



**BELCHERTOWN PUBLIC SCHOOLS
REGULAR SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
February 24, 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 7:04 pm.
- II. Special awards and presentations
 - A. Wiencke Award for Excellence in Teaching – Thomas J. Howell
Superintendent Coffin presented Mr. Howell with the Wiencke Award for Excellence in Teaching. Mr. Howell was honored by the Classical Association of New England for Excellence in Teaching.
- III. Update from BHS Student Advisory Council representatives
There was no update from the BHS Student Advisory Council representatives.
- IV. Public comment regarding items on the agenda
There were no public comments regarding items on the agenda.
- V. Approval of minutes
 - A. February 10, 2015, Minutes
Motion: Dr. Knapp moved to approve the minutes from February 10, 2015 as presented.
Second: Ms. French
Vote: 4,0,0
- VI. Reports and recommendations of the Superintendent
 - A. Cold Spring School Highlight – Infusion of Technology Into the Classroom

Superintendent Coffin introduced Ms. Bremer to speak to Cold Spring School highlight. Ms. Bremer, Mr. Karen, Ms. Murphy, and Ms. Mastalerz presented the Cold Spring School's technology improvements. Ms. Bremer stated that Cold Spring School is dedicated to the whole child development. Cold Spring School is the foundation for students. Mr. Karen spoke to the improvements that Cold Spring School has undergone with regard to technology. CSS had no technology foundation; with the help of budgeting through CSS, IT department, JBMS, and the PTO they hardwired the building, added iPads, Apple TV, laptops for teachers, wireless access, wall mounted projectors in every classroom, and switching infrastructure. Ms. Murphy presented a video highlighting technology and volunteers in CSS.

B. Snow Date Make-Up – March 13, 2015

Motion: Ms. French moved to change March 13, 2015 from a Professional Development day to a snow day make up.

Second: Dr. Knapp

Vote: 4,0,0

Discussion: Superintendent Coffin stated the district currently has 4 snow days. She requested the School Committee approve changing the current Professional Development day, March 13, 2015, to a regular school day. Ms. Popowich and Dr. Knapp asked if there were any activities scheduled at BHS. Ms. French noted there is nothing on the online calendar at this time. Dr. Knapp asked what was scheduled for professional development. Superintendent Coffin noted there was nothing scheduled at this time.

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

A. Collaborative for Educational Services (Ms. Bogdanovich)

The Collaborative has not met.

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

Dr. Knapp noted the committee has not met.

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

Mr. Cameron noted there will be a Healthy & Safer Schools Advisory Committee in a couple of weeks.

Ms. Popowich requested that the school lunch program be added to the next agenda of the subcommittee.

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

Ms. Popowich noted the committee has not met.

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

Ms. Popowich noted the committee has not met.

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

Dr. Knapp noted the committee has not met.

- G. Finance & Budget Subcommittee (Dr. Knapp/Ms. French)
Dr. Knapp noted the subcommittee met on Monday, February 23, 2015. They discussed the district needs budget. He noted there are 8 positions listed and the need for a vision on how to move the district forward. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 2, 2015 to discuss a 1% cut budget.
- H. Technology Advisory Committee (Mr. Fritsch)
Mr. Fritsch noted there will be a Committee meeting in March.

VIII. New business

- A. 2015 – 2016 School Year Calendar Drafts
Motion: Dr. Knapp moved to accept calendar as presented.
Second: Ms. French
Vote: 4,0,0

Discussion: Superintendent Coffin presented the 2015 – 2016 School Year Calendar Draft to the School Committee. Dr. Knapp inquired about the February vacation originally being used to break the flu cycle in school and if it was still necessary. Superintendent Coffin noted the state is considering the question of a change in February vacation. She noted that the state testing cycle would have to change to accommodate any change in vacation schedules. Dr. Knapp questioned whether this has been shared with the BTA. Superintendent Coffin noted it has not been shared as yet. Mr. Fritsch noted that Superintendent Coffin should come back when there are more dates available.

- B. BHS Out of State Field Trip Request
Motion: Dr. Knapp moved to approve the trip request as presented.
Second: Ms. Popowich
Vote: 4,0,0

Ms. Comstock, Choir Director at BHS, spoke to the request for a choir trip to NYC. The students would attend a Making Music Workshop and a Mama Mia performance. She also noted that the JBMS chorus has been invited. Mr. Fritsch asked if there were options available to students who needed assistance. He also noted his son would be attending the trip. Ms. Comstock answered there were options for students needing assistance.

- C. Discussion of the Superintendent Evaluation
Mr. Fritsch discussed when the School Committee would like to start the Superintendent Evaluation process due to the short term that would be evaluated. Would they prefer a Spring-Fall or a Fall-Spring cycle? Ms. French questioned the past goal setting cycle. Ms. Popowich noted that past goal setting was done in the spring. Mr. Fritsch noted that there was precedent to do a midterm evaluation in October/November. The state also allows an 18 month assessment, with the midterm as the 1st assessment and the end of year as the final. Mr. Fritsch will

research the midterm assessment and look into a 3-4 month assessment. Dr. Knapp asked if it could be tied to the District Annual Plan. Ms. Popowich asked when the contractual increase would occur. Mr. Fritsch noted the evaluation was in May and the contract in June. Superintendent Coffin noted that her entry plan could be used as part of assessment. Mr. Fritsch and Dr. Knapp questioned; with a short time frame what would be the basis for the evaluation.

IX. Unfinished business

A. WMELC Position Paper Discussion and Vote

Motion: Ms. French moved to endorse the Position Paper Statement by WMELC.

Second: Dr. Knapp

Vote: 4,0,0

Discussion: Mr. Fritsch noted that the government has passed legislature with regard to Chapter 5 money. Dr. Knapp noted that after reading the wording of the Position Paper it seemed reasonable and that the concerns expressed were accurate. He questioned the amount of time our students spend on testing, how many days? Superintendent Coffin and Mr. Cameron noted that it depends on grade level but average is 2 days for ELA, 2 days for Math, and 2 days for Science. Superintendent Coffin noted that ELA could take several days and that SPED has special accommodation that take staffing which disrupts the school day.

X. Correspondence

- A. Agenda, February 24, 2015 Regular Session
- B. Minutes of February 10, 2015, Regular Session
- C. 2015 – 2016 School Year Calendar Drafts
- D. BHS Out-of-State Field Trip Request
- E. WMELC Position Paper

XI. Adjourn

Motion: Ms. French moved to adjourn at 8:12 pm.

Second: Dr. Knapp

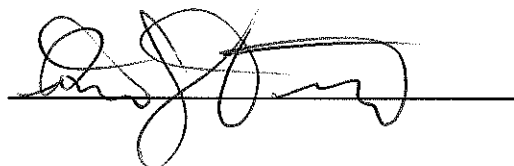
Vote: 4,0,0

Respectfully submitted by,

Ramona Griffin

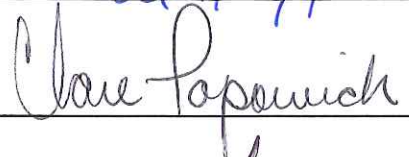
Non-Confidential Recording Secretary to the School Committee

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](#)).