



**BELCHERTOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT  
PROPERTY & TRANSPORTATION SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING  
October 22, 2013**

**PLACE:** Swift River Elementary School Library

**TIME:** 6:30 pm

**SUBCOMMITTEE:** Mr. Richard Fritsch, Chair (present); Dr. Michael Knapp, Member (present)

**ADMINISTRATION:** Dr. Judith C. Houle, Superintendent of Schools (present); Mr. Robert Lachance, Director of Buildings and Grounds (present)

**VISITORS:** None

**MINUTES**

- I. Call Subcommittee Meeting to order  
Mr. Fritsch called the Property & Transportation Subcommittee meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.
- II. Public comment regarding items on the agenda  
None
- III. Subcommittee meeting minutes for approval
  - A. March 26, 2013  
Mr. Fritsch affirmed that the minutes of the March 26, 2013 Property & Transportation Subcommittee meeting were an accurate representation of that meeting.
- IV. Items for discussion and action
  - A. High school boiler failure  
Mr. Lachance reported that one of four boilers at Belchertown High School has failed, but he assured the subcommittee that it will be possible to make it through the winter with just three boilers functioning, as has happened in the past. One of the remaining functioning boilers is a new one which was installed last year with funds from energy savings, and it is hoped that we will have a mild winter this year, resulting in more energy savings to replace the failed boiler next year. The replacement of a boiler at the high school is included in the five-year improvement plan.
  - B. Tadgell renovations  
Dr. Houle discussed the possible multi-purpose uses for the Tadgell building (alternative school, housing for a now-crowded Central Office, availability of small office spaces to ensure the necessary privacy for SPED services, meeting rooms for School Committee and the town, etc.) and how it would be cost-effective to continue moving forward with this renovation project which will benefit both the town and school department.

Mr. Lachance reviewed the Tadgell Building Study, Phase 2 Update as presented by Roy S. Brown Architects, as well as estimates provided for proposed renovations in its use as a school/office building. There was also specific discussion of estimated repairs to the north and south ramps, two decks and new roof. In addition, a Mechanical/Electrical Field Investigation Report of Tadgell School from Robt. W. Hall Consulting Engineers, Inc. was included in this evening's correspondence.

Mr. Lachance stated that the building permit for the Tadgell site has been kept up to date, and the existing plumbing will be renovated rather than replaced since it has been properly maintained. It is estimated that the cost for renovating the Tadgell building will be approximately \$2,000,000.00, with another half million dollars estimated for furnishings and technology infrastructure. However, Dr. Houle noted that this building is a solid structure and to rebuild it would cost approximately \$11,000,000.00.

C. Five-year capital improvement plan

Mr. Lachance reviewed the Belchertown Public Schools Five Year Capital Improvement Plan (which includes all five school buildings, plus Tadgell School) with a bottom line of \$1,808,200.00, and noted that this figure represented a conservative estimate. He also stated that all guidelines are being met for safety in this plan.

D. High school traffic flow plan

Dr. Houle reported that she has met with Mr. Lachance, Mr. Brian Cameron, Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning, Officer Jason Krol, School Resource Officer, Mr. Desi Vega, BHS Assistant Principal, and Mr. Bruce Officer, Maintenance Coordinator, in order to create a plan for redirecting the traffic flow at Belchertown High School. She noted that traffic is particularly congested in the morning, more so than the afternoon, with many cars and buses driving through the property. Ideas were discussed, such as the use of stop signs, to manage the flow. Dr. Houle hopes that a new traffic flow plan will be in place by the beginning of the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter, and in the interim, sawhorses will be used to temporarily set up the new plan for traffic redirection.

E. Busing bid RFP

Dr. Houle stated that the school district is in its last (5<sup>th</sup>) year of a five-year contract (3 years plus 2 extensions) with First Student, Inc. as our provider of student bus transportation. According to MGL Chapter 30B, this contract must now go out to bid and follow the full RFP process with regard to a new contract for school bus transportation. Dr. Houle said that the outcome of this bidding process will be brought to the School Committee in the spring for approval.

F. Purchasing electricity for town and schools

Dr. Houle stated that Mr. Gary Brougham is seeking a potential vendor for the purchase of electricity for the town and school district. Currently, electricity is purchased through the Hampshire Council of Governments, but the school department and town have signed on with Access Energy as a consultant in order to procure energy with a more cost-effective provider than the vendor currently being used.

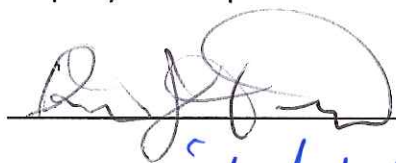
- V. Subcommittee correspondence
  - A. Agenda, October 22, 2013
  - B. Minutes, March 26, 2013
  - C. Photos of high school boiler and boiler replaced during the 2012-2013 school year
  
- VI. Adjournment
  - MOTION: Dr. Knapp moved to adjourn the Property & Transportation Subcommittee meeting at 6:56 p.m. Mr. Fritsch seconded the motion.
  - VOTE: 2-0-0, approved unanimously

Respectfully submitted by,



Kathryn A. Petersen  
Non-Confidential Recording Secretary to the School Committee

Property & Transportation Subcommittee members' signatures:

 \_\_\_\_\_, Richard Fritsch, Chair

 \_\_\_\_\_, Michael Knapp, 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 Property and Transportation 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 Dr. Judith Houle, 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.