



**BELCHERTOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT  
FINANCE & BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING  
March 23, 2015**

- PLACE:** Swift River Elementary School Library  
**TIME:** 5:00 pm
- SUBCOMMITTEE:** Dr. Michael Knapp, Chair; Ms. Dawn French, Member
- ADMINISTRATION:** Karol G. Coffin, Superintendent of Schools, Edward Dunn, School Business Manager
- VISITORS:**

**Minutes**

- I. Call Subcommittee Meeting to order  
Dr. Knapp called the Subcommittee meeting to order at 5:02 PM.
- II Public comment regarding items on the agenda  
There were no public comments regarding items on the agenda.
- III. Subcommittee meeting minutes for approval
  - A. Minutes of March 9, 2015  
Motion: Ms. moved to accept the minutes of March 9, 2015 as presented.  
Second: Dr. Knapp  
Vote: 2,0,0
- IV. Items for discussion and action
  - A. FY 16 Budget Update  
Superintendent Coffin spoke to the FY 16 budget update. \$200,000 was removed from the needs based budget by streamlining. This leaves \$589,239 still to be met. School of choice will reduce approximately \$325,000 toward the \$589,239. It is expected that the town contribute to a level service budget plus the balance necessary for the needs budget.  
Superintendent Coffin explained that the \$65,000 reduction in General Building includes capital improvements. Mr. Dunn noted the town's bond rating is A+. Dr. Knapp questioned the bond rating change. Mr. Dunn explained that the bond rating for the town stays the same if the town stays under 10% of the budget.

Ms. French questioned the repercussions of the teacher loss. Superintendent Coffin responded there will be a teacher shift to compensate for the reduction. Class sizes should stay the same.

Ms. French questioned the textbook replacement expense. Superintendent Coffin responded that there needs to be a plan to look at all current books and a plan for directed curriculum to go forward with book purchases.

Dr. Knapp questioned the cost for out of district placement. Mr. Dunn noted that current expenses are \$1.5 million for the district with an additional \$420,000 in transportation expenses. Mr. Dunn also noted that the foundation budget is inadequate.

Superintendent Coffin noted there will be a School Committee budget meeting on April 7, 2015 and a public budget presentation on April 14, 2015.

- V. Subcommittee correspondence
  - A. Agenda March 2, 2015
  - B. Minutes March 9, 2015
  - C. FY16 Budget Development-Reductions
  
- VI. Adjourn
  - Motion: Ms. French moved to adjourn at 6:33 pm
  - Second: Dr. Knapp
  - Vote: 2,0,0

Respectfully submitted by,

Ramona Griffin  
Non-Confidential Recording Secretary to the School Committee

Personnel & Policy Subcommittee members' signatures:

  
\_\_\_\_\_, Dr. Michael Knapp, Chair

  
\_\_\_\_\_, Ms. 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 Finance & Budget Subcommittee 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.