



**BELCHERTOWN PUBLIC SCHOOLS
REGULAR SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
December 8, 2015**

LOCATION: Swift River Elementary School Library
TIME: 6:30 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; Shawn Fortin, Director of Teaching & Learning; Mr. Edward Dunn, Contracted School Business Manager; Mr. Thomas Ruscio, JBMS Principal; Mr. Robert Kuhn, SRE Principal;

BHS STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES: Benjamin Stone

VISITORS: Dr. Brian Messier, T.J. Howell, Chris Mattocks, Melanie Caponi-Babb, Anne Marley, Amy Henderson, Ronald Aponte, Shawn Lindholm, Eric Weiss

Minutes

Pledge of Allegiance

- I. Call to order
Ms. Bogdanovich called the meeting to order at 6:35 pm.

- 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 with Unit A, Teachers; 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. (Anticipated return to Open Session no later than 7:15 p.m.)

The Committee entered into executive session at 6:35 pm.

Vote
Myndi Bogdanovich - yes
Dawn French - yes
Thomas Laughner - yes

The Committee returned to open session at: 7:20 pm

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

- IV. Special awards and presentations
There were no awards or presentations.

V. Update from BHS Student Advisory Council representatives

• CSS

Students attend musical production of "Skippyjon Jones, Snow What & the 7 Chihuahuas" at the UMass Fine Arts Center on December 3rd. The CSSR PTO paid for transportation.

• SRE

December 18th 1st grade students will be performing "It's a Small World", presenting different culture and holiday traditions.

• CHCS

CHCS is currently holding a Holiday Donation Drive through December 22nd.

Donation boxes are located in the lobby.

• JBMS

Student Council is sponsoring a community service toy and clothing drive. Donation from local area businesses is encouraged. JBMS band and chorus have a concert Thursday, December 10th at the BHS Veterans Auditorium with a canned good donation for entrance encouraged.

• BHS

BHS bands and chorus concert took place December 2nd. The BHS Holiday Pops Concert will take place December 17th, 7:00 pm at the BHS Veterans Auditorium. BHS will also be holding their annual Senior Brunch Tuesday, December 22nd from 9:00 to 10:30 am. The senior class trip took place this week. The Humanities club is sponsoring the Toys for Town on December 21st.

VI. Approval of minutes

• November 10, 2015, Regular Session Minutes (A.I.)

Motion: Dr. Knapp moved to accept the minutes from November 10, 2015, November 16, 2015, and December 1, 2015.

Second: Mr. Fritsch

Vote: 4,0,1 (Dr. Laughner abstained)

• November 16, 2015, Special Session Minutes (A.I.)

Vote: 3,0,2 (Ms. Bogdanovich, Ms. French abstained)

• December 1, 2015, Regular Session Minutes, (A.I.)

Vote: 5,0,0

VII. Reports and recommendations of the Superintendent

Superintendent Coffin shared the information she received from Dr. Knapp regarding charter schools. She informed the Committee with regard to a letter she signed stating the negative impact charter schools have on rural communities. The letter is in opposition of expanding charter schools.

Mr. Cameron spoke to the program review in progress. Round one of the review is done, this dealt with records. Round two is scheduled for Dec 15-18 involving observation and interviews. 30 days later the district will receive a written report. The district has 60 days to rebut with additional time for corrective actions.

Superintendent and Mr. Fritsch noted they attended the concert and commended all involved. Superintendent complimented the arts program that is in our district. She noted the artwork currently on display at the Central office.

VIII. Personnel update

Superintendent Coffin noted addition of Brittany Footit at CHCS.

IX. Unfinished business

- BHS instrument surplus (Dr. Brian Messier) (A.I.)

Motion: Ms. French moved to approve the list of band instruments as surplus.

Second: Ms. Bogdanovich

Vote: 5,0,0

Discussion: Dr. Messier spoke to the request and utilizing One Man Band out of Maine for an exchange for instruments to benefit the program.

- Vision Committee report – (Dr. Chris Mattocks)

1. Team Building Special Session

Dr. Mattocks presented the report. He noted the question asked at each school; “What skills and attributes will be necessary for a student leaving XXX School to be successful at XXXX School?” The groups discussed this and came to a consensus for each school. Dr. Mattocks presented the Committee with the results. These were a list of attributes and skills for the district. The seven themes were;

1. A sense of curiosity and love of learning
2. Problem solving skills that include taking risks in learning
3. Effective communication skills in a variety of settings
4. Respect/tolerance for others
5. Personal independence; self-advocacy
6. Personal success skills (organization, motivation)
7. Sense of civic responsibility

Superintendent Coffin commended the committee members and Dr. Mattocks for their work.

X. New business

- A. Accept Band Boosters donation (A.I.)

Motion: Ms. French moved to approve the \$10,000 donation and appropriate as designated.

Second: Ms. Bogdanovich

Vote: 5,0,0

Discussion: Eric Weiss presented the Committee with the donation on behalf of the Belchertown Band Boosters. He noted the distribution of the donation would be \$1,500 each toward the band and choral programs at BHS, JBMS, and CHCS with the music programs at SRE and CSS to receive \$500 each. The donation came from a recent bequest from the estate of Robert Wilson a long time band enthusiast. Mr. Weiss spoke to the long time band program in Belchertown. Mr. Fritsch commended the program and offered his condolences to the family of Mr. Wilson.

B. Accept AETNA Foundation donation (A.I.)

Motion: Ms. Bogdanovich moved to accept the \$211.40 donation from AETNA to SRE.

Second: Ms. French

Vote: 5,0,0

Discussion: Superintendent Coffin presented the donation of \$211.40 donation toward SRE from AETNA. Mr. Kuhn noted the school's appreciation of the donation.

C. BHS Field Trip Request – Cleveland, OH (A.I.)

Motion: Dr. Knapp moved to approve the trip request.

Second: Ms. French

Vote: 5,0,0

Discussion: Dr. Messier spoke to the request. Dr. Knapp questioned if the Superintendent approved the request. Superintendent Coffin noted the trip had been approved by her.

D. Policy BID: School Committee Member Compensation and Expenses (A.I.)

Motion: Ms. French moved to approve file BID

Second: Ms. Bogdanovich

Vote: 4,1,0

Discussion: Ms. Bogdanovich presented the changes to the BID policy. The addition of a \$50 per night stipend with School Committee approval was discussed. The Committee discussed the cap of \$50.

Superintendent Coffin noted there is a National School Board Conference coming to Boston in the spring.

E. Policy IJOA: Field Trips and Out-of-Country Travel (A.I.)

Motion: Ms. French moved to approve file IJOA as rewritten.

Second: Ms. Bogdanovich

Vote: 5,0,0

Discussion: Ms. Bogdanovich spoke to the policy changes. The Committee discussed the addition of being able to rescind approval based on government travel alerts.

The Committee agreed to the addition of:

6. The School Committee reserves the right to review and if necessary rescind out of country travel based on travel warnings and alerts.

Mr. Fritsch questioned whether parents/guardians receive a copy of the policy when agreeing to the trip. Mr. Howell noted he had not handed it out for his trip.

F. Policy KCD: Outside Organization Support Groups (A.I.)

Motion: Ms. French moved to approve file KCD

Second: Ms. Bogdanovich

Vote: 5,0,0

Discussion: Superintendent Coffin and Ms. Bogdanovich presented the policy. The subcommittee explained the policy is to clarify donations. The Committee discussed the above \$500 amount listed as a donation for School Committee approval.

G. MASC/MASS Conference update (M. Bogdanovich)

Ms. Bogdanovich, Ms. French and Superintendent Coffin presented highlights to the conference. Noted highlights were;

- Self-evaluations
- Policy and procedures – should they be separate
- Social emotional learning for students in low income
- LGBTQ
- Boys in school – student connections
- Keynote – college graduates unemployment – create creators
- Communication in district – single School Committee spokesperson
- Collective bargaining
- Robert Rules of Order
- DESI-planning for success program

XI. Reports of subcommittees/representatives

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

Dr. Knapp noted they haven't met.

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

Ms. Bogdanovich noted they met tonight. The committee is working on 345 pages of the policy manual and a bomb threat policy. MASC will be uploading the policy manual online.

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

Mr. Fritsch noted there is a meeting Thursday, December 10.

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

Dr. Laughner noted there is a meeting next week, Lynne Raymer is invited.

E. Collaborative for Educational Services (Dr. Knapp)

Dr. Knapp noted they met in mid-November. Dr. Knapp shared noted with the Committee. Discussed at the meeting was the effect of charter schools.

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

Ms. Bogdanovich noted they met this week. Dr. Potee will be returning on January 21st for an evening presentation. The presentation will be open to the public.

Ms. Bogdanovich also noted the committee is working on the school lunch survey.

G. Technology Advisory Committee

Dr. Laughner noted the committee discussed google apps ready for JBMS.

H. Vision Advisory Committee

Motion: Ms. Bogdanovich moved to dissolve the Vision Advisory Committee.

Second: Dr. Laughner

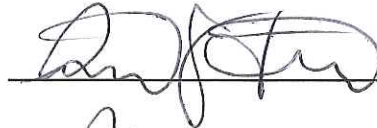
Vote: 5,0,0

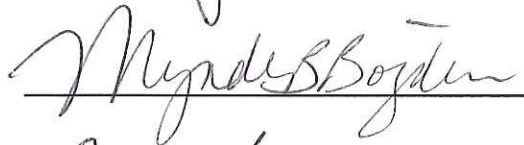
- XII. Correspondence
- A. Agenda, December 8, 2015
 - B. Minutes, November 10, 2015, Regular Session
 - C. Minutes, November 16, 2015, Regular Session
 - D. Minutes, December 1, 2015, Regular Session
 - E. Personnel update
 - F. Instruments for trade e-mail
 - F. Band Boosters donation
 - G. Aetna Foundation donation
 - H. BHS Field Trip request
 - I. Policy BID: School Committee Member Compensation and Expenses
 - J. Policy IJOA: Field Trips and Out-of-Country Travel
 - K. Policy KCD: Outside Organization Support Groups
 - L. NSBA Conference – Boston, April 9-11, 2016 (informational only)
- XIII. Adjourn
- Motion: Ms. Bogdanovich moved to adjourn at 9:00 pm.
Second: Dr. Laughner
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 to determine the best way to address your concerns (see [School Committee Policy BEDH](#)).