



**BELCHERTOWN PUBLIC SCHOOLS
REGULAR SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
April 7, 2015**

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

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Mr. Richard Fritsch, Chair; Ms. Myndi Bogdanovich, Vice-Chair; Dr. Michael Knapp, Secretary; Ms. Clare Popowich, Member; Ms. Dawn French, Member

ADMINISTRATION: Mrs. Karol Coffin, Superintendent of Schools; Mr. Brian Cameron, Assistant Superintendent and Director of Student Support Services; Mr. Edward Dunn, Contracted School Business Manager;

BHS STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES: Michael DeBarge, Sienna Nielsen, Benjamin Stone

VISITORS:

MINUTES

- I. Call to order
Mr. Fritsch called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.
- II. Special awards and presentations
There were no special awards or presentations.
- III. Update from BHS Student Advisory Council representatives
Student Representative Ben Stone updated the School Committee. At BHS; last Wednesday senior students attended a Credit for Life Fair at Ware High School sponsored by Country Bank for Savings, the end of the third term is Friday, students will be attending a Teen Mental Health and Depression conference with teachers tomorrow, students will be attending a Government Day in Boston on Thursday, the Senior Show will be Friday, April 10, the BHS Bands will perform at Boston Symphony Hall on Saturday, April 11, and next Friday BHS students will participate in the National Day of Silence put on by the LGBT club. At CHCS students are participating in an experimental learning experience about maple sugaring, PARCC has been completed and the annual 5K walk run took place. At JBMS, there will be a Sip & Paint fundraiser tomorrow evening and they also completed PARCC.
- IV. Public comment regarding items on the agenda
There were no public comments regarding items on the agenda.

V. Approval of minutes

A. March 24, 2015, Minutes

Motion: Dr. Knapp moved to approve the March 24, 2015 minutes as presented.

Second: Ms. Popowich

Vote: 4,0,0

VI. Reports and recommendations of the Superintendent

A. FY 16 School Budget presentation and recommendation

Superintendent Coffin presented the FY 16 School Budget.

Level Service Budget: \$29,138,207

Needs budget: \$ 410,011 (original \$786,000)

\$29,548,218

Local Appropriation

Chapter 70: \$13,529,686

Town: \$13,561,676

LEA total: \$27,091,362

School choice would be used to cover needs budget. Per the Finance Committee \$243,000 was cut from the budget. Superintendent Coffin spoke to the reductions.

Superintendent Coffin noted that enrollment has changed over time. Kindergarten is up for the coming year, approximately 150 students, while the Kindergarten grant is now gone. Needs for the district would include; Social emotional SPED program at BHS, attendance/substitute online program, technology, director of curriculum, 2 coaches and ticket taker at BHS, writing workshop PD, .5 guidance counselor at CSS, summer secretarial assistance at CSS and SRE, a custodian at CHCS, Siemens bond, Central Office handicap access, and a .5 nursing position.

Graduation rate is 95.1% for the district, with the rate for students attending K-12 in district being 96.8%. Mr. Fritsch questioned, level funded is \$29,548,218, what is the % over the town; Mr. Dunn noted it was 1.9%. Ms. Bogdanovich questioned the teacher staffing, Superintendent Coffin noted that staffing has been moved to accommodate. Dr. Knapp noted that school choice money has helped to balance the budget.

VII. Reports of subcommittees/representative to Collaborative for Educational Services

A. Collaborative for Educational Services (Ms. Bogdanovich)

Ms. Bogdanovich noted she did not attend the meeting. Mr. Fritsch noted that the Collaborative has a new Blog.

B. Curriculum & Instruction (Dr. Knapp/Ms. French)

Dr. Knapp noted there will be a meeting April 28th to talk about Advanced Math.

C. Healthy & Safer Schools Advisory Committee (Ms. Bogdanovich)

Mr. Cameron noted there will be a meeting in May.

- D. Jessica's Boundless Playground Committee (Ms. Popowich)
Ms. Popowich noted there will be a meeting April 28th.
- E. Personnel & Policy (Ms. Popowich/Ms. Bogdanovich)
Ms. Popowich noted there was nothing at this time.
- F. Property & Transportation (Dr. Knapp/Mr. Fritsch)
Dr. Knapp noted there was nothing at this time.
- G. Finance & Budget Subcommittee (Dr. Knapp/Ms. French)
Dr. Knapp noted the presentation was earlier.
- H. Technology Advisory Committee (Mr. Fritsch)
Mr. Fritsch noted they are working on a draft of the Acceptable Use Policy to be presented to the Personnel & Policy Committee. They are looking into a 1-3 computer- student ratio. There will be a meeting May 6th.

VIII. New business

A. Update from Jessica's Boundless Playground Committee

Mr. Eric Weiss updated the School Committee on Jessica's Boundless Playground. The Grand Opening will be held in August or September. Mr. Weiss noted the help of everyone involved including Mt. View Landscaping, Bob Lachance, and Ed Weigel. He remarked that the playground will be a legacy for our town. The committee still exists but is making plans to disband. Ms. Bogdanovich questioned whether they are done fundraising. Mr. Weiss noted that other than a town warrant for \$49,000 for rubber surfacing they have completed fundraising. Mr. Fritsch commended all those involved. Ms. Bogdanovich questioned who was responsible for the playground. Mr. Lachance noted that both the schools and the town would be responsible.

IX. Unfinished business

A. Surplus Items

Motion: Ms. Bogdanovich moved to approve the removal of surplus items.

Second: Ms. Popowich

Vote: 4,0,0

Discussion: Mr. Lachance presented the technology surplus items. These items were offered to the town. They currently have a negative value. Mr. Karen found a vendor who will shred the hard drives and remove the items free of charge.

It was noted that the School Committee will have a Public Budget meeting on April 14, 2015 at the Chestnut Hill Community School Auditorium at 7:00 PM.

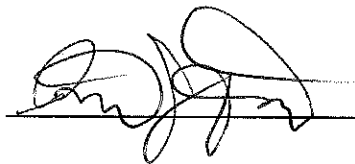
- X. Correspondence
 - A. April 7, 2015 Agenda
 - B. March 24, 2015 Minutes
 - C. FY16 School Department Budget
 - D. Surplus Items List

- XI. Adjourn
 - Motion: Ms. Bogdanovich moved to adjourn at 8:02 PM
 - Second: Dr. Knapp
 - Vote: 4,0,0

Respectfully submitted by,

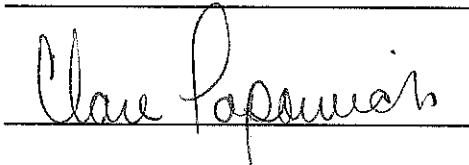
Ramona Griffin
Non-Confidential Recording Secretary to the School Committee

School Committee members' signatures:

 _____, Richard Fritsch, Chair

_____, Myndi Bogdanovich, Vice Chair

_____, Michael Knapp, Secretary

 _____, Clare Popowich, Member

_____, Dawn French, 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](#)).