



**BELCHERTOWN PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
REGULAR SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING  
August 26, 2014**

**LOCATION:** Belchertown High School Cafeteria

**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:** Dr. Robert Gazda, Interim 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:**

**VISITORS:** Ms. Shannon Materka

### MINUTES

- I. Call to order  
Mr. Fritsch called the Regular School Committee Meeting to order at 7:00 pm
- I. Special awards and presentations  
There were no special awards or presentations.
- II. Update from BHS Student Advisory Council representatives  
There was no update from the BHS Student Advisory council.
- III. Public comment regarding items on the agenda  
There were no public comments regarding items on the agenda.
- V. Approval of minutes
  - A. July 22, 2014  
Motion: Dr. Knapp moved to approve the minutes for the June 24, 2014 meeting as amended.  
Second: Ms. Popowich  
Vote: 4,0,1 (abstention Dr. Knapp)  
  
Discussion: Dr. Knapp requested that minutes from July 22, 2014 section VI-B be amended to replace "The School District agrees to reimburse the fee for any member of Unit D." to read as "The School district agrees to reimburse the fee as outlined in the memorandum."
- IV. Reports and recommendations of the Superintendent

A. Review/Approval of 2014-2015 Employee Handbook Drafts and Revision

Motion: Ms. Popowich moved to approve the revisions as outlined.

Second: Ms. Bogdanovich

Vote: 5,0,0

Discussion: Ms. Popowich stated at a regularly scheduled meeting of Personnel and Policy the vote was 2,0,0 to approve the revisions as outlined by Dr. Gazda.

B. Review of New Hires and Openings for 2014-2015 School Year

Discussion. Dr. Gazda summarized the hiring process for the applicants. Dr. Knapp requested clarification on the time frame with regard to hiring. Mr. Cameron summarized the process from screening to negotiations. Dr. Gazda commented that it has been a tremendous process screening all applicants. Ms. French asked what was happening with the classes that still have open positions. Dr. Gazda said that substitutes are being utilized at this time. Dr. Knapp asked if all hires are well qualified for the positions. Dr. Gazda and Mr. Cameron said that to their knowledge they are. Mr. Fritsch asked if there were applicants for the Vice Principal position at the High School. Dr. Gazda replied that there were applicants.

Public comment: Shannon Materka commented that her son approved the hiring of Michael Berg at Chestnut Hill.

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

A. Collaborative for Educational Services (Ms. Bogdanovich)

Next meeting is scheduled for September 24, 2014.

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

There is no meeting currently scheduled. Ms. French suggested October or early November.

Dr. Knapp would like to address:

- Honors Math 8, 9, 10
- MassCore and the effect on BHS
- DDM's
- School District Improvement Plan
- Curriculum Director of alternative

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

Dr. Gazda is working with Mr. Lachance on concerns with compliance to the safety plan.

D. Jessica's Boundless Playground Committee (Ms. Popowich)

Ms. Popowich updated the School Committee on the progress of the playground. They received \$10,000 from Stop & Shop and still need \$50,000. There is a build weekend scheduled for the weekend of September 13, 2014. They are looking for 150 volunteers.

E. Personnel & Policy (Ms. Popowich/Ms. Bogdanovich)

Ms. Bogdanovich stated this was discussed previously under IV Reports and Recommendations of the Superintendent.

F. Property & Transportation (Dr. Knapp/Mr. Fritsch)

There will be a meeting scheduled for September.

Dr. Knapp along with Mr. Fritsch toured all the facilities. Dr. Knapp stated they will have a written report to share at a later date. Dr. Knapp stated they are looking at three issues. Ms. Bogdanovich asked if the traffic pattern at Swift River is being addressed. Mr. Lachance will be meeting with Principals to discuss traffic. Dr. Gazda will speak with bus company regarding the route for Swift River.

G. Technology Advisory Committee (Mr. Fritsch)

There will be an October meeting scheduled.

VI. New business

None

Public comment: Shannon Materka asked if the Jabish Brook Middle School after school program will be running this year. Mr. Cameron noted that Jabish lost the outside funding for the program but that they are looking into other avenues to bring it back.

IX. Unfinished business

There was no unfinished business.

X. Correspondence

- A. August 26, 2014 Regular Session Agenda
- B. July 22, 2014 Minutes
- C. Employee Handbook Draft
- D. New Hires
- E. CSS- Important Beginning of the Year Dates (Informational only)
- F. 2014-2015 School Year Calendar Update to Include (K) No School Days (Informational only)
- G. Staff Opening Day School-Site Schedules (informational only)

XI. Vote To Go Into Executive Session Under M.G.L., c. 30A , §21, Part (1) to discuss a specific employee. The Committee will not return to open session.

Mr. Fritsch – yes

Ms. Bogdanovich – yes

Dr. Knapp – yes

Ms. Popowich – yes

Ms. French – yes

The School Committee entered into Executive Session at 7:40 pm.

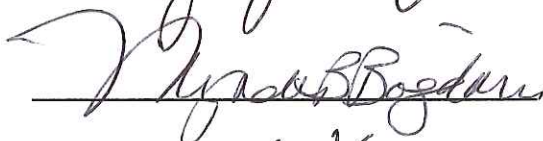
Respectfully submitted by,

Ramona Griffin  
Non-Confidential Recording Secretary to the School Committee

School Committee members' signatures:



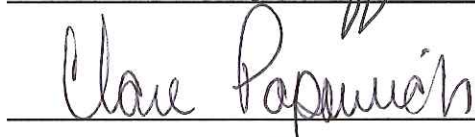
Richard Fritsch, Chair



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