



**BELCHERTOWN PUBLIC SCHOOLS
REGULAR SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
October 25, 2016**

LOCATION: Swift River Elementary School Library

TIME: 7:00 p.m.

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Ms. Dawn French, Chair (present); Dr. Thomas Laughner, Vice-Chair (absent); Dr. Michael Knapp, Secretary (present); Ms. Myndi Bogdanovich, Member (present); Mr. Jeff Charron (present)

ADMINISTRATION: Mr. Brian Cameron, Assistant Superintendent and Director of Student Support Services; Dr. Shawn Fortin, Director of Teaching & Learning; Mr. Edward Dunn, Contracted School Business Manager; Ms. Christine Vigneux, Principal BHS

BHS STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES: Mr. Parker Mas

VISITORS: Mr. William Diehl, CES, Mr. Cameron Wright, Mr. Nick O'Connor (Select Board)

Minutes

Pledge of Allegiance

- I. Call to order
Ms. French 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
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A. M.A.S.S. Superintendent's Award – Mr. Cameron Wright
Superintendent Coffin presented Cameron Wright with the M.A.S.S. Superintendent's Award for excellence.

- IV. Update from BHS Student Advisory Council representative – Mr. Parker Mas
Parker Mas updated the Committee on the district happenings;

Cold Spring School

The students at Cold Spring School celebrated Fire Prevention Week, October 9th – 15th, by participating in Fire Safety lessons and related fire prevention learning activities. They went on a field trip to the Belchertown Fire Station where the firemen continued to teach them safety tips to protect themselves and ways they can help to prevent fires.

Swift River Elementary School

Swift River Elementary School will be conducting a program called "One School, One Story" over the next two months. The entire school community...teachers, librarians, students, staff, and parents...will all be reading the same children's book, "The Tale of Despereaux" by Kate DiCamillo, at the same time. The program will be fun and engaging for everyone, while celebrating the importance of reading and building a community around quality literature.

Chestnut Hill Community School

On October 18th and 19th as part of the SAFE (Student Awareness of Fire Education) program, representatives from the Belchertown Fire Department came to Chestnut Hill Community School to meet with 4th and 5th graders regarding fire prevention and evacuation procedures. Not only does this program provide valuable information for the students, it also enables them to form connections with members of the community.

Jabish Brook Middle School

On October 27th, Jabish Brook Middle School will hold a Ski Club Information and Sign-Up Night from 6:30-7:30pm in the auditorium.

Belchertown High School

On Thursday, October 27th, Belchertown High School will host the annual Monster Mash at 5:30pm in the cafeteria, and on Friday, October 28th, the Drama Club/Choir Halloween Play will take place at 6:00pm in the auditorium.

- V. Approval of minutes (A.I.)
-

A. October 11, 2016, Regular Session

Motion: Dr. Knapp moved to approve the october 11, 2016 minutes as amended

Second: Ms. Bogdanovich

Vote: 4,0,0

VI. Reports and recommendations of the Superintendent

A. Superintendent's Goals update

Superintendent Coffin noted that the Committee was presented with the goals at the last meeting. The goals have been updated with the Committee recommendations.

Student Learning; added two more action steps

Professional goal; there was a small rewrite on communication goal and district communication plan, with a team goal with Mr. Cameron and Dr. Fortin.

Professional Practice; added action steps 6 & 8, and 2 forums

School /District goal #1; included transition for high school students to college/work force

School/District goal #2; stayed the same

B. Preview of November 8th Professional Day

Dr. Fortin presented the draft with the Committee.

C. School choice and charter school numbers and costs

(Given to Chris Lindahl, Daily Hampshire Gazette)

Mr. Dunn presented the Committee with the following numbers.

Charter School Costs			
	FY 15	FY 16	FY 17
# students	47	notified by state after November 1	unavailable
tuition cost	\$521,895	\$566,712	\$674,636 estimate

tuition reimbursement	\$113,033	\$81,055	\$139,453 estimate
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School Choice Costs		
	FY 16	FY 17
# students in	122	138
# student out	96	76
reimbursement for choice in students	\$749,311	\$749,311 estimate
costs for choice out students	\$661,719	\$579,444 (June estimate, not actual)

VII. Personnel

A. Introduction of Kelly Slattery, Food Service Director

Superintendent Coffin introduced the new Food Service Director Kelly Slattery. MS. Slattery started last Thursday. Ms. Slattery spoke to her history, she came from Wing, is a certified nutritionist, has been a dietitian for 13 years, this is a new path for her in school nutrition.

VIII. Unfinished business

There was no unfinished business at this time.

IX. New business

A. Accept paper donation from Erin Dimick (A.I.)

Motion: Ms. Bogdanovich moved to accept the paper donation from Ms. Dimick

Second: Mr. Charron

Vote: 4,0,0

B. Mr. William Diehl, Collaborative of Educational Services, Executive Director
Mr. Diehl thanked the Committee for having him. Mr. Diehl presented a synopsis of what programs the district takes advantage of from the Collaborative.

Programs listed were;

- HEC Academy
- Itinerant Services
- Mt. Tom Academy
- General open enrollment and on-site PD
- Professional Learning Communities
- Licensure
- Educator Evaluation
- Emerging America/History
- Social Justice & Equity conference
- Summer Academy
- Legal Issues
- SPIFFY
- grant writing and development
- google applications for learning
- other PD
- Technology professional learning communities
- Technology in Education conference
- CFCE
- CFCE Family Centers
- Early childhood PD
- Early childhood mental health consultation
- Early childhood statewide assessment training
- Cooperative purchasing

Ms. French asked what is the deciding factors on what programs the district uses? Superintendent Coffin noted that the decision was usually made by her and/or Dr. Fortin.

C. Discussion of possible early release days

Motion: Ms. Bogdanovich moved to approve the change to the calendar to add two

professional release days.

Second: Mr. Charron

Vote: 4,0,0

Discussion: Superintendent Coffin requested that two professional release days be brought back to the calendar. These would add to the collaborative time for the staff. Two dates were suggested March 21st and May 2nd. There would be no added cost to the budget and it would be a benefit to both students and staff.

Dr. Knapp questioned if there would be contractual issues? Superintendent Coffin said there would not be contractual issues. Dr. Knapp questioned if there was anything the schools could do for childcare for student let out early. Superintendent Coffin noted that there is enough time before the dates for parents to make arrangements for childcare. Superintendent Coffin noted that a new calendar will be issued. She also noted that many other districts do the same.

D. MASC conference

Ms. French noted that both her and Ms. Bogdanovich will be attending the MASC conference November 2, 3, and 4.

X. Reports of subcommittees

A. Curriculum & Instruction (Dr. Knapp/Mr. Charron)

Dr. Knapp noted they have not met, will meet next Friday.

B. Personnel & Policy (Ms. Bogdanovich/Dr. Laughner)

Ms. Bogdanovich noted they have not met.

C. Property & Transportation (Ms. Bogdanovich/Ms. French)

Ms. Bogdanovich noted the subcommittee met earlier and discussed:

- shared use of property - will be creating an updated user agreement
 - CHCS walk through - expanded security with the pool doors alarmed
 - Facilities Program Committee - readvertise, change wording for interested parties to be less intimidating - appointed Ms. Bogdanovich to head the subcommittee
 - replacement plan for Mr. Lachance
 - reviewed job description for Director of Building & Grounds
-

- shadowing period will be April 1st through August 11th
- bus transportation contract expires in 2017

D. Finance & Budget Subcommittee (Dr. Laughner/Mr. Charron)

Mr. Charron noted they met on the 17th, discussed:

- cost of privacy areas - cost will be small
- FY 18 budget development - template created

X. Reports of school department liaisons

A. Healthy & Safer Schools Advisory Committee (Ms. French)

Ms. French noted they have not met.

B. Technology Working Group (Dr. Laughner)

Dr. Laughner was absent.

C. Collaborative for Educational Services (Dr. Knapp)

Dr. Knapp noted there was nothing new.

D. RADAR (Dr. Laughner, Mr. Charron)

Mr. Charron noted they had met and looked at data points about the district.

Superintendent Coffin noted this is a pilot program with the state to look at budget and funding outcomes. One requirement of the plan is to have a strategic plan which the district has. The next step is how does the budget line up with the strategic plan.

- benchmarking - compare
- class sizes report
- special education
- student learning experience

XII. Correspondence

A. Agenda, October 25, 2016

B. October 11, 2016, Regular Session Minutes

C. School choice and charter school numbers and costs information

D. Paper donation information

E. Superintendent's goals

F. Professional Day preview

G. Legislative Bulletin (informational only)

XIII. Vote to enter into Executive Session under M.G.L. 30A, §21, Part 3 to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining Unit A, Teachers and negotiations with Single Contracts Employees and the Superintendent 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 open session.

School Committee voted to enter into executive session at 8:56 pm. They will return to open session.

Vote: 4-0-0

Dawn French - Y

Thomas Laughner - Absent

Michael Knapp - Y

Myndi Bogdanovich - Y

Jeff Charron – Y

Motion: Ms. Bogdanovich moved to adjourn at 8:56 pm

Second: Mr. Charron

Vote: 4-0-0

Respectfully submitted by,

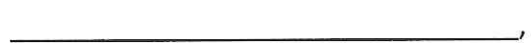
Ramona Griffin

Non-Confidential Recording Secretary to the School Committee

School Committee members' signatures:



Dawn French, Chair



Thomas Laughner, Vice Chair



Michael Knapp, Secretary



Myndi Bogdanovich, Member



Jeff Charron, Member

Vision Statement

Belchertown students, both individually and collaboratively, will be innovative thinkers, problem solvers and unique, creative contributors to their community and the world

Mission Statement

In the pursuit of excellence and the development of life-long learners, it is the mission of the Belchertown Public Schools to challenge and engage all students in a respectful, positive learning environment that fosters personal, social and academic growth in order to achieve success in a global society.

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](#))
