



**BELCHERTOWN PUBLIC SCHOOLS
REGULAR SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
December 16, 2014**

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: 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:

Minutes

- I. Call to order
Mr. Fritsch call the meeting to order at 7:03 pm
- II. Special awards and presentations
There were no special awards or presentations.
- III. Update from BHS Student Advisory Council representatives
There were no updates from the BHS Student Advisory Council.
- IV. Public comment regarding items on the agenda
There were no public comments regarding items on the agenda.
- V. Approval of minutes
 - A. November 18, 2014, Regular Session
Motion: Ms. Popowich moved to accept the October 28, 2014 minutes as amended.
Second: Ms. Bogdanovich
Vote: 5,0,0
Discussion: Ms. Bogdanovich noted a change in minutes from November 18, 2014. Amend Section VIII, last paragraph to read "Ms. French spoke to a governance program, which is a free program for schools. **Ms. French also spoke about a data processing program for PSAT and SAT scores.**"
- VI. Reports and recommendations of the Superintendent
There were no reports or recommendations from the Superintendent

- VII. Reports of subcommittees/representative to Collaborative for Educational Services
- A. Collaborative for Educational Services (Ms. Bogdanovich)
Ms. Bogdanovich noted there will be a meeting next month.
- B. Curriculum & Instruction (Dr. Knapp/Ms. French)
Dr. Knapp noted, at a meeting of the Curriculum & Instruction committee, there was a discussion regarding enrichment programs in the district. Discussion touched on stipends, schedules, and student population in JBMS versus CHCS. Ms. Bogdanovich asked if CHCS is young for after school programs. Dr. Knapp noted that in the past JBMS after school programs were funded with outside funds which are not available any longer.
- C. Healthy & Safer Schools Advisory Committee (Ms. Bogdanovich)
Ms. Bogdanovich noted there will be a meeting on January 21st.
- D. Jessica's Boundless Playground Committee (Ms. Popowich)
Ms. Popowich noted there was no update.
- E. Personnel & Policy (Ms. Popowich/Ms. Bogdanovich)
Ms. Popowich noted there was no update.
- F. Property & Transportation (Dr. Knapp/Mr. Fritsch)
Dr. Knapp noted that Property & Transportation has not met.
- G. Technology Advisory Committee (Mr. Fritsch)
Mr. Fritsch noted the Technology Advisory Committee met December 3rd. The survey to staff had a 20-30% participation. They may potentially send the survey out to students and parents. They reviewed the Acceptable Use Policy. There are two plans out to finance technology in the district.
- VIII. New business
- A. Report from SEPAC
Kathleen Terry spoke to the SEPAC report sent to the School Committee. The report includes:
- Bylaws
 - Brochure
 - Survey summary results
 - SEPAC guidelines
- Some concerns noted from the surveys were (there were 41 responses to the survey):
- Transition from building to building
 - General Education teachers need support to implement 504 plans
 - Education of parents on IEPs
 - Transparency
 - Parents are under educated on the processes
 - Student self esteem
 - Reluctance to place out of district

- IEPs created in reverse process

SEPAC plan to continue monthly meetings. They are having conversations with Mr. Cameron. There is the potential for another survey with a staff survey as well. Suggestion to School Committee and Student Support Services was, written information with detail, general education staff educated on 504 plans, and more time to educate staff.

Ms. French suggested a workshop in conjunction with the PTO that could include an activity for students. This would promote greater attendance at meetings.

Discussion: Dr. Knapp noted there will be hearings going on regarding foundation budgets January 10th in Western Mass.

Dr. Knapp noted that the district should have 3 year projections. Mr. Fritsch mentioned the potential to have a budget committee created in the new year.

Ms. Popowich thanked Dr. Gazda for his service to the district. Mr. Fritsch presented Dr. Gazda with a Belchertown pocket watch and Belchertown coin on behalf of the School Committee and staff. Mr. Fritsch also presented Dr. Gazda with a Belchertown ladies watch and coin for Mrs. Gazda.

IX. Unfinished business

There was no unfinished business.

X. Correspondence

- A. December 16, 2014 Agenda
- B. November 18, 2014 Minutes
- C. SEPAC Informational Packet

XI. Vote to enter into Executive Session under M.G.L., c. 30A, §21, Part (3), to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining, Custodians Unit C and Food Service Employees Unit D, as conducting said business in open session would have a detrimental effect on the School Committee's negotiating position. The Committee will not return to open session.

The School Committee did not enter into Executive Session.

Motion: Dr. Knapp moved to adjourn at 8:08 pm.

Second: Ms. French

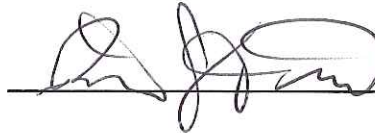
Vote: 5,0,0

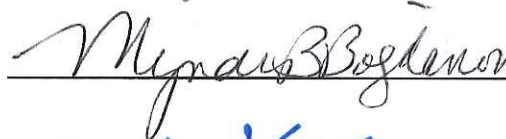
Respectfully submitted by,

Ramona Griffin


Non-Confidential Recording Secretary to the School Committee

School Committee members' signatures:

 _____, Richard Fritsch, Chair

 _____, Myndi Bogdanovich, Vice Chair

 _____, 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](#)).