



**BELCHERTOWN PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
REGULAR SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING  
November 18, 2014**

**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:** 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

**BHS STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES:**

**VISITORS:** Ms. Brenda Aldrich, Selectmen Liaison to School Committee

**Minutes**

- I. Call to order  
Mr. Fritsch call the meeting to order at 7:00 pm
- II. Special awards and presentations  
There were no special awards or presentations.
- III. Update from BHS Student Advisory Council representatives  
Representative Sienna Nielsen updated the School Committee on BHS happenings. The year is going great, the next sport season is starting and the BHS boys soccer has made it to Western Mass.
- IV. Public comment regarding items on the agenda  
There were no public comments regarding items on the agenda.
- V. Approval of minutes  
A. October 28, 2014, Regular Session  
Motion: Ms. Popowich moved to accept the October 28, 2014 minutes as presented.  
Second: Ms. Bogdanovich  
Vote: 5,0,0
- VI. Reports and recommendations of the Superintendent  
A. Approval of 5- year capital improvement plan  
Motion: Dr. Knapp moved to approve the 5- year capital improvement plan as presented.  
Second: Ms. Bogdanovich

Vote: 5,0,0

Discussion: Mr. Lachance updated the School Committee on the 5 year capital improvement plan. Town has funded boiler replacement at BHS utilizing Seamans grant funds. JBMS has roof drains repairs that are going on a town warrant at the next Special Town Meeting. This work needs to be done during the summer. Future needs would include; JBMS bleachers, asbestos floor tile replacement, SRE roof work, masonry work.

B. Approval of Jessica's Boundless Playground invoices

Motion: Ms. Bogdanovich moved to approve the Jessica's Boundless Playground invoices in the amounts of \$132,934.00 and \$29,603.00.

Second: Ms. Popowich

Vote: 5,0,0

Discussion: Dr. Gazda recommended approval of the two invoices submitted. Ms. Popowich noted that fundraising is still occurring and that the committee is going to CPA for additional funds.

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

A. Collaborative for Educational Services (Ms. Bogdanovich)

Ms. Bogdanovich has no report at this time.

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

Dr. Knapp stated the committee has not met.

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

Mr. Fritsch informed the School Committee about an APP that is available. The APP is called CRISISGO. The APP has features that would include; incident command system, generates student check lists, notifies all parties involved. The cost would be approximately \$5,000 per year. The committee has just discussed the APP and will be investigating to see if there are others available.

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

Ms. Popowich noted this was discussed earlier on the agenda.

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

1) Approve revision to Head Bookkeeper & Asst. Bookkeeper Job Description

Motion: Ms. Popowich moved to approve the revision to Head Bookkeeper & Asst. Bookkeeper Job Description.

Second: Ms. French

Vote: 5,0,0

Discussion: Ms. Popowich noted this item was voted on and approved earlier on the agenda.

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

Dr. Knapp noted the 5 year capital improvement plan was voted on and approved earlier on the agenda.

G. Technology Advisory Committee (Mr. Fritsch)  
Mr. Fritsch noted the committee has not met.

VIII. New business

A. Report from MASC Conference

Ms. French updated the School Committee on the trip to the MASC Conference. She attended with Ms. Bogdanovich they attended many of the seminars. Ms. French noted that the program books could hold more information on which seminars are informative for which group of people. Ms. French and Ms. Bogdanovich attended seminars; Challenges & Strategies in Difficult Conversations, Common Core, DDM, New Superintendent & School Committee Off to a New Start, Legal Issues & Unfunded Mandates, PARCC & Common Core. Ms. French thought the key note speaker, Herman Boone, was excellent.

Dr. Knapp mentioned there will be a District 5 meeting at Holyoke High, the new legislators will be there.

Discussion to include Chapter 70 formula, health care costs are much higher, supply budgets are lower to take place in January in a public hearing.

Ms. French spoke to a governance program, which is a free program for schools. It is a data processing program for PSAT and SAT scores. Ms. Nielsen noted that the school does a data processing program for students that take the PSAT. Last year the high school had all Juniors take the PSAT.

IX. Unfinished business

There was no unfinished business.

X. Correspondence

- A. November 18, 2014 Regular Session Agenda
- B. October 28, 2014, Minutes
- C. Five Year Capital Improvement Plan
- D. Jessica's Boundless Playground Invoices

XI. Vote to enter into Executive Session under M.G.L., c. 30A, §21, Part (3), to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining, Unit C, as conducting said business in open session would have a detrimental effect on the School Committee's negotiating position. The Committee will return to open session.

Mr. Fritsch noted that there would not be an Executive Session this evening.

XII. Motion to Adjourn

Motion: Ms. Bogdanovich moved to adjourn.

Second: Dr. Knapp

Vote: 5,0,0

Adjourn at 7:51 pm

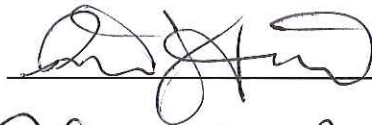


Respectfully submitted by,

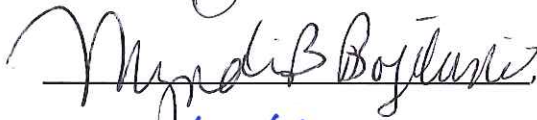
Ramona Griffin

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](#)).

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*Success for Every Student Every Day*

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