



**BELCHERTOWN PUBLIC SCHOOLS
REGULAR SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
March 13, 2014**

LOCATION: Swift River Elementary School Library
TIME: 7:00 pm

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Dr. Linda Tsoumas, Chair (not present); Ms. Clare Popowich, Vice-Chair (present); Mr. Richard Fritsch, Secretary (present); Ms. Myndi Bogdanovich, Member (present); Dr. Michael Knapp, Member (present)

VISITORS: Ms. Patricia Correia, MASC Consultant; Mr. Brian Cameron, Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning; Ms. Brenda Aldrich, Selectmen Liaison to School Committee; Ms. Mona Griffin; Mr. Eric Goldscheider, Hampshire Gazette reporter; Mr. Jim Russell, Republican reporter

MINUTES

I. Call to order

Ms. Popowich called the Regular School Committee meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.
Ms. Popowich turned the meeting over to Ms. Correia.

II. Presentation by MASC Consultant Patricia Correia on the Superintendent Search
Ms. Correia distributed a packet of documents to the School Committee members, which contained the list of finalists chosen by the Superintendent Screening Committee, and included the candidates' letters of interest as well as their applications. An agenda for upcoming site visits was also provided, which outlined the visits to each candidate's district by representatives from Belchertown, as well as the candidates' visits to our district.

Ms. Correia then turned the meeting over to Mr. Cameron for the presentation of finalists by the Screening Committee. Mr. Cameron read a statement on behalf of Mr. Ron McClure, Chair of the Superintendent Screening Committee. This committee had completed its search on March 10, 2014, after having chosen nine candidates from a field of 15 applicants from MA, ME, NJ, and MI. The committee has brought forth three finalists from the nine applicants interviewed, as follows in alphabetical order:

Ms. Lynn Clark-Principal/Teacher, Chicopee Public Schools, Chicopee, MA;

Mr. Timothy Lee-Principal, Lenox Public Schools, Lenox, MA;

Mr. John Provost-Superintendent, N. Brookfield Public Schools, N. Brookfield, MA.

Ms. Correia once again took over the meeting, beginning by acknowledging and thanking the Screening Committee for its dedication and many hours spent interviewing the nine candidates, as well as the thorough and thoughtful consideration rendered in their final choices. The finalists have been notified and Ms. Correia stated that all responded enthusiastically for the opportunity to continue in this process.

Ms. Correia stated that full resumes for the finalists will be made available at C.O. for those interested in seeing them, but they were not included in this evening's packet due to the confidentiality of some information.

III. Set Calendar for Site Visits by School Committee Members

Ms. Correira reviewed the timeline for site visits and final interviews, and discussion ensued regarding the planning and scheduling of these events. She recommended that there should be a team of approximately four representatives from Belchertown (including as many School Committee members as are available) to travel to each candidate's workplace for a full-day site visit, meeting with key members of the district for feedback. The School Committee reviewed Ms. Correira's suggested list of individuals to meet, and made additional suggestions (i.e., the candidate's secretary/administrative assistant, the athletic director, students, community members, director(s) of special projects, sitting municipal official, if available, etc.). Ms. Correira recommended that questions be prepared for these meetings ahead of time. It was also decided that the Belchertown representatives will have lunch at a school site cafeteria to have additional opportunities to engage with individuals in an informal and "candid" setting. The calendar and teams for site visits to the candidates' districts were chosen, as follows:

Monday, March 24, 2014: **Mr. John Provost**, N. Brookfield Public Schools

- Mr. Richard Fritsch
- Ms. Myndi Bogdanovich
- Mr. Brian Cameron
- Ms. Mona Griffin

Wednesday, March 26, 2014: **Ms. Lynn Clark**, Chicopee Public Schools

- Dr. Linda Tsoumas
- Mr. Richard Fritsch
- Ms. Myndi Bogdanovich
- Dr. Michael Knapp
- Ms. Brenda Aldrich

Friday, March 28, 2014: **Mr. Timothy Lee**, Lenox Public Schools

- Ms. Clare Popowich
- Mr. Richard Fritsch
- Ms. Myndi Bogdanovich
- Dr. Michael Knapp
- Ms. Brenda Aldrich.

The team will meet on each of these days at 7:45am in the lower parking lot of CHCS with an anticipated arrival at the candidate's workplace between 8:30am-9:00am. The calendar for full-day site visits to Belchertown by the candidates was scheduled, as follows:

Monday, April 14, 2014: **Mr. John Provost**

Tuesday, April 15, 2014: **Mr. Timothy Lee**

Wednesday, April 16, 2014: **Ms. Lynn Clark.**

Each candidate's day in Belchertown will follow a schedule of 9:00am-3:00pm, Site Visit; 4:30pm-5:30pm, Meet & Greet (members of the public); 6:00pm, Interview (held during a regular session of the School Committee). It is anticipated that the final candidate will be chosen as Superintendent by the School Committee following the last interview on April 16th. A discussion then ensued regarding who would escort each candidate throughout his/her day visiting the district, and it was decided that Mr. Cameron would best represent Belchertown Public Schools in this capacity.

MOTION: Mr. Fritsch moved to appoint Mr. Cameron as escort for the three finalists in their individual site visits to Belchertown. Ms. Bogdanovich seconded the motion.

VOTE: 4-0-0, approved unanimously

COMMENT: Mr. Cameron stated that he would be happy to escort the finalists on their site visits as long as all had been in agreement with this choice.

IV. Motion To Adjourn

MOTION: Dr. Knapp moved to adjourn the Regular School Committee meeting at 8:09 p.m. Ms. Bogdanovich seconded the motion.

VOTE: 4-0-0, approved unanimously

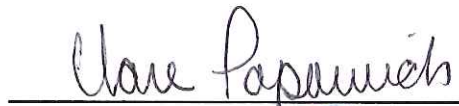
Respectfully submitted by,




Kathryn A. Petersen

Non-Confidential Recording Secretary to the School Committee

School Committee members' signatures:

 Clare Popowich, Vice Chair

 Richard Fritsch, Secretary

 Myndi Bogdanovich, Member

 Michael Knapp, Member

The mission of the Belchertown Public Schools is to ensure that every student meets with success every day. To that end, we pledge to ensure that we have rigorous, standards-based curriculum; instruction designed to meet the needs of diverse learners in every classroom; and access to the global learning community via state-of-the-art technology in schools that are communities of respect and civility for all.

2011-2015 Strategic Plan Goals (adopted by the Belchertown School Committee, 3/1/11):

- Goal #1: To have guaranteed (standards-based and implemented by all), viable (doable and accessible to every student), seamless K-12 curriculum in every content area.
- Goal #2: To have rigorous (standards-based), relevant (grounded in 21st Century skills), differentiated instructional practices with the ability to access the global learning community via technology available to every learner.
- Goal #3: To implement a plan to ensure that our students understand the importance of acceptance, tolerance, and respect supported by all adults in the community.

The Belchertown School Committee conducts its business in open session pursuant to Chapter 30A, Section 21 of the Massachusetts General Laws. The public is welcome to comment only on items on the agenda for this meeting as noted above. If you wish to address the School Committee regarding an item not on the agenda for this meeting, please contact the Superintendent of Schools at 413.323.0423 or via email at superintendent@belchertown.org to determine the best way to address your concerns (see [School Committee Policy BEDH](#)).