



**BELCHERTOWN PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
REGULAR SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING  
July 22, 2014**

**LOCATION:** Chestnut Hill Community School Library  
**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; Mr. Robert Lachance, Director of Buildings and Grounds; Ms. Christine Vigneux, BHS Principal

**VISITORS:** Ms. Kathleen Terry, Mr. Wilbur Quirk, Mr. Jim Russell, Republican reporter

**MINUTES**

- I. Call to order  
Mr. Fritsch called the Regular School Committee Meeting to order at 7:23 pm
- II. Special awards and presentations  
There were no special awards or presentations.
- III. Update from BHS Student Advisory Council representatives  
There was no update 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. June 24, 2014  
Motion: Dr. Knapp moved to approve the minutes for the June 24, 2014 meeting as presented.  
Second: Ms. Bogdanovich  
Vote: 3-0-1 (abstention Ms. Bogdanovich)
- VI. Reports and recommendations of the Superintendent
  - A. Appointment of School Committee Non-Confidential Secretary  
Ms. Griffin appointed to School Committee Non-Confidential Secretary position.
  - B. Memorandum of Agreement – Fingerprinting  
Ms. Popowich noted at the July 22, 2014 meeting the Personnel & Policy Committee voted to accept this memorandum. Dr. Gazda reviewed Memorandum for fingerprinting

within the Belchertown school district. The School District agrees to reimburse the fee for any member of Unit D. »

Motion: Dr. Knapp moved to accept the Memorandum of Agreement-Fingerprinting as presented.

Second: Ms. Bogdanovich

Vote: 4-0-0

Discussion: School Committee members noted that there are other employees and groups, such as coaches, volunteer parents, and the Senior Walking group that potentially will need fingerprinting. Dr. Gazda will look into these groups.

C. Memorandum of Agreement – Teaching Strategies Gold Assessment System

Ms. Popowich noted at the July 22, 2014 meeting the Personnel & Policy Committee voted to accept Memorandum of Agreement – Teaching Strategies Gold Assessment System. Dr. Gazda reviewed the memorandum with regard to Pre-School teachers.

Motion: Ms. Popowich moved to accept the Memorandum of Agreement – Teaching Strategies Gold Assessment System as presented.

Second: Ms. Bogdanovich

Vote: 4-0-0

D. Review/Approval of 2014-2015 Student-Parent Handbooks Drafts and Revisions  
Pertaining to Bullying Law and Student Discipline/Code of Conduct

Dr. Gazda recommended approval of the revisions to the 2014-2015 Student/Parent Handbooks pertaining to Bullying Law. Revisions are being made per M.G.L. c.71:380 with new subsections to the statute.

Motion: Ms. Popowich moved to accept the revisions as presented.

Second: Ms. Bogdanovich

Vote: 4-0-0

E. District Determined Measures Update

Brian Cameron summarized the DDM update. Senior leaders met in June. Belchertown District was approved for a 1 year extension based on the district submitting a mid-year (December) update. Staff will receive time during the November PD to work on DDM's.

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

A. Collaborative for Educational Services (Ms. Bogdanovich)

Report from Ms. Bogdanovich: at a regularly scheduled meeting of the Collaborative for Educational Services:

- They will not meet again until September.
- Changed the meeting schedule to the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of the month instead of the 2<sup>nd</sup> so there are no longer any conflicts with member school committee meetings.
- FY 15 budget was voted and approved. The annual per pupil assessment hasn't changed, but at the end of next year an analysis will be done of all the costs of student programs because the current rate doesn't cover the overhead costs.
- A proposal to the Dept. of Early Education & Care for a coordinated Family & Community Engagement Grant for FY 15 was approved in the amount of \$557,500 to provide services to 17 communities, including Belchertown.



- Spoke with Desiree Lalbeharie-Josias, the Collaborative Early Childhood Director, the grant will support young children and their families providing services to primarily children ages 0-5, through parent workshops, information, and education. Planning 2 parent workshops for Belchertown. She will be meeting with the Family Center in the coming weeks and Ms. Bogdanovich will attend those meetings if available.

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

Report from July 22, 2014 meeting by Dr. Knapp: There will be a Special Education Middle School Program Enhancement. This is to add a Special Education/Behavior teacher to the DLA program. This addition will allow the DLA program at JBMS to be reorganized to meet current IEPs and provide social skills/social thinking to the students within the self-contained program on a daily basis.

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

No meeting

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

Mr. Eric Weiss updated the School Committee with regard to Jessica's Boundless playground. So far they have raised \$330,000 with fundraising and grants. The site has been approved and there are 2 local contractors willing to volunteer to start tomorrow, July 24, 2014. Mr. Weiss is asking for approval to pay 50% of the invoicing for equipment and surfacing material.

Motion: Ms. Popowich moved to approve invoice in the amount of \$131,434

Second: Dr. Knapp

Vote: 4-0-0

Discussion: Mr. Dunn requested clarification regarding the amount of the Purchase Order. Mr. Fritsch asks if the district can write the purchase order for just the 50% of the invoices. Mr. Weiss agrees that will be acceptable. Mr. Fritsch requested that Mr. Weiss add that statement regarding the 50% to the cover letter to the School Committee.

Motion: Ms. Popowich moved to approve invoice in the amount of \$81,342.

Second: Dr. Knapp

Vote: 4-0-0

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

Dr. Gazda reported from July 22, 2014 meeting: review of the 2014-2015

Student/Parent handbook with regard to Bullying Law and Student Discipline/Code of Conduct. Graduation requirement for Foreign Language, Colleges require 3 years of a Foreign Language, BHS would require 2 years to be met at BHS. A discussion regarding the Memorandum of Agreement-Fingerprinting, the Memorandum of Agreement-Teaching Strategies Gold Assessment System and Special Education Middle School Program Enhancement took place and were voted on. Dr. Gazda asked that Freshman sports to be put on a future budget agenda. Ms. Vigneux will speak with BOAA and Mr. Daponde with regard to fundraising and getting more people involved with BOAA.

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

Report from July 22, 2014 meeting by Dr. Knapp: Reports from Mr. LaChance with regard to:

- Safety-Door: Looking into window film \$8-\$20 per square foot and interior door closures. All our schools entryways currently have safety glass/wire glass in them. Suggest that Officer Krohl be consulted with regard to interior door lock closures.
- CHCS/SRE Traffic patterns: suggests a traffic study be done the cost would be approximately \$5,000. Dr. Knapp and Mr. Fritsch suggest contacting UMass. Mr. Fritsch also suggested stripes on road, speed bumps, and signage for "Not a Thruway". Ms. Bogdanovich noted that the traffic at SRE was difficult.
- 3-Year Trash Bid: reported that Belchertown would participate with Ludlow and Ware in the bid with a savings of \$1,900. Originally there was a projected increase of 5%.
- BHS Boiler: update – we are at the design phase anticipating the old boiler will be removed this fall, we have been advised to do the removal in the fall.
- BHS Chiller failure: filed a claim with the insurance company. The insurance company approved the repairs to classroom switches. The repairs are expected to cost \$70,000-\$80,000 potentially to go as high as \$100,000.
- JBMS room renovations: bids open on July 23, 2014 for renovations to JBMS Technology room. Bids will include fold partition, door into hallway and replacement of overhead door. Mr. Ruscio stated that classes will be open at start of school year.
- Field renovations: Stadium field renovated with 20,000 square feet of sod.
- Walk through: School Committee would like to set a date to walk through all the schools before the start of the school year. Dr. Gazda will coordinate a date.

G. Technology Advisory Committee (Mr. Fritsch)

Will meet in October

VIII. New business

A. Acceptance of Trash Bid (Informational Only)

Savings of \$1,900, the new vendor will be Republic Services.

B. BFA Donation

Ms. Parton-Lopes, president of BFA presented donation from BFA to include:

- Power harness – 2 @ \$38.95 each
- Leg speed builder - \$59.95
- Black & pink socks - \$500

Motion: Ms. Bogdanovich moved to accept donation from BFA as presented.

Second: Ms. Popowich

Vote: 4-0-0

C. Restructuring of JBMS Special Education Program

Mr. Cameron summarized the sub-committee recommendation for an additional staff member at JBMS.

Motion: Ms. Bogdanovich moved to accept the proposal as presented.

Second: Dr. Knapp

Vote: 4-0-0

D. Preschool beginning and ending times

Mr. Cameron presented new Preschool times to change from:



- AM – 8:45 am-11:15 am
  - PM – 12:00 pm-2:30 pm
- To:
- AM – 8:30 am-11:00 am
  - PM – 12:00 pm-2:45 pm

Mr. Cameron stated that these changes will help with IEP and consultation time requirements for the Preschool teachers. The new times allow 75 minutes between sessions for lunch and guaranteed prep time with the remaining 25 minutes to be used to meet the IEP consultation obligations.

Motion: Ms. Bogdanovich moved to approve the proposed change as presented.

Second: Dr. Knapp

Vote: 4-0-0

Discussion: Dr. Knapp inquired how this affected Kindergarten drop off. Mr. Cameron responded that he spoke with Ms. Bremer and it would not cause difficulty. In addition, Mr. Cameron noted that he will advertise the new times.

E. Training and review of School Committee related policies

Motion: Mr. Fritsch moved to make changes to the Code of Ethics

Second: Ms. Popowich

Motion: Ms. Popowich moved to table the motion until editorial changes could be made.

Second: Ms. Bogdanovich

Vote: 4-0-0

Discussion: Mr. Fritsch discussed making editorial changes to the School Committee Code of Ethics. With further discussion it was agreed that some changes in the policy would be done before voting on the amendments.

IX. Unfinished business

X. Correspondence

Mr. Fritsch acknowledged thank you card from Kathleen Terry for support of SEPAC.

A. July 22, 2014 Regular Session Agenda

B. June 24, 2014 Minutes

C. Appointment Letter for School Committee Non-Confidential Secretary

D. MOA- Fingerprinting

E. MOA- Teaching Strategies Gold Assessment System

F. 2014-2015 Student-Parent Handbooks-Drafts and Revisions Pertaining to Bullying Law and Student Discipline/Code of Conduct

G. Three Year Trash Bid Document

H. BFA Donation Memo

I. MASC Upcoming Meetings

J. School Committee Code of Ethics Policies

XI Adjourn

Motion: Dr. Knapp moved to adjourn at 8:55 pm.

Second: Ms. Bogdanovich

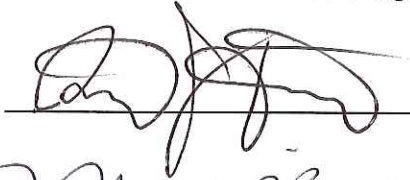
Vote: 4-0-0

Respectfully submitted by,

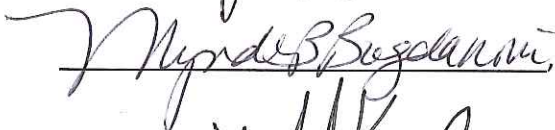
Ramona Griffin

Non-Confidential Recording Secretary to the School Committee

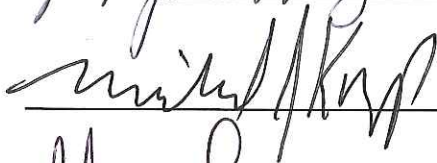
School Committee members' signatures:



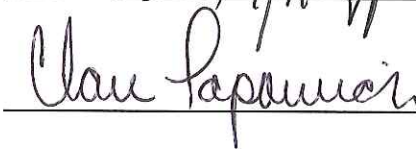
Richard Fritsch, Chair



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 21<sup>st</sup> 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](mailto:superintendent@belchertown.org) to determine the best way to address your concerns (see [School Committee Policy BEDH](#)).