

**BELMONT SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES
CHENERY MIDDLE SCHOOL COMMUNITY ROOM
MAY 24, 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 7:00 p.m.

1.2 Pledge of Allegiance

Dr. Fiore led the Pledge of Allegiance.

1.3 Citizens' Concerns

Dr. David Alper expressed concerns about Policy 6011 which relates to students not receiving homework during religious holidays. He stated the policy has not been enforced in the past and has concerns about students feeling the need to choose between observing their religious holiday with family or keeping up with school work.

1.4 Adjustments to the Agenda

There were no adjustments to the agenda.

1.5 Chair's Report

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

- Belmont Public Schools Student Art Exhibit – May 19th – June 2nd at the Homer Gallery
- Chenery Middle School Courtyard Celebration on May 31st from 5:00 pm – 6:30 pm
- FBE Star Awards to honor a teacher or staff member.

1.6 Student Representative Report

Rachel Jansen and Walker Thomas updated the School Committee on recent events at Belmont High School such as Wear Your College Apparel to School Day and Kisses for Seniors which is a fundraiser where students can buy Hershey Kisses for seniors and the proceeds go to a girls school in Africa.

The prom was May 20th at the Hyatt Regency in Boston and was a great success. The annual Pops Concert was held recently where the entire music department performs and was a fantastic experience.

1.7 Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Phelan noted the School Committee had just come from the President's Service Award Ceremony. This ceremony honors senior students who have each completed 100 hours or more of community service. Twenty seniors were honored with a total of 3000 community service hours performed just this year. Superintendent Phelan also noted the success of the prom and the wonderful garden party at Burbank. He updated the School Committee on the recent 12th Annual Special Education Parent Advisory Council (SEPAC) Awards where over 40 staff members were recognized and thanked Mary Jo Peterman and SEPAC for hosting the event. Superintendent Phelan congratulated the Lillian Blacker Award recipients.

Superintendent Phelan updated the School Committee on the Butler Principal search stating a team has been organized and the first round of interviews took place earlier today. He also announced the creation of a search team for the Chenery Assistant Principal position.

Superintendent Phelan updated the School Committee on the recent Ferry Beach field trip. A trip had been in place allowing grade 5 students to spend several days at the Ferry Beach Environmental Camp, a trip that has taken place each year for the past fifteen years. Chenery administrators learned last week that there were concerns related to occupancy and were asked to divide the group into two in order to meet the occupancy requirements. The first group of students left on Monday. Kristen St. George, Chenery Principal was notified upon their arrival that an occupancy disagreement with the landlord had not been worked out and the decision was made to bring the students home the same day. Superintendent Phelan thanked the parents for their patience as well as Principal St. George and Assistant Principal Hartunian for their excellent work in getting students home safely. He explained an email had been sent to parents explaining the students would be coming home and an additional email was sent later with more information.

2. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

3. **MAJOR BUSINESS**

3.1 Unit D Evaluation MOA Vote – **Exhibit A**

Dr. Fiore explained the School Committee had met in Executive Session at a previous meeting to discuss the Unit D Evaluation Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) and now they would need to formally take a vote to accept the agreement.

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

VOTED unanimously to approve the Unit D Evaluation MOA.

Superintendent Phelan recommended the School Committee vote separately on each of the trips which they had reviewed at the May 10th meeting.

3.2 School Trips Vote:

Trip to Quebec – **Exhibit B**

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

VOTED unanimously to approve the trip to Quebec for French students in February 2017.

Trip to Italy – **Exhibit C**

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

VOTED unanimously to approve the trip to Italy for Latin students in April 2017.

Trip to Iceland – **Exhibit D**

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

VOTED unanimously to approve the trip to Iceland for Music students in April 2017.

3.3 EDCO Collaborative Articles of Agreement – **Exhibit E**

Ms. Shuster explained each year the EDCO Board reviews the Articles of Agreement and approves them due to minor changes that take place. This past year, three changes were made to the articles one of which relates to the Town of Wellesley pulling out of the collaborative. This change resulted in a larger discussion regarding procedures for withdrawing from a collaborative. It was agreed to change the date for when a school system can put in a request to withdraw from the end of the year to July 1st. This change was approved by the EDCO Board of Directors and now each district must also approve the change. Ms. Shuster who is the EDCO representative for the School Committee recommended the School Committee vote to approve the change.

Dr. Fiore stated the School Committee had the option of waiting until the next meeting to vote in order to have time to review the document. The Committee chose to hold the vote at the next meeting on June 7th.

3.4 First Read of School Committee Policies **Exhibit F-1, F-2, and F-3**

Mary Pederson, Director of Human Resources, joined the School Committee at the table to explain the background of the 3 polices presented. Policy 6011 relates to the recognition of religious and cultural beliefs and customs. Ms. Pederson explained the policy changes, specifically, the deletion of the following sentence: "Staff shall make every effort to avoid scheduling examinations, school sponsored trips and special events that conflict with major religious holidays". Ms. Pederson explained the reasoning behind the changes to this policy as well as those for Policy 6014 which addresses homework. The following sentence was deleted from Policy 6014: "Teachers will not assign significant homework on religious holidays." The School Committee also reviewed changes to the Policy 1023 related to advertising. The School Committee along with Ms. Pederson discussed the changes and updates. They offered suggestions and stated concerns. The policies will be voted on at a future meeting.

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

4.1 Finance Subcommittee

The Finance Subcommittee met earlier in the day and were updated by Superintendent Phelan and Mr. DiCologero on the Special Education Stabilization Fund. The current plan is not to allocate funds for the SPED Stabilization Fund but to put the money into the General Stabilization Fund that can be used for special education and other town needs. The Committee also discussed FY17 allocations. Superintendent Phelan and Mr. DiCologero have been working to adjust the budget and they updated the Committee on additional changes. Mr. DiCologero explained the procedure for closing out the FY16 budget.

4.2 Policy and Procedure Subcommittee

There was no additional report from the Policy and Procedure Subcommittee.

4.3 Curriculum and Instruction Subcommittee

The Curriculum and Instruction Subcommittee will meet on June 15th with elementary teachers who will share their experience of handling state and local mandates.

4.4 Capital Budget Committee

There was no report from the Capital Budget Committee.

4.5 Warrant Committee

The Warrant Committee met on May 11th with the Chair of the Capital Budget Committee who presented the proposed Capital Budget to the Warrant Committee. The Warrant Committee reviewed

their report and articles that will be voted on at Town Meeting. The Committee will meet again tomorrow to review articles and amendments for Town Meeting.

4.6 Wellington Building Committee

There was no report from the Wellington Building Committee.

4.7 Financial Task Force

There was not report from the Financial Task Force.

4.8 Community Path Update

There was no report from the Community Path Group.

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

The Belmont High School Building Committee will meet tomorrow morning to discuss enrollment and take a tour of Belmont High School

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 10, 2016

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

VOTED unanimously to approve the minutes of May 10, 2016

6. **FUTURE BUSINESS**

Upcoming Meetings:

June 7, 2016

Finance Subcommittee Meeting

SAB Conference Room – 7:30 a.m.

June 7, 2016

School Committee Meeting:

Reception for Retirees
CMS Cafeteria – 6:00 p.m.

Recognition of Retirees
CMS Large Community Room – 6:30 p.m.

Business Meeting
CMS Large Community Room – 7:00 p.m.

June 15, 2016

Curriculum & Instruction Subcommittee Meeting
BHS Mezzanine Classroom – 3:15 p.m.

7. **ENCLOSURES**

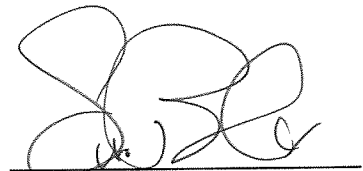
- Letter to B.A.R. re: donation
- Belmont Summer Enrichment Flyer
- Strategic Plan

8. **ADJOURNMENT**

At 8:43 p.m. on a motion offered by Ms. Burgess-Cox and seconded by Caputo, it was

VOTED unanimously to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted by



Susan Burgess-Cox, Secretary