



**BELCHERTOWN PUBLIC SCHOOLS
REGULAR SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
April 26, 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 (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;

BHS STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES: Benjamin Stone

VISITORS: Corrina Smith, Susan Detorrice

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. Update from BHS Student Advisory Council representatives
Ben Stone updated the School Committee;
CSS; student celebrating Earth day, planting garden in the playground area. Starting seedlings in class.

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SRE; May 18th, 2nd grade traveling to Amherst College to visit Beneski Museum of Natural History.

CHCS; Drama production of Playing with Time will be held April 29th and 30th.

JBMS; 8th grade field trip to Washington DC on April 27-30th.

BHS; successful trips to Quebec, Cuba and Greece/Italy. Legacy group at BHS is overseeing class meetings on April 26 and 27.

IV. Approval of minutes (A.I.)

A. March 22, 2016 Regular Session

B. April 5, 2016, Budget Public Hearing

C. April 12, 2016, Regular Session

D. April 15, 2016, Regular Session

Motion: Ms. Bogdanovich moved to accept the minutes from March 22, 2016, April 12, 2016 and April 15, 2015 as presented.

Second: Ms. French

Vote: 5,0,0

Motion: Ms. Bogdanovich moved to accept the minutes from April 5, 2016

Second: Ms. French

Vote: 4,0,1 (Mr. Fritsch abstained)

V. Reports and recommendations of the Superintendent

Superintendent Coffin noted May will have second year of PARCC testing grades 3-8. 5th and 8th grade Science MCAS will be at the end of May. It was noted that the state has cut down on the amount of testing.

VI. Personnel update

There were no personnel updates at this time.

VII. Unfinished business

A. Budget update FY 2017

Mr. Dunn updated the Committee with the FY 2017 budget numbers. Dr. Knapp asked for historical documents with regard to town income and expense statements. Mr. Dunn will try to find some older documents. Dr. Knapp is interested in how the town's budget has changed over past years. Mr. Fritsch questioned when the budget would be online. Superintendent Coffin was hopeful by Friday. Ms. French asked what is the best way to direct people. Superintendent Coffin noted there will be a parent meeting at CHCS library, 7:00 pm to look into setting up an educational foundation. This foundation to fund projects in the district. It was noted that the foundation would take time to implement.

VIII. New business

A. School Committee summer budget & finance workshop

Mr. Fritsch suggested a meeting with the Finance Committee to explain income and expense sheets. How the town arrives at their numbers. Would like to arrange something for this summer. Dr. Laughner suggested they should include what their process is. It is suggest that the finance and budget process start earlier.

B. Computer equipment donation

Motion: Ms. French moved to accept the computer equipment donation from ISO New England.

Second: Dr. Knapp

Vote: 5,0,0

C. School supply lists for students

This was a suggestion by a parent. The Committee discussed the usefulness of a school supply list. Ms. French noted we are one of the few districts that does not have one. Ms. Bogdanovich suggested looking for corporate donations. Mr. Cameron noted a supply list cannot be required. Ms. Bogdanovich notes it would be suggested or a donation to the classroom. Superintendent Coffin suggested a unified list by school.

D. Potential parent "opt-out hard copy" procedure

Superintendent Coffin noted this is another suggestion by a parent. Ms. Bogdanovich had suggested previously the "virtual backpack". Ms. French noted that Ms. Vigneux does send out a Monday morning memo. These suggestions save money on paper and less mailings. Superintendent Coffin suggests to start with an opt-out with hard copies available and that cutting back on hard copies would be helpful. Ben Stone questioned whether there is a way to do this with the summer mailings packets. Superintendent Coffin and the leadership team will look at this.

IX. Reports of subcommittees/representatives

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

Met earlier this evening, items covered:

Curriculum review cycle

Competency-based education (Tacoma Model)

Open educational resources

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

Ms. Bogdanovich noted they have not met.

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

Ms French noted they discussed the development of a study committee, moving forward on new building. Have only received 1 reply to be part of the committee. There are a variety of fields needed. Mr. Lachance gave an update on the 5 year capital plan; underground oil tank, bleachers at JBMS, and asbestos tiles at JBMS and CSS. Also discussed were the traffic patterns. Phase one is complete.

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

Dr. Laughner noted they have not met.

E. Collaborative for Educational Services (Dr. Knapp)

Dr. Knapp supplied the Committee with an electronic version update.

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

Mr. Cameron noted they will meet in May.

G. Technology Advisory Committee (Dr. Laughner)

Dr. Laughner noted they have not met.

XI. Correspondence

- A. Agenda, April 12, 2016
- B. March 22, 2016, Regular Session Minutes
- C. April 5, 2016, Budget Hearing Minutes
- D. April 12, 2016, Regular Session Minutes
- E. April 15, 2016, Regular Session Minutes
- F. FY 2017 budget update document
- G. Income & Expense Summary Report
- H. Computer equipment donation document
- I. CES March 2016 Summary from M. Knapp
- J. NSBA Summary and Powerpoint slides from M. Knapp

XII. New Business

Dr. Knapp noted he attended the NSBA conference. He noted attending "effective school board" and "needy kids" workshops.

Ms. French noted she attended the "Lifelines" program at BHS. It is a suicide prevention program. BHS is piloting with three freshmen classes with the hope of expanding to all freshmen.

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 not return to open session.

School Committee voted to enter into Executive Session at 8 pm. They will not return to open session.

Vote;

Richard Fritsch – yes

Myndi Bogdanovich – yes

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](#)).

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