the last day of school would be June 16th.

2. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

3. **MAJOR BUSINESS**

3.1 Medicaid Reimbursement – Exhibit B

Mary Conant-Cantor, Director of Nursing provided an overview of the Medicaid Reimbursement Program. She explained school districts can receive Medicaid reimbursement for health related services that are provided to special education students. Belmont has partnered with UMass Medical School's School Based Medicaid Program in order to begin receiving Medicaid reimbursement for services such as physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech and language, nursing and autism related services that are being provided to Belmont special education students. Ms. Conant-Cantor explained that in FY2015, there were 330 school districts in Massachusetts participating in this program. She stated billing for eligible direct services will begin in FY2017.

3.2 School Committee Policies Vote – Exhibits E-1, E-2, E-3, E-4

The School Committee was joined by Mary Pederson, Director of Human Resources and Ben DeLorio, teacher and member of the Calendar Work Group. They continued the discussion from the May 24th meeting on revisions to the School Committee Policies 6011 (Recognition of Religious and Cultural Beliefs and Customs) and 6014 (Homework). The Committee also discussed the addition of a new policy on Advertising and Sponsorship. Ms. Prestwich submitted proposed new language to be included in Policy 6014. The School Committee discussed the proposed language along with Ms. Pederson and Mr. DeLorio and members offered suggestions and concerns. Superintendent Phelan presented a timeline on communication to parents and staff regarding the updated policies.

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

VOTED 4-0-1 to approve amendments to School Committee Policies 6011 and 6014.

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

VOTED 5-0-0 to approve amendments to Policy 1023.

3.3 EDCO Collaborative Articles of Agreement Vote – Exhibit C

The EDCO Collaborative Articles of Agreement were presented at a previous meeting so the School Committee would have time to review the documents before the vote tonight.

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

VOTED 5-0-0 to approve the EDCO Collaborative Articles of Agreement

3.4 Superintendent's Evaluation Presentation – Exhibit D

Superintendent Phelan explained the year end summative evaluation document he prepared for the School Committee. He explained that this report provides information on the progress made over the year toward the Superintendent Goals which were set in August 2015 and an assessment of the work conducted during the 2015-2016 school year. Section One relates to the Superintendent' Goals Summary.

Superintendent Phelan presented an overview of the following three goals:

Goal 1: Effective Strategic Planning

Goal 2: Student Learning Goal

Goal 3: New Superintendent Induction Program (year 2)

He also provided a summary on the following Superintendent's Rubrics:

Standard 1: Instructional Leadership

Superintendent Phelan expanded the Learning Walks during the year. These walks allow him to observe teaching and learning and talk with principals about assessment, quality teaching strategies, curriculum work and student engagement. He also provided an update on the work of the Achievement Gap Task Force which was created this year to explore instructional practices. Superintendent Phelan also discussed the work of the Social Emotional Learning Team.

Standard 2: Management and Operations

Superintendent Phelan explained the operational work addressed by the strategic plan such as the need to expand the diversity of the staff, and developing a fiscal management plan for procuring texts, materials and supplies for staff.

Standard 3: Family and Community Engagement

Superintendent Phelan discussed ways he communicates with families such as attending and speaking at PTO/PTA meetings, newsletters and blogs as well as reaching out through email and individual meetings. He has also made an effort to keep School Committee informed with weekly updates throughout the year.

Standard 4: Professional Culture

Superintendent Phelan explained the importance of the Leadership Council and the work they do. He discussed the work with the Leadership Council to allow everyone to agree on priorities for the district.

Superintendent Phelan provided the School Committee with an appendix which included documents related to his summative evaluation. Dr. Fiore suggested that School Committee members send their comments to her and she would compile a list for the next School Committee meeting where the Superintendent's evaluation would be discussed again.

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

4.1 Finance Subcommittee

The Finance Subcommittee met earlier in the day and discussed the articles for Town Meeting. Article 11 deals with the transfer of \$150,000 to the General Stabilization Fund and Article 19 deals with

a request to transfer \$1,100,000 from free cash to the General Stabilization Fund. Mr. Caputo recommended that the School Committee vote to recommend favorable action on both articles.

On a motion offered by Mr. Caputo and seconded by Dr. Fiore, it was

VOTED 4-0-0 to recommend favorable action on Article 11

On a motion offered by Mr. Caputo and seconded by Dr. Fiore, it was

VOTED 4-0-0 to recommend favorable action on Article 19.

4.2 Policy and Procedure Subcommittee

There was no report from the Policy and Procedure Subcommittee since updated policies were discussed under major business.

4.3 Curriculum and Instruction Subcommittee

The Curriculum and Instruction Subcommittee will meet on June 15, 2016.

4.4 Capital Budget Committee

The Capital Budget Committee will meet on June 8, 2016 to discuss Special Town Meeting Articles.

4.5 Warrant Committee

The Warrant Committee met prior to Town Meeting on June 6, 2016 to discuss amendments to Town Meeting Articles.

4.6 Financial Task Force

No report from the Financial Task Force.

4.7 Community Path Update

No report from the Community Path Committee.

4.8 Library Long Range Planning Committee

No report from the Library Long Range Planning Committee.

4.9 Belmont High School Building Committee

Superintendent Phelan, David Kale, Town Administrator, and Bill Lovallo, Belmont High School Building Committee Chair, were chosen to attend a meeting with the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) to discuss enrollment projections for the Town of Belmont. Superintendent Phelan expects to have the initial enrollment summary from an outside firm before that meeting.

5. **OTHER BUSINESS**

5.1 Consent Agenda - none

5.2 Personnel Items - none

5.3 Business Items – None

5.4 Approval of Minutes

- o May 24, 2016

On a motion offered by Ms. Shuster and seconded by Dr. Fiore, it was

VOTED 4-0-0 to approve the minutes of May 24, 2016.

6. **FUTURE BUSINESS**

Upcoming Meetings:

June 15, 2016

Curriculum and Instruction Subcommittee Meeting

Mezzanine Classroom – BHS – 3:15 p.m.

June 21, 2016

Finance Subcommittee Meeting

SAB Conference Room – 7:30 a.m.

June 21, 2016

School Committee Meeting:

CMS Large Community Room – 7:00 p.m.

7. **ENCLOSURES**

June 1, 2016 Enrollment

June 1, 2016 Enrollment indicating changes

Upcoming Events

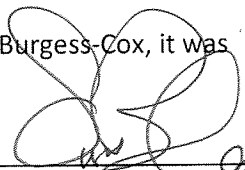
Strategic Plan

8. **ADJOURNMENT**

At 9:15 p.m. on a motion offered by Mr. Caputo and seconded by Ms. Burgess-Cox, it was

VOTED 4-0-0 to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted by


Susan Burgess-Cox, Secretary