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**MINUTES
TOWN OF BELMONT
JOINT MEETING
BOARD OF SELECTMEN and SCHOOL COMMITTEE
SELECTMEN'S MEETING ROOM
Monday, September 23, 2013
8:00 AM**

CALL TO ORDER

A joint meeting of the Board and School Committee (SC) was called to order in open session at 8:20 a.m. by Chair Paolillo in the Selectmen's Meeting Room. Selectman Rojas was present and Selectman Jones appeared at 8:25 a.m. Town Administrator David Kale was also present.

Chair Graham called the School Committee to order at 8:20 a.m. as well.

School Committee members present: Chair Graham, Mr. Kevin Cunningham, Ms. Anne Lougée, Ms. Laurie Slap, and Ms. Elyse Shuster (Ms. Janice Darius, Assistant Superintendent, was there as a time keeper)

Chair Paolillo reviewed the agenda, noting that the morning will focus on the appointment of a new School Committee member (term expiring in April 2014).

Introduction of the New Facilities Director

Mr. Gerald Boyle, Belmont's new Facilities Director, appeared before the Board. Mr. Kale introduced Mr. Boyle and reviewed his credentials, noting that this position will oversee both the school and town buildings.

Chair Paolillo welcomed Mr. Boyle to the Belmont team, noting that there are many needs across town.

Appointment of School Committee Member (Term Expiring in April 2014)

Chair Graham explained the interview process, noting that candidates will have one minute for opening remarks. The five candidates for SC include:

- Ms. Elizabeth Gibson
- Ms. Lisa Fiore
- Mr. Clifford Backman
- Ms. Jamie Kang
- Ms. Meg Anderson

At this point, each candidate provided her/his one-minute opening remarks.

The SC prepared in advance a set of five questions to be presented to each of the five candidates.

The set of five SC questions:

1. What areas of School Committee work are most interesting to you? Why?
2. Tell us what you think is the MOST important/valuable perspective that you would bring to the School Committee.
3. Given your personal and professional commitments, could you please tell us your specific availability for School Committee and subcommittee meetings, including daytime and evening hours?
4. Can you describe the other kinds of committee work you have done? How would your colleagues describe you in that role?
5. What do you think is the greatest strength of the Belmont Public Schools? What is the greatest challenge facing the district?

Candidates had two minutes to respond to the questions.

Highlights of the Candidates' Responses (to both SC and BOS questions)

Ms. Fiore: Ms. Fiore expressed interest in improving communication with the parent community. She said she would bring an educators' perspective to the SC as well as the parent perspective. Regarding availability, she said she is flexible and that she intends to stay in Belmont for many years. She noted that the families and staff are a major strength of the system.

Regarding collaboration, she said that listening to the community will be important. She said that she would like to see the "human contact" increased with teachers, students and administrators, which will foster communication and mentorship. Priorities include finding a new superintendent and finding other leaders.

Mr. Backman: Mr. Backman stated that he is most interested in assessing the implementation of the Common Core Curriculum. He noted that his perspective would help him to understand what colleges are looking for from our system. Mr. Backman said that while his schedule changes, he enjoys great flexibility. He noted that finding a new superintendent will be an immediate need for the system and that he would like to see the arts and humanities section stay strong. He said he has concerns about technology as the answer to budgetary shortfalls.

Regarding collaboration, he said he would like to hold office hours as a way to be available to the community. He said that he prioritizes investment in people, rather than in "things". Priorities include finding a long-term plan for the high school and finding a new superintendent.

Ms. Kang: Ms. Kang said she is excited for innovation throughout the school system. She noted that she has personal insights on the student experience, given that she went through the system. Regarding availability, Ms. Kang offered that her classes end at 3:00, which will be helpful for this commitment. She said that the high quality of education is Belmont's strength and that rising class sizes is a concern.

Regarding collaboration, she said setting goals with the SC and BOS would be helpful. She said that online learning tools may be an efficient way to increase learning. Priorities include long term fiscal planning.

Ms. Anderson: Ms. Anderson noted that she is most interested in partnerships for the school district as well as in instruction. She said she has experience working with many layers of a school district. Regarding availability, she said her schedule is very flexible. She offered that she brings an outside perspective to the schools; she noted that there is a lot of support for the many different kinds of students. She added that finances are a concern for the system.

Regarding collaboration, keeping the vision present will be helpful as well as keeping lines of communication open with the wider community. She offered that the Common Core offers guidance on innovation. Service delivery changes, she stressed, need to come from the teachers. Priorities include finding the right leader and supporting student services with a smaller budget.

Ms. Gibson: Ms. Gibson said she enjoys working on policy and discussing issues with community members. She said her experience as a former school committee member and as a parent will be helpful to the SC. Ms. Gibson said that her schedule is flexible. She noted that finances were a challenge facing the system and that she has the skills to help work on the issue.

Regarding collaboration, she said the needs of everyone in the town will be considered. Technology, she said, has a lot to offer to the system and may be cost-efficient as well as enriching to the classroom. Priorities include collective bargaining agreements and finding a new superintendent.

The SC's and Board's Roll Call Vote

Ms. Fiore received three votes.
Ms. Gibson received three votes.
Ms. Anderson received one vote.
Ms. Kang received one vote.

Chair Paolillo said that a fresh voice would be helpful and he voted for Ms. Fiore. Selectman Jones voted for Ms. Kang, as he appreciates her willingness to give back to the community. Selectman Rojas voted for Ms. Fiore, as he was impressed with her experience.

School Committee members voted the following:

Chair Laurie Graham	Gibson
Kevin Cunningham	Gibson
Anne Lougée	Gibson
Laurie Slap	Anderson
Ms. Elyse Shuster	Fiore

The Board took a brief recess.

Run-Off Vote

Since there was a tie, a new vote was taken between Ms. Fiore and Ms. Gibson.

Each candidate gave a brief statement before the votes were cast.

Board of Selectmen and School Committee members voted the second time as follows:

Chair Mark Paolillo	Fiore
Andres Rojas	Fiore
Ralph Jones	Gibson

Chair Laurie Graham	Gibson
Kevin Cunningham	Gibson
Anne Lougée	Gibson
Laurie Slap	Fiore
Ms. Elyse Shuster	Fiore

Again, there was a tie, with each candidate receiving four votes. The Board and SC Chair Graham discussed the by-law allowing for only six SC members. Selectman Jones noted that the SC voted in favor of Ms. Gibson as did he and as a former SC member. He suggested that vote should possibly carry additional weight. Chair Paolillo said that he could see that logic, but that he would like to explore other statutory options.

The Board and SC will convene Monday at 6:00 p.m. to continue the selection process.

The SC adjourned at 10:04 a.m.

[The Board took a brief recess.]

Vote and Sign the Warrant for the Special State Primaries for U.S. Representative in Congress: Tuesday, October 15, 2013

Ms. Ellen O'Brien Cushman, Town Clerk, appeared before the Board regarding the Special State Primary date.

The Board moved: To approve the date of Tuesday, October 15, 2013 for the Special State Primaries for U.S. Representative in Congress.
The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

The Board signed the document.

Opening and Closing of Special Town Meeting (TM) Warrant – TM date: Monday November 4, 2013 at the Chenery Middle School

Ms. Ellen O'Brien Cushman, Town Clerk, remained before the Board regarding the Opening and Closing of Special Town Meeting. The warrant will open and close on Tuesday, September 24, 2013. She provided instructions for potential "citizen's petitions".

The Board moved: To open and close the Warrant on Tuesday September 24, 2013 in preparation for the November 4, 2013 Special Town Meeting.
The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

The Board signed the Warrant.

Convene as the Board of Survey

The Board moved: To convene as the Board of Survey at 10:17 a.m.
The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Approval of New Street Layout for Concord Ave. Private Way Land

Mr. Glenn Clancy, Town Engineer, appeared before the Board regarding the new street layout for Concord Ave private way land. Mr. Clancy noted that the official name would be "Strawberry Lane". He said that there is additional information required for the Board of Survey and he requested a continuation.

The issue will be continued when the Board meets again at 7:00 p.m.

The Board moved: To continue the Board of Survey hearing on September 30, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. to discuss the new street layout for Concord Ave private way.
The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Reconvene as Board of Selectmen

The Board moved: To adjourn as the Board of Survey at 10:26 a.m.
The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Town Administrator's Report

Mr. Kale reported on the following items:

- A State Mass Works grant application has been submitted for Belmont requesting \$1.5M; the project is shovel ready if approved.
- The Underwood Pool Owners Project Manager and Design bids have been issued; the process is moving forward.
- The Trapelo Road work will start in October.
- The skating rink and field house study does not fit CPA criteria as communicated by the CPA Committee
- The Assistant Town Administrator position will be posted soon.

ACTION BY CONSENT

One Day Liquor License
Ornstein Family – Bar Mitzvah
Beech Street Center
November 2, 2013
All alcohol

The Board moved: To approve the liquor license request, as noted above.
The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Approval of Meeting Minutes

September 9, 2013

The Board moved: To approve the September 9, 2013 meeting minutes.
The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

NEXT MEETINGS

Monday, September 30, 2013 at 6:00 pm
Thursday, October 3, 2013 at 8:00 am

The Board moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:35 a.m.



Mr. David Kale, Town Administrator