

**BELMONT WARRANT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES  
FINAL**

2014 JUN 13 AM 9:08

**JUNE 4, 2014, 6:30 P.M.**

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**CHENERY MIDDLE SCHOOL ROOM 103**

Present: Chair Libenson; Members Allison, Brusch, Dash, Epstein, Fallon, Gammill, Grob, Helgen, Manjikian, McLaughlin, Sarno; School Committee Chair Slap

Others: Mr. Jeffrey Wheeler, Office of Community Development  
Mr. Mike Battista, Chair of the Planning Board (PB)

Members Absent: Mennis

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Chair Libenson.

Chair Libenson began by reviewing the agenda and then turning to Article 14.

***Discussion and Vote: Additional Amendments to Article 14:  
Citizen's Petition***

Chair Libenson informed the WC that there are three remaining amendments to Article 14. Amendment 4 changes one word.

*Member Sarno moved:* Favorable action on amendment 4.  
The motion passed unanimously.

Amendments 6 and 7: Member Allison explained that a side entrance allows for a "box car" style construction. Allowing developers to present this alternative is likely to lead to a rejection. She added that amendment 7 is similar to 6 (6 and 7 differed only to account for whether a previous amendment passed). Member Epstein explained the rationale for these amendments, having had a conversation with Mr. Dillon. Lot sizes and the placement of doors was discussed as it relates to this article and to the amendments. Member Allison said that the intent of the main article is to keep the development thoughtful, not cookie cutter, and to keep it in scale with the neighborhood. Mr. Wheeler approached the WC table and reiterated Member Allison's sentiment.

Member Manjikian explained the original impetus for the Citizen's Petition. These amendments, he said, are not in the spirit of the article. Member McLaughlin said that while these amendments do not "gut" the article, the developers may as well be told up front that the side door entrance is not likely to be approved. Member Sarno spoke to lot size under the General Residence district. Member Brusch noted that condos on top of each other are indeed selling in Belmont.

PB Chair Battista offered that the new, large units are very expensive – as a result, the smaller units that this article is encouraging are in demand.

*Member Brusch moved:* Unfavorable action on amendments 6 and 7, as proposed by Mr. Dillon.

The motion passed with 12 in favor and one opposed.

### ***School Department's Reserve Fund Transfer (RFT) Request: \$200K***

Member Sarno (Ed. Subcommittee Chair) informed the WC that the Ed. Subcommittee voted in favor of the RFT request in a 3-2 vote. He summarized the School Department's rationale for requesting a \$200K RFT, noting that the stated reason for the request was "a substantial and unpredicted growth in student enrollment with resulting necessary expenditures for additional staffing that has approached \$500,000 in unbudgeted personnel costs."

With respect to providing early notification of a potential need for a transfer, he said that the School Department did alert the WC that there was a deficit, going back to Q2. In mid-April they informed the subcommittee that the RFT would be forthcoming. Two weeks later the RFT request was officially submitted.

Regarding the unanticipated nature of the request – substantial growth in student enrollment – Member Sarno passed out a handout that detailed both the enrollment growth and the additional staffing. He noted that, as of October 1, 2013, all enrollment increases had occurred in the Regular Instruction programs, whereas most of the new staff had been added to the Special Education program. At the same time, Special Education enrollment had grown by 5 as of March 1 this year, and by as much as 17 students net based on a May 20 accounting provided by the School Department.

Member Sarno reviewed the deficit accounts from Q3, pointing out those deficits (particularly in "Special Education Expenses – Salary" and "Special Education Expenses – Non-Salary") which might have been impacted by enrollment growth in late Q2 and Q3.

Finally, he noted that \$190K of LABBB credits, originally budgeted for use in FY14, has been moved into the FY15 budget.

Chair Libenson noted (at 6:56 p.m.) that the only source for the \$200K at present is the Reserve Fund. Member Sarno disagreed. Chair Libenson stated that, given the time, this conversation will need to be picked up when the WC meets again, next Wednesday 6/11/14.

### ***Adjournment***

Chair Libenson moved to adjourn at 6:57 p.m.

Submitted by Lisa Gibalerio

WC Recording Secretary