

**BELMONT HIGH SCHOOL BUILDING COMMITTEE**  
**FINAL MEETING MINUTES**  
**December 12, 2017**  
**Chenery High School, Large Community Room**  
**7:00 PM**

2018 JAN 29 AM 9:00

**Meeting #31**

*BHS Building Committee Members Attending:*

Chair Lovallo; Members: Adam Dash, Tom Caputo, Phyllis Marshall, Bob McLaughlin, John Phelan, Chris Messer, Joel Mooney, Diane Miller, and Jamie Shea

*BHSBC Members Absent:* Gerald Boyle, Pat Brusch, Dan Richards, Joe DeStefano

*Board of Selectmen Attending:* Mark Paolillo and Adam Dash

*Board of Selectmen Absent:* Chair Jim Williams

*School Committee Attending:* Chair Lisa Fiore, Susan Burgess-Cox, Catherine Bowen, Thomas Caputo, Andrea Prestwich, and Murat Bicer

The was a joint meeting with the School Committee and Board of Selectmen in which the Belmont High School Building Committee (BHSBC) was presented an overview of the District Grade Configuration work that the School Department has been undertaking.

The School Committee called their meeting to Order.

**1. Call to Order**

The Belmont High School Building Committee (BHSBC) meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. by Chair Lovallo.

**2. District Grade Configuration Presentation by School Committee**

Superintendent John Phelan and Assistant Superintendent Janice Darias presented their work on district configuration studies. Mr. Phelan explained how the High School confirmation affects the entire K-12 district; the School Department has been examining what those possible changes will be.

Mr. Phelan explained the possible District grade configurations that fall into 5 categories:

- Option 1: K-4, 5-8, 9-12 (existing conditions)
- Option 2: K-4, 5-7, 8-12 (8, 9-12)
- Option 3: K-4, 5-7, 8-12 (8-9, 10-12)
- Option 4: K-3, 4-6, 7-12 (7-8, 9-12)
- Option 5: K-3, 4-6, 7-12 (7-9, 10-12)

Ms. Darias explained that the School Administration met with the leadership group to explore the pros and cons of each option. Those attributes were presented.

Ms. Darias explained that the School Administration sent out a survey to faculty and staff, approximately 500 individuals. A total of 168 responses were received - which is approximately 1/3. The overwhelming selection was for a 7-12 High School at over 70 percent - with half in favor of Option 4 and the other half in favor of Option 5. Further comments were solicited on pros and cons and Ms. Darias reviewed some of those.

Mr. Phelan then cited some of the research regarding grade configurations and number of moves from K-12. Several articles spoke to the impact to students socially and academically. Mr. Phelan noted that there was no consistency in the actual grade groupings. Rather the articles generally stated that as much as a school move has an impact on students, the greater impact is the environment that is created for those students - which can have a greater affect on the student than the move itself.

Mr. Phelan explained that the next steps in the path to a grade configuration decision is to have a presentation on the remaining District schools and their impact from a grade configuration decision on the High School. The School Department has retained the Design firm of SMMA to perform those studies and provide recommendations. He noted that they have examined the schools, met with principals and staff, and are exploring options in the district for building adjustments to meet the growing student enrollment. This information will be presented at the January 9, 2018 Public Forum which is being scheduled for the High School Auditorium. Mr. Phelan explained that at this meeting the public will have opportunities to provide comments and to ask questions regarding the District configuration study. Mr. Phelan noted that on January 23, 2018, the School Committee will be reconvening to discuss and decide on a High School grade configuration.

Mr. Phelan then answered questions from the School Committee regarding this presentation.

### 3. Related Meeting Documents

1. Presentation Slides on District Configuration prepared by School Department

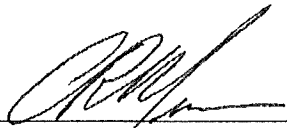
### 4. End Meeting

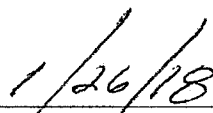
The meeting ended at 8:10 p.m. by Mr. McLaughlin.

Respectfully submitted by:

Lisa Gibalerio

Approved:

  
Chris Messer, Secretary

  
Date