



**BELCHERTOWN PUBLIC SCHOOLS
REGULAR SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
May 24, 2016**

LOCATION: Swift River Elementary School Library

TIME: 7:00 p.m.

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

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

BHS STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES: Benjamin Stone, Parker Mas

VISITORS: Ms. Stephanie Davella-Viens, Mass. Teachers Organization

Minutes

Pledge of Allegiance

- I. Call to order
Superintendent Coffin called the meeting to order at 7:04 pm.

- II. Reorganization of School Committee Positions
 - A. Officers

Success for Every Student Every Day

Superintendent Coffin opened the discussion with a request for nominations for School Committee officers.

Nomination: Mr. Fritsch nominated Dawn French for the Chair position

Second: Ms. Bogdanovich

Vote: 5,0,0

Nomination: Mr. Fritsch nominated Tom Laughner for the Vice-Chair position.

Second: Ms. Bogdanovich

Vote: 5,0,0

Nomination: Mr. Fritsch nominated Myndi Bogdanovich for the Secretary position.

Seconds: Dr. Knapp

Vote: 2,3,0

Nomination: Ms. Bogdanovich nominated Michael Knapp for the Secretary position.

Seconds: Mr. Fritsch

Vote: 3,2,0

B. Subcommittees

Ms. French opened the discussion for subcommittee appointments. Subcommittee assignments are as follows.

Curriculum & Instruction: Micheal Knapp and Richard. Fritsch

Personnel & Policy: Thomas Laughner and Myndi Bogdanovich

Property & Transportation: Myndi Bogdanovich and Dawn French

Finance & Budget: Thomas Laughner and Richard Fritsch

Collaborative for Education: Michael Knapp

Healthy & Safer Schools: Dawn French

Technology: Thomas Laughner

C. Policy DGA – Signing of warrants including payroll

Motion: Mr. Fritsch moved to adopt Chair and/or Vice-Chair may sign warrants and payroll.

Second: Ms. Bogdanovich

Vote: 5,0,0

Discussion: Mr. Fritsch brought up the need for an additional person to sign warrants and payroll in the event of the Chair being unavailable. School Committee discussed the

need for an alternate and who could fill that need. Mr. Fritsch volunteered as an alternative signature. Ms. Bogdanovich will also be an alternate.

III. Update from BHS Student Advisory Council representatives

Ben Stone introduced Parker Mas as the new student representative. Ben Stone and Parker Mas updated the School Committee on the school happenings.

CSS: Kindergarten student will be touring SRE to see their new environment for next year.

SRE: May 20th 1st grade visited Springfield Symphony Hall for a performance of "Seussical".

CHCS: Nature's Classroom June 8 - 10, non-campers will be visiting Worcester's Ecotarium.

JBMS: Band and Chorus performed at Great East on May 20th.

BHS: Commencement June 3rd at 6:00 pm. Speaker will be Stephen Mathras, 2003 Belchertown Alum, and Innovation Project Engineer at Nike. Senior awards is June 1st at 6:00 pm.

IV. Approval of minutes (A.I.)

A. May 10, 2016, Regular Session Minutes

Motion: Mr. Fritsch moved to accept the May 10, 2016 minutes as amended.

Second: Ms. Bogdanovich

Vote: 5,0,0

Discussion: Dr. Laughner amended under New Business Section IX B -claried that he objected to the timing of the system not the system itself.

V. Public comment regarding items on the agenda

Anne Marley, CHCS Library/Media specialist, spoke to the loss of a full time position at CHCS for the Library/Media specialist. She gave her notice earlier in the year but did not hear that the position would not be filled until very late in the year. She spoke to the work that went into updating the technology in the school and the work on curricula to meet state standards. She expressed her strong concern at what she views as the dismantling of the library/media system at CHCS and the decision of the School Committee to approve this.

Scott Beaulier spoke to concerns about qualified administrators being let go. CHCS PARCC scores increased under the current admin. Ms. Monette participates in many after school activities and is very involved. He expressed the opinion that students should come first. Mr. Beaulier questioned;

Why are we dismissing quality administrators?

Who's decision was it?

Is it budgetary?

Mr. Beaulier also expressed concerns with a 1st grade class size of 25, programs being cut, positions not being filled.

The response to dismissal question was; Ms. Monette took a position in another district and it was a non-renewal of position at CHCS. Ben Stone asked for clarification of difference between non-renewal of position and dismissal.

VI. Special Awards and Presentations

There were no awards or presentations.

VII. Reports and recommendations of the Superintendent (A.I.)

A. Cold Spring School Improvement Plan

Cold Spring did not present tonight. They are waiting on data for their evaluations.

B. Swift River Elementary School Improvement Plan

Mr. Kuhn presented the School Committee with the SRE improvement plan. He also noted they are still collecting and accessing data. Mr. Kuhn spoke to the SRE goals:

G1 - data

G2 - inclusion

G3 - social emotional

G4 - writers workshop culture

Dr. Knapp asked about recess and the time changes over the years. Mr. Kuhn noted that the changes saved instruction time. A standard based trimester report card was also suggested. Dr. Laughner asked for clarification on inclusion definition.

VIII. Personnel update

A. Additional retirements announced

Superintendent Coffin announced the additional retirements, which include Sandra

Kennedy, Lori Leclerc, Vasily Konyrev, E. Barrett Brown.

B. Posting for 2016 – 2017 Job Openings

Superintendent Coffin announced the 2016-17 job openings.

IX. Unfinished business

There was no unfinished business.

X. New business

A. Save our Public Schools campaign- Ms. Stephanie Davella-Viens

Motion: Mr. Fritsch moved to sign on to the resolution with \$418,912 and Belchertown Schools to be entered into the resolution.

Second: Ms. Bogdanovich

Vote: 5,0,0

Ms. Stephanie Davella-Viens spoke to the campaign. She is requesting the School Committee sign onto a resolution for a ballot initiative to cap charter schools. Charter schools get approximately \$109 million. Belchertown itself has “lost” \$418,912 this year. Charter schools take money out the districts and the accountability is vastly different. There are 11 other communities already signed on. Dr. Laughner clarified the amount of money that is a shortfall in Belchertown is \$70,000. Some charter money is reimbursed.

B. Approve 2016 – 2017 School Committee meeting calendar (A.I.)

Motion: Mr. Fritsch moved to approve the calendar.

Second: Dr. Knapp

Vote: 5,0,0

XII. Reports of subcommittees/representatives

A. Curriculum & Instruction (Dr. Knapp/Dr. Laughner)

Dr. Knapp noted they have not met.

B. Personnel & Policy (Ms. Bogdanovich/Ms. French)

Ms. Bogdanovich noted the subcommittee met earlier today. Discussed items included the Superintendent evaluation process and policies that need to be updated.

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

Mr. Fritsch noted they have not met.

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

Dr. Laughner noted they have not met. Mr. Dunn recommends presenting the quarterly transfers to the full Committee at the end of the year.

E. Collaborative for Educational Services (Dr. Knapp)

Dr. Knapp noted they meet tomorrow.

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

Mr. Cameron noted they have not met.

G. Technology Advisory Committee

Dr. Laughner noted they have not met.

XIII. Correspondence

A. Agenda, May 24, 2016

B. May 10, 2016, Regular Session Minutes

C. CSS Improvement Plan

D. SRE Improvement Plan

E. Personnel update and job postings

F. 2016 – 2017 Proposed School Committee meeting calendar

- XIV. Vote to enter into Executive Session under M.G.L. 30A, §21, Part 3 to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining with Unit A. Teachers and individual contracts 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 not return to open session.

School Committee voted to enter into executive session at 8:57 pm. They will not return to open session.

Vote:

Dawn French - yes

Thomas Laughner - yes

Michael Knapp - yes

Richard Fritsch - yes

Myndi Bogdanovich - yes

Respectfully submitted by,

Ramona Griffin

Non-Confidential Recording Secretary to the School Committee

School Committee members' signatures:

Dawn French, Dawn French, Chair

Thomas Laughner, Thomas Laughner, Vice Chair

Michael Knapp, Michael Knapp, Secretary

_____, Richard Fritsch, Member

Myndi Bogdanovich, Myndi Bogdanovich, Member

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

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](#)).

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