



**BELCHERTOWN PUBLIC SCHOOLS
REGULAR SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
February 23, 2016**

LOCATION: Swift River Elementary School Library

TIME: 7:00 p.m.

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Mr. Richard Fritsch, Chair (present); Ms. Myndi Bogdanovich, Vice-Chair (absent); 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; Mr. Edward Dunn, Contracted School Business Manager; Ms. Christine Vigneux, Principal BHS; Mr. Thomas Ruscio, JBMS Principal; Ms. Paula Fitzgerald, Principal CHCS; Mr. Robert Kuhn, SRE Principal; Mr. Doug Daponde, BHS Assistant Principal; Mr. Bruce Hastings, BHS AD & Dean of Students; Ms. Jill Pelletier, Assistant Principal CHCS

BHS STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES: not present

VISITORS: Brenda Aldrich, Board of Selectmen, Aimee Henderson

Minutes

Pledge of Allegiance

- I. Call to order
Mr. Fritsch called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.
- II. Public comment regarding items on the agenda
There were no public comments regarding items on the agenda.

- III. Special awards and presentations
Superintendent Coffin noted there were no awards or presentations.
- IV. Update from BHS Student Advisory Council representatives
Mr. Cameron read the update.

CSS: Kindergarten registration Friday March 11, 8:00 am to 3:00 pm and March 17th 4:00 pm to 8:00 pm. CSS website is updated with information.

SRE: March 4th 1st grade will celebrate Dr. Seuss month by parading through school with crazy hats.

CHCS: March 3rd at 7:00 pm, 6th grade chorus and band have a concert.

JBMS: After school programs, homework club, 8th hour and Eye to Eye will begin February 29th, \$20 participation fee is for homework club.

BHS: MCAS English and Math retesting on February 2- - March 4th. Annual Humanities Club Blood drive on March 9th.

- V. Approval of minutes
 - A. January 26, 2016, Regular Session
Motion: Ms. French moved to accept the January 26, 2016 minutes.
Second: Dr. Laughner
Vote: 4,0,0

- B. February 9, 2016, Regular Session
Motion: Ms. French moved to accept the February 9, 2016 minutes as amended.
Second: Dr. Laughner
Vote: 4,0,0
Dr. Knapp and Mr. Fritsch noted changes.

- VI. Reports and recommendations of the Superintendent
 - A. April 12th School Committee Meeting – State Senator Eric Lesser
Superintendent Coffin noted that State Senator Eric Lesser will be attending the April 12 School Committee Meeting. Mr. Fritsch encouraged the public to attend this meeting to voice concerns about funding in general and specifically about funding charter schools.
 - B. Chestnut Hill Community School progress report on school improvement plan

Ms. Fitzgerald and Ms. Pelletier presented the CHCS progress report.

- ❖ Curriculum, planning, & assessment
 - SWBAT posted in classrooms
 - Analyze DDMs
 - Vocab initiative
 - Utilize & analyze ACUITY, DIBELS, PARCC, and MCAS
- ❖ Teaching all students
 - Pilot LIFE skills program
 - Anti-bullying initiatives
 - TV studio with daily announcements broadcast live every day
- ❖ Family – Community engagement
 - PowerSchool – 6th grade
 - Emails in handbook and on website
 - Principal newsletter
 - Updated website
 - School messenger
- ❖ Professional culture
 - Faculty survey
 - Plan professional development
 - Google training
 - Tech Tuesdays
 - Team leader Kelly Carrier in the building

Ms. Fitzgerald and Ms. Pelletier expanded on the LIFE skills and DARE programs. The new program adds moral and mental health skills to the DARE program of drug prevention. Mr. Fritsch questioned if there was a component for the parents. Ms. Fitzgerald and Ms. Pelletier noted there is a lifeskills website available which is used friendly and will be putting the link on the school website. There will be an information letter going home to parents/guardians soon. Dr. Knapp questioned if there is any breakdown assessment of data with regard to which parts of the population may be underserved. Ms. Fitzgerald noted that overall the numbers are favorable and some of the subgroups from Mr. Admussen's presentation are being noted. Dr. Laughner questioned if progress can be broken down by socioeconomic groups. Dr. Knapp questioned how they would monitor the outcome of the new social emotional program. Ms.

Pelletier noted that there is a survey prior and after the lifeskills lesson. Ms. Fitzgerald noted it can also be monitored by the increase or decrease in discipline referrals. Dr. Laughner questioned why the PARCC number may have such a large increase. Ms. Fitzgerald noted the students liked the test format better, the expanded writing program in the school, and uninterrupted learning blocks.

C. Belchertown High School progress report on school improvement plan
Ms. Vigneux and Mr. Daponde presented the progress of BHS.

- ❖ Curriculum, planning, & assessment
 - DDMs Nov 3rd and Jan 15th
 - Data team meetings – Mr. Daponde has expanded on the program
 - Effectiveness of data meetings
- ❖ Teaching all students
 - Preliminary MA CORE proposal 2017/18
 - Skills graduates should have
 - Student/parent survey in Aug 2015 – Ms. Vigneux has expanded the survey
 - Student survey in Feb 2016
- ❖ Family – Community engagement
 - Crisis team
 - Lifelines training program
 - Trained all educators (lifelines) Nov 2015
 - Will inform all 9th grade parents/guardians about Lifeline program (March 31st)
 - Piloting Lifeline curriculum April 4-7
- ❖ Professional culture
 - Reviewed 2007 NEASC accreditation report
 - Reviewed NEASC standards
 - Establish co-chairs, committee chair, and committee for process

Dr. Knapp noted the MACORE requirements were optimistic and are there enough hours to fulfill them? Ms. Vigneux noted yes, with directed study halls, internships availability, school to work coordinator, and staffing. There are many variables involved along with monetary constraints. Dr. Laughner noted that

reading the student surveys they were, for the most part, very thoughtful. Ms. Vigneux noted that what might stand out were electives. Dr. Laughner questioned if adding courses would change the amount of student that might leave the Belchertown schools. Dr. Knapp requested the number of students engaged in extracurricular activities. Mr. Fritsch asked if a student component could be added to the crisis team.

VII. Personnel update

Superintendent Coffin noted there were no personnel updates.

VIII. Unfinished business

There was no unfinished business at this time.

IX. New business

A. Suburban Coalition Resolution/Full Funding of the Foundation Budget Review Petition

Motion: Dr. Knapp moved to endorse the petition as follows;

"Therefore be it resolved that the Belchertown School Committee calls on the Massachusetts Legislature and the Governor of Massachusetts to fully fund and adopt the recommendations of the Foundation Budget Review Commission in the immediate future."

Second: Dr. Laughner

Vote: 4,0,0

Discussion: Dr. Knapp proposed the Committee move ahead the endorsement. The initiative would encourage legislature to act on looking at SPED funding and health insurance coverage in schools.

X. Reports of subcommittees/representatives

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

Dr. Knapp noted the meeting was rescheduled.

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

Ms. French noted the meeting was rescheduled.

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

Ms. French noted the next meeting is March 8th

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

Dr. Laughner noted they met last week, discussed petty cash procedure and moving the budget forward.

E. Collaborative for Educational Services (Dr. Knapp)

Dr. Knapp noted nothing at this time.

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

There will be a meeting Thursday.

G. Technology Advisory Committee

Dr. Laughner noted nothing at this time.

XI. Correspondence

A. Agenda, February 23, 2016

B. Minutes, January 26, 2016, Regular Session

C. Minutes, February 9, 2016, Regular Session

D. Annual Town Meeting/Special Town Meeting dates (Informational only)

XII. Vote to enter into Executive Session under M.G.L., 30A, §21, Part 3 to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining 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 return to not return open session.

School Committee voted to enter into executive session at 8:15 pm

Richard Fritsch – yes

Myndi Bogdanovich – absent

Dawn French – yes

Michael Knapp – yes

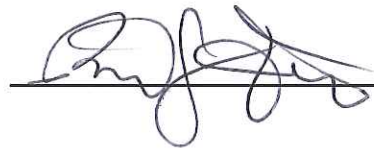
Thomas Laughner – yes

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

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](#)).