



**BELCHERTOWN PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
**SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING – BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING**  
**April 14, 2015**

**LOCATION:** Chestnut Hill Community School Auditorium  
**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:** Mrs. Karol Coffin, Superintendent of Schools; Mr. Brian Cameron, Assistant Superintendent and Director of Student Support Services; Mr. Edward Dunn, Contracted School Business Manager;

**BHS STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES:** Michael DeBarge, Sienna Nielsen, Benjamin Stone

**VISITORS:**

### Minutes

- I. Call to order  
Mr. Fritsch called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.
  
- II. Special awards and presentations  
There were no special awards.
  - A. Superintendent's Presentation of FY 2016 School Department Budget  
Superintendent Coffin presented the FY 2016 School Department Budget. She noted that a Finance & Budget Subcommittee was formed. They met with the town Finance Committee, the Select Board, and the Town Manager. Superintendent Coffin spoke to the motto of "Every Student, Every Day". Our district has 345 staff, a supportive family environment, and a grandparent program.  
Superintendent Coffin presented the Level Service Budget:  

Local Appropriation;	\$27,091,362
LEA:	\$27,091,362
All Funds;	\$29,138,207

 Superintendent Coffin also spoke to the needs of the District and about closing the \$2,456,856 gap in the budget.  
 Mr. Aponte noted that if the Central Office building is in the historic district it may be eligible for CPA funds to make it handicap accessible. Superintendent Coffin will investigate that option.  
 Mr. Fritsch noted that our district has a graduation rate of 95.1% compared to the State at 85% and the national rate of 80%. We rank in the top 10% for graduation in the state and the bottom 10% for money spent per student. He commends the district for this.

- III. Vote on FY 2016 School Department Budget  
 Motion: Ms. French moved to approve the FY 2016 budget.  
 Second: Ms. Bogdanovich  
 Vote: no vote – motion was withdrawn by Ms. French

Discussion: Dr. Knapp noted that he would like to defer the budget vote to a later date, leaving time for the public to assess the information. Mr. Fritsch questioned whether this would affect Town Meeting. Mr. Brougham noted that it would not affect Town Meeting or printing. The Finance Committee noted that the State budget has not been set at yet. It was noted that a vote could be made at a later date.

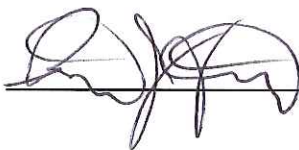
Motion: Dr. Knapp moved to set the agenda for the April 28, 2015 School Committee meeting to reflect a vote on the budget.  
 Second: Ms. Popowich  
 Vote: 5,0,0

- IV. Adjourn  
 Motion: Ms. French moved to adjourn at 7:34 pm.  
 Second: Dr. Knapp  
 Vote: 5,0,0

Respectfully submitted by,

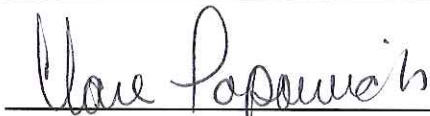
Ramona Griffin  
 Non-Confidential Recording Secretary to the School Committee

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](#)).