



**BELCHERTOWN PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
FY18 BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING
April 11, 2017**

LOCATION: Chestnut Hill Community School Auditorium

TIME: 6:30 p.m.

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

ADMINISTRATION: Mrs. Karol Coffin, Superintendent of Schools; Mr. Brian Cameron, Assistant Superintendent and Director of Student Support Services; Shawn Fortin, Director of Teaching & Learning; Mr. Edward Dunn, Contracted School Business Manager

VISITORS: see sign in sheet

Minutes

Pledge of Allegiance

- I. Call to order
Ms. French called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.
- II. Superintendent's Presentation of FY 2018 School Department Budget
Superintendent Coffin presented the FY 18 budget.
- III. Public comment regarding items on the Agenda
Q: Ms. Bogdanovich asked if not filling the paraprofessional position would make us not in compliance with state mandates.
A: Mr. Cameron answered that will be filling the positions needed and will be in compliance.
Q: Ms. French asked for clarification on the .5 teacher reduction.
A: Superintendent Coffin noted CHCS librarian will be reduced to .5 and SRE reading teacher will be reduced to .5.
Q: Ms. Bogdanovich questioned if the money becomes available will those positions be the first reinstated.
A: Superintendent Coffin noted that SPED would be looked at first but would look at

reinstating the positions.

Q: Clarification on what the 3 cuts by attrition are.

A: Superintendent Coffin noted 1 teacher layoff at BHS, 3 by retirement, there will also be teachers moved within the district.

Comment: Concern with class size, will the teacher contract address this, has 20 students in her 1st grade class and would like to see an increase in staff.

Q: Clarification on the student numbers not change when moving from grade to grade on presentation. How do numbers not change with staff reductions and school choice numbers increasing.

A: Superintendent Coffin noted FY 16/17 numbers are accurate FY 17/18 numbers are estimated based on the previous year.

Q: Website summaries for LEA funding FY 16 and FY 18 central office budget, questioning the division of budget monies and the disparity in escalation of costs and how costs have grown.

A: Mr. Dunn noted central office budget includes health insurance, medicare, unemployment, worker compensation, district insurance, and transportation. These are district costs not individual to each school.

Comment: large disparity since 2012-13

A: Superintendent Coffin spoke to the history of the Director of Teaching & Learning position. Previously had a Curriculum Director position which was removed, returned with an Assistant Superintendent position, when the SPED director left that position was combined with the Assistant position. D.T.L position was put in place in fall of 2015.

Q: What are annual salaries of those positions.

A: Assistant Superintendent; \$99,000 D.T.L.; \$97,000

Q: will we cut or hire a social worker.

A: Superintendent Coffin looking to hire, there is currently one in the district.

Q: Concerned that last year there was talk about cutting the CHCS librarian media position. That position was reinstated but now are talking about a half time position. How are students going to be technology ready if we keep cutting that position.

A: Superintendent Coffin noted they are working with principal and staff at CHCS.

Comment: Look at possibility of hiring a grant writer on commission.

Comment: Ed Boscher wanted to thank the teachers for settling the contract. Spoke to the town budget process, 94 % is based on local taxes from homeowners. Spoke to the Chapter 70 money and unrestricted aid and the division among the departments.

Q: What is the staff cut at the high school and how will it affect the school.

A: Social studies department, there will be more students in class

Comment: What is the impact on student, we are a level 2 district now, CPI just equal now, would like to see it improve, came here for the schools.

Q: How many do we lose to school choice and why.

A: Superintendent Coffin noted under 100, and brought in 139. Just received results back from survey. Some of the reasons listed were; long bus ride, SPED student need smaller class, chinese immersion school, PVPVA more variety in the arts.

Q: Number of substantially separate classrooms, how much does it cost the district to to out of district, 30% of district is high needs

A: Superintendent Coffin noted we are doing some of both to bring students back. Mr. Cameron spoke to the number of programs we offer in district but there are still some that we can't service and they go out of district.

Q: Consider closing school choice.

A: Superintendent Coffin noted we only offer for the number of seats available, not more so that more staff is needed.

Q: drastic cuts in teachers, any cuts at the admin level.

A: Superintendent Coffin noted there were no admin cuts

Comment: 4 teachers cut last year and 5 this year

A: Superintendent Coffin last year brought back the band director, CHCS librarian, and reading teacher positions.

Q: What are the 3 attrition positions.

A: 2 @ CHCS and 1 @ CSS

Comment: Seems we wait on the state every year. Push the state for more money. Since 2001 funding has dropped. Work together as small towns to push the state.

Comment: Youngest child is not getting the same opportunities as older siblings.

Comment: Class sizes at JBMS and BHS can be 30 in a class. What is the difference in numbers for presentation.

A: Superintendent Coffin noted it depends on the subject and class level. The presentation numbers are averages. At JBMS the Spanish class size could be higher, it depends on scheduling and staffing. The differences do get lost when doing averages. Could have less in a higher level and more in a mid-level class. The numbers presented are a total student:teacher ratio as opposed to actual class sizes.

Comment: BHS teacher spoke to the impact in her foreign language class.

Q: When do we start to measure impact on student and how do we measure impact.

A: Superintendent Coffin noted we look at student performance and student growth.

Data meetings in schools are looking at this and there will be some realignment for next year.

IV. Adjourn

Motion: Ms. Bogdanovich moved to adjourn at 7:54 pm.


Second: Mr. Charron


Vote: 5,0,0


Respectfully submitted by,

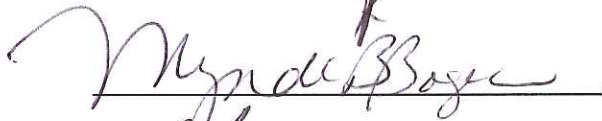
Ramona Griffin
Non-Confidential Recording Secretary to the School Committee


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](#)).