



**BELCHERTOWN PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
REGULAR SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING  
February 9, 2016**

**LOCATION:** Swift River Elementary School Library  
**TIME:** 6:00 pm

**SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBERS:** Mr. Richard Fritsch, Chair (present); Ms. Myndi Bogdanovich, Vice-Chair (present); Ms. Dawn French, Secretary (present); Dr. Michael Knapp, Member (present); Dr. Thomas Laughner, Member (present)

**ADMINISTRATION:** Mrs. Karol Coffin, Superintendent of Schools; Mr. Brian Cameron, Assistant Superintendent and Director of Student Support Services; Dr. Shawn Fortin, Director of Teaching and Learning; Ms. Christine Vigneux, Principal BHS; Mr. Thomas Ruscio, JBMS Principal; Mr. Robert Kuhn, SRE Principal; Ms. Sandra Bremer, Principal CSS; Ms. Phyllis DuComb, Nurse Leader

**BHS STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES:**

**VISITORS:** Aimee Henderson; Amanda Saklad

Minutes

Pledge of Allegiance

- I. Call to order  
Mr. Fritsch called the meeting to order at
  
- II. Vote to enter into Executive Session under M.G.L., 30A, §21, Part 3 to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation as conducting said business in open session would have a detrimental effect on the School Committee's bargaining or litigation position. The Committee will return to open session.

The School Committee entered into Executive Session at 6:02 pm.

Roll call vote:

Mr. Fritsch - yes  
Ms. Bogdanovich - yes  
Ms. French - yes  
Dr. Knapp - yes  
Dr. Laughner - yes

The School Committee re-entered regular session at 7.05 pm

- III. Public comment regarding items on the agenda  
There were no public comments regarding items on the agenda.

- IV. Special awards and presentations
- A. Hailley Boutin, "Project 351, Day of Service," JBMS student representative  
Tabled for future meeting.
- V. Update from BHS Student Advisory Council representatives  
There were no student representatives present.
- VI. Approval of minutes (A.I)
- A. January 22, 2016, Public Forum  
Motion: Ms. French moved to approve the January 22, 2016 public forum as amended.  
Second: Dr. Knapp  
Vote: 5,0,0
- B. January 26, 2016, Regular Session – Not Available
- C. February 2, 2016, Regular Session  
Motion: Ms. French moved to approve the January 26, 2016 minutes as amended.  
Second: Dr. Knapp  
Vote: 5,0,0
- VII. Reports and recommendations of the Superintendent
- A. Chestnut Hill Community School - Progress report on school improvement plan  
Tabled for future meeting.
- B. Jabish Brook Middle School – Progress report on school improvement plan  
Mr. Ruscio presented the mid-year update.
- ❖ Curriculum, planning, & assessment
    - Pilot 7<sup>th</sup> grade honors began in January
    - 7 – 8 math assessments
    - Expand 8<sup>th</sup> grade ELA → to 7<sup>th</sup> grade ELA
    - Next Gen Science
    - STEMscope/ test resources
    - DDM development & review (DILT)
  - ❖ Teaching all students
    - 7<sup>th</sup> grade math
    - 8<sup>th</sup> grade math
    - Consultant – Deb Lanou
    - Classroom designations – title change – co-teaching
    - New approach to special education
  - ❖ Family – Community engagement
    - Google apps for education
    - Parent/student survey
  - ❖ Professional culture
    - Assessments – how to access in meaningful way for instruction
    - What do assessments tell

- How to change instruction practice
- Training needed
- ❖ Progress
  - Curriculum course
  - Increase in technology

Mr. Fritsch noted he appreciates that the schools are reevaluating data. Mr. Fritsch questioned the MCAS results for 8<sup>th</sup> grade ELA, style or curriculum. Mr. Ruscio noted it is both methodology and structured tactics. These are being expanded to the 7<sup>th</sup> grade. Budget would play a big part in anything the school is looking to improve.

Dr. Laughner questioned if there was a goal for bullying? Mr. Ruscio noted if he had a 5<sup>th</sup> category social climate in the building would be it. He noted there is more work to do and they are working to deal with issues. Social media was noted as an issue.

Dr. Knapp noted some things are addressed in the search for excellence. Questioned the use of a middle school versus junior high model. Mr. Ruscio noted Jabish is a blend of both.

#### VIII. Personnel update

Superintendent Coffin noted the new hires, Mary Roy and Kimberly Alderman-Shapiro.

#### IX. Unfinished business

##### A. Approval of proposed revised policies (A.I.)

Motion: Ms. French moved to approve policies under 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, and 9 (BA, BBAA, BBBA/BBBB, BCA, BDA, BDD, and BDE).

Second: Ms. Bogdanovich

Roll call Vote:

Mr. Fritsch – yes

Ms. Bogdanovich – yes

Ms. French – yes

Dr. Knapp – yes

Dr. Laughner – yes

2. BA – School Committee Operational Goals

4. BBAA – School Committee Member Authority

5. BBBA/BBBB – School Committee Member Qualifications/Oath of Office

6. BCA – School Committee Code of Ethics

7. BDA – School Committee Organizational Meeting

8. BDD – School Committee-Superintendent Relationship

9. BDE – School Committee Subcommittees

1) ADF – Wellness Policy

Motion: Ms. Bogdanovich moved to approve policy ADF

Second: Ms. French

Roll call Vote:

Mr. Fritsch – yes

Ms. Bogdanovich – yes

Ms. French – yes

Dr. Knapp – yes

Dr. Laughner – yes

Discussion: Dr. Laughner questioned how much of the policy is governed by federal and state guidelines. Ms. DuComb noted they used the state guidelines and it would affect funding if they were not followed. When guidelines change our policy is updated.

2) BA – School Committee Operational Goals

3) BBA – School Committee Powers and Duties

Motion: Ms. Bogdanovich moved to approve policy BBA.

Amended motion: Ms. Bogdanovich moved to approve policy BBA as amended.

Second: Ms. French

Roll call Vote:

Mr. Fritsch – yes

Ms. Bogdanovich – yes

Ms. French – yes

Dr. Knapp – no

Dr. Laughner – yes

Discussion: The Committee discussed how the new policy compares to the old, how it reflects the state, by utilizing the state language the Committee may limit its authority. Ms. Bogdanovich noted the language was written earlier, in the fall.

4) BBAA – School Committee Member Authority

5) BBBA/BBBB – School Committee Member Qualifications/Oath of Office

6) BCA – School Committee Code of Ethics

7) BDA – School Committee Organizational Meeting

8) BDD – School Committee-Superintendent Relationship

9) BDE – School Committee Subcommittees

10) BDFA – School Councils

Motion: Ms. Bogdanovich moved to approve policy BDFA.

Amended motion: Ms. Bogdanovich moved to approve policy BDFA as amended.

Second: Ms. French

Roll call Vote:

Mr. Fritsch – yes

Ms. Bogdanovich – yes

Ms. French – yes

Dr. Knapp – yes

Dr. Laughner – yes

Discussion: Committee discussed the state guidelines and how they reflect in the policy. They also discussed the issue of Mass law wording changes in future being addressed.

11) JLCD & JLCE & GBGA – Naloxone (Narcan) Policy

Motion: Ms. French moved to approve policies JLCD, JLCE, & GBGA.

Second: Ms. Bogdanovich

## Roll call Vote:

Mr. Fritsch – yes

Ms. Bogdanovich – yes

Ms. French – yes

Dr. Knapp – yes

Dr. Laughner – yes

Discussion: Ms. Bogdanovich noted this policy is in three different locations in the policy manual. Ms. French noted this is a new policy. Procedure has been written and approved by medical advisory. Mr. Fritsch questioned if this would go beyond the nurses. Ms. DuComb noted that MDPH does not fund anyone else.

## 12) Vision Statement

Motion: Dr. Laughner moved to approve the vision statement.

Second: Ms. Bogdanovich

## Roll call Vote:

Mr. Fritsch – yes

Ms. Bogdanovich – yes

Ms. French – yes

Dr. Knapp – yes

Dr. Laughner – yes

Discussion: The Committee discussed the wording of the vision statement.

“Belchertown students, both individually and collaboratively, will be innovative thinkers, problem solvers, and unique and creative contributors to their community and the world.”

## X. New business

## A. Annual CHCS Pool Agreement (A.I.)

Motion: Ms. Bogdanovich moved to approve the annual CHCS pool agreement.

Second: Dr. Laughner

Vote: 5,0,0

Discussion: The Committee discussed the history of the agreement, the town owns the properties, they are designated as school properties, at the time CHCS was built each department agreed to approve the expense on an annual basis. The Committee discussed the public use of school property, i.e. Jessica’s Boundless Playground, CHCS pool.

## XI. Reports of subcommittees/representatives

## A. Curriculum &amp; Instruction (Dr. Knapp/Dr. Laughner)

Dr. Knapp noted they need to set a meeting date.

## B. Personnel &amp; Policy (Ms. Bogdanovich/Ms. French)

Ms. Bogdanovich noted the policies were handled earlier in the meeting.

## C. Property &amp; Transportation (Mr. Fritsch/Ms. French)

Ms. French noted nothing new at this time.

D. Finance & Budget Subcommittee (Dr. Laughner/Dr. Knapp)

Dr. Laughner noted they have not met.

E. Collaborative for Educational Services (Dr. Knapp)

Dr. Knapp noted nothing at this time.

F. Healthy & Safer Schools Advisory Committee (Mr. Fritsch/Ms. Bogdanovich)

Mr. Cameron noted the food survey was done. There was low participation at JBMS.

Some of the questions asked;

- Why food is wasted
- Why participation is low

Ms. DuComb updated the subcommittee about the NARCAM-Esvert.

Mr. Cameron also noted there will be a traffic study done around CHCS & SRE. Mr.

Cameron also noted that Officer Krol will update the Committee on the bomb threat policy at the next meeting.

G. Technology Advisory Committee

Dr. Laughner updated the Committee. The survey worked on for the teachers is ready, google apps for education, and bring your own device policy language was discussed.

XI. New Business

- A. Mr. Fritsch noted Senator Eric Lesser would like to visit a Committee meeting. The Committee will advise his office of the School Committee meeting schedule. Mr. Frisch would like a state wide technology initiative. Dr. Laughner noted a 21<sup>st</sup> century meeting law would be a good addition. Dr. Knapp noted the state needs to recalculate the Chapter 70 formula. Dr. Knapp noted Charter Schools taking too much away from public schools. School repairs would benefit from state funding.
- B. Warrant Article 13 from Special Town Meeting on February 22<sup>nd</sup> is expected to be tabled.

XII. Correspondence

- A. Agenda, February 9, 2016, Regular Session
- B. Minutes, January 26 2016, Regular Session
- C. Minutes, January 12, 2015, Public Forum
- D. Minutes February 2, 2016, Regular Session
- E. Personnel Update
- F. ADF – Wellness Policy
- G. BA – School Committee Operational Goals
- H. BBA – School Committee Powers and Duties
- I. BBAA – School Committee Member Authority
- J. BBBA/BBBB – School Committee Member Qualifications/Oath of Office
- K. BCA – School Committee Code of Ethics
- L. BDA – School Committee Organizational Meeting
- M. BDD – School Committee-Superintendent Relationship
- N. BDE – School Committee Subcommittees

- O. BDFA – School Councils
- P. JLCD & JLCE & GBGA – Naloxone (Narcan) Policy
- Q. Vision Statement
- R. CHCS Pool Agreement
- S. Board & Administrator Newsletter (Informational only)

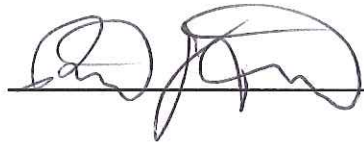
XIII. Adjourn

Motion: Ms. Bogdanovich moved to adjourn at 9:30 pm.  
 Second: Ms. French  
 Vote: 5,0,0


Respectfully submitted by,

Ramona Griffin  
 Non-Confidential Recording Secretary to the School Committee

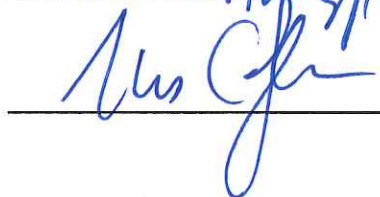
School Committee members' signatures:

 \_\_\_\_\_, Richard Fritsch, Chair

\_\_\_\_\_, Myndi Bogdanovich, Vice Chair

 \_\_\_\_\_, Dawn French, Secretary

 \_\_\_\_\_, Michael Knapp, Member

 \_\_\_\_\_, Thomas Laughner, 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.*

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](mailto:superintendent@belchertown.org) to determine the best way to address your concerns (see [School Committee Policy BEDH](#)).