



**BELCHERTOWN PUBLIC SCHOOLS
REGULAR SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
March 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 7:00 pm.
- II. Special awards and presentations
See section VI Section A.
- III. Update from BHS Student Advisory Council representatives
Student representatives Ben Stone, Matthew DeBarge, and Sienna Nielsen updated the School Committee on Belchertown High School. MCAS started today, the freshmen had a STEM presentation, the juniors had a SAT/ACT practice test, sponsored by Princeton Review, and seniors had a cap and gown fitting with breakfast provided by Ms. Vigneux. Spring sports have started. The band performed at the St. Patrick's Day Parade, they were the featured band on ABC 40. Ben Stone noted that along with, BHS school nurse, Ms. Keefe he is kicking off a sun safety pledge.
- IV. Public comment regarding items on the agenda
There no public comments regarding items on the agenda.
- V. Approval of minutes
 - A. February 26, 2015, Special Session Minutes
Motion: Dr. Knapp moved to approve the February 26, 2015 minutes as presented.
Second: Ms. French
Vote: 4,0,1 Ms. Popowich abstained
 - B. March 10, 2015, Regular Session Minutes

Motion: Dr. Knapp moved to approve the March 10, 2015 minutes as amended.

Second: Ms. French

Vote: 4,0,0 M. Bogdanovich abstained.

Discussion: amend minutes Section VII-G

line 4 to read "a 0.37% increase."

Line 5 to read "\$28.12 million includes"

VI. Reports and recommendations of the Superintendent

A. Recognition of 2015 Pioneer Valley Excellence in Teaching Award Recipients and Nominees

Superintendent Coffin presented the nominees of the 2015 Pioneer Valley Excellence in Teaching Awards. Those nominees recognized were, Ms. Linda Fuhrman of Cold Spring School, Ms. Candice Vinci-Tarnawa of Swift River Elementary, and Ms. Melanie Caponi-Babb of Jabish Brook Middle School. Superintendent Coffin presented the award winners with their certificates. Those chosen were Ms. Maria Scudere, of Belchertown High School, who received the Veteran Teacher Award and Mr. Michael Berg, of Chestnut Hill Community School, who received the First Year Teaching Award. Superintendent Coffin noted that all these teachers were nominated by their peers, interviewed and their classrooms visited. They are outstanding teachers.

B. Chestnut Hill Community School Highlight – Music Arts Dept.

Ms. Fitzgerald introduced Mr. Mosall, the CHCS band director, and Mr. Guerraz, the CHCS music education and choral director, to highlight the Music Arts Department at CHCS. Mr. Mosall conducted the 6th grade saxophone player in a performance of "Allegretto from Symphony no 7" by Beethoven. Mr. Guerraz directed the 6th grade chorus in a performance of "We Shall Overcome".

C. Recommendation for School Business Management Services

Motion: Ms. French moved to accept the bid from TM Solution Inc. for FY 16-18 based on contract services.

Second: Ms. Popowich

Vote: 5,0,0

Discussion: Superintendent Coffin noted that based on the bid process it was the recommendation of the Superintendent and the School Committee that the FY 16, 17, and 18 business management service be awarded to TM Solution Inc. effective July 1, 2015. The figure is locked in for 3 years.

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

A. Collaborative for Educational Services (Ms. Bogdanovich)

Ms. Bogdanovich noted there is a meeting tomorrow.

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

Dr. Knapp noted there was nothing to report.

- C. Healthy & Safer Schools Advisory Committee (Ms. Bogdanovich)
Ms. Bogdanovich noted the Healthy & Safer Schools Advisory Committee met March 18, 2015. They discussed food service in the district. A survey of student population at the upper grade levels was discussed. Dr. Knapp questioned if the lunch period time constraints would be included in the survey. Ms. Bogdanovich answered it could be included but noted that there doesn't seem to be an issue. Mr. Cameron noted that there is less participation in the lunch programs and the concern is what the penalties would be for dropping out of the Federal program.
- D. Jessica's Boundless Playground Committee (Ms. Popowich)
Ms. Popowich noted the Jessica's Boundless Playground Committee met last week but she was unable to attend.
- E. Personnel & Policy (Ms. Popowich/Ms. Bogdanovich)
Ms. Popowich noted there was nothing at this time.
- F. Property & Transportation (Dr. Knapp/Mr. Fritsch)
Dr. Knapp noted there was nothing to report.
- G. Finance & Budget Subcommittee (Dr. Knapp/Ms. French)
Dr. Knapp spoke to the \$27.8 million needs budget for the district. The Subcommittee met last week with the town to discuss the budget.
Dr. Knapp noted that;
Chapter 70 money: \$13.5 million (\$48,000 increase-\$20 per pupil)
Town contribution: \$14.0 million
School Choice: \$300,000
Dr. Knapp also noted there is a letter being circulated addressed to the Ways and Means Committee to increase the per pupil expenditure to \$50. He suggested contacting the State Representative to advocate for this increase. Mr. Fritsch noted the State Government is looking into unfunded mandates, MCAS, and PARCC testing.
- H. Technology Advisory Committee (Mr. Fritsch)
Mr. Fritsch noted the Technology Advisory Committee has not met.

VIII. New business

- A. Approval of Proposed Warrant Article for Town Meeting, May 11, 2015
Motion: Ms. Popowich motioned to move the Warrant Article forward to Town Meeting.
Second: Dr. Knapp
Vote: 5,0,0

Discussion: Superintendent Coffin spoke to the Warrant for Town Meeting. She noted that the school district is not required to pay for transportation for grades 7-12. Current cost for a bus pass is \$100 if purchased before the start of school, \$110 if purchased after the start of school. Mr. Dunn noted the income from bus passes was

\$55,293 this year. Total cost for district transportation per year is \$1,350,000. Dr. Knapp questioned the negative impact of having students dropped off. Dr. Knapp also questioned when the bus pass fee is set. Superintendent Coffin noted it hasn't been discussed as yet. It will be discussed in the future as well as all other fees.

B. BHS Out of Country Field Trip Request – Latin Trip, April 2016

Motion: Dr. Knapp moved to approve the BHS Classics group Out of Country Field Trip Request.

Second: Ms. Bogdanovich

Vote: 5,0,0

Discussion: Mr. Howell spoke to the BHS Out of Country Field Trip Request. This will be his 8th trip. This year they will be going with other schools which will lower the cost. Current cost is \$3,009 per student. The number of student going will be approximately 12-14. They recommend 1 chaperone per 6 students.

IX. Unfinished business

Ms. Bogdanovich noted she met with student representatives to go over governance training exercise.

X. Correspondence

- A. Agenda, March 24, 2015 Regular Session
- B. Minutes of March 10, 2015, Regular Session
- C. Recommendation for School Business Management Services
- D. Proposed Warrant Article
- E. BHS Out of Country Latin Field Trip Request

XI. Vote to enter into Executive Session under M.G.L., c. 30A, §21, Part (2), to conduct a strategy session in preparation for negotiations with nonunion personnel as conducting said business in open session would have detrimental effect on the School Committee's negotiating position. 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 8:15.

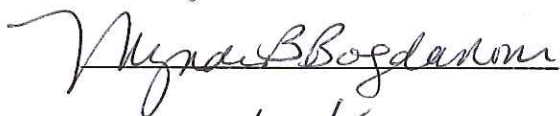
Respectfully submitted by,

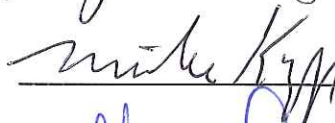
Ramona Griffin

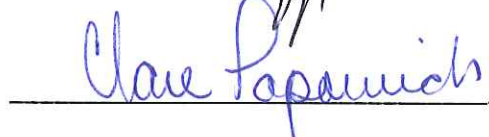
Non-Confidential Recording Secretary to the School Committee

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](#)).