



**BELCHERTOWN PUBLIC SCHOOLS
REGULAR SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
February 10, 2015**

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: 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
 - A. M.A.S.S. Superintendent's Award – Sienna Nielsen
Mrs. Coffin awarded Sienna Nielsen the M.A.S.S Superintendent's Award. Sienna was nominated by the High School Principal. School Committee members congratulated her on her achievement.
 - B. Matthew Wiencke of the Classical Assoc. of N.E. Award – Thomas Howell
Mrs. Coffin noted that Mr. Howell was not in attendance and the award would be presented at the next scheduled School Committee meeting.
 - C. Martin Luther King Scholarship Award – Kannah Landford
Mrs. Coffin congratulated Kannah Landford on winning the Martin Luther King Scholarship Award. School Committee members congratulated her on her achievement.
 - D. Recognition of Donation to CHCS Library by Mrs. Suzanne Dudley
Mrs. Coffin recognized the donation of 200 hard cover books by Mrs. Suzanne Dudley to the Chestnut Hill Community School Library.
- III. Update from BHS Student Advisory Council representatives
Student representative, Sienna Nielsen mentioned a concern by BHS students on what action the School Committee would take if there were more snow days. School

Committee noted they would be added to end of the year. Ms. Nielsen mentioned that the winter sport season has finished and AP exam sign ups and deposits were taken this week. Student representative, Ben Stone, noted the Channel 40 Honor Roll live had a nice representation, mostly band members. He also noted that course selection is this week and will be online. College information night will be tomorrow. There will be a dance open to all BHS students February 27.

IV. Public comment regarding items on the agenda

There were no public comments regarding items on the agenda.

V. Approval of minutes

A. January 13, 2015, Minutes

Motion: Dr. Knapp moved to approve the minutes from January 13, 2015 as presented.

Second: Ms. Popowich

Vote: 5,0,0

VI. Reports and recommendations of the Superintendent

A. Superintendent's Entry Plan

Mrs. Coffin explained that a Superintendent Entry Plan is customary. In general entry plans are for the beginning of school year while hers starts midway through the year. She plan is to focus on the four questions;

1. What do we believe?
2. Where are we?
3. Where do we need to go?
4. How will we get there?

B. District Strategic Plan Update

Mrs. Coffin noted that the 5 year strategic plan and the technology plan will be ending in June. The district is developing a 3 year district plan. Beginning in August she plans to have various groups participate in the development. Mrs. Coffin noted that legislation requires an annual district and school improvement plan.

C. Jabish Brook Middle School Highlight

Mr. Ruscio and Mr. Nagels presented the changes in the Technology department to the School Committee. Mr. Nagels explained what the students are currently developing with the new curriculum. Students are designing and building bridges; in addition they will build and program Lego robots. Mr. Ruscio presented the many changes in design of the room into the development of the two new classrooms. He acknowledged Mr. Nagels for starting the year in a construction zone.

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

A. Collaborative for Educational Services (Ms. Bogdanovich)

Ms. Bogdanovich noted the Collaborative hosted a dinner for the various Superintendents from the school districts in the Collaborative, Mrs. Coffin attended as well. Ms. Bogdanovich noted that they spoke to the state of the Collaborative and how to reach out to service more areas.

- B. Curriculum & Instruction (Dr. Knapp/Ms. French)
Dr. Knapp noted the committee has not met.
- C. Healthy & Safer Schools Advisory Committee (Ms. Bogdanovich)
Mr. Cameron noted there will be a meeting next month.
- D. Jessica's Boundless Playground Committee (Ms. Popowich)
1. Invoice
Motion: Ms. French moved to approve payment of the invoice for \$36,000.
Second: Ms. Bogdanovich
Vote: 5,0,0
Discussion: Ms. Popowich noted she had not attended the last meeting. Mr. Lachance spoke to the invoice. He noted that the committee will be filing for \$45,000 in grant money from CPA funds.
- E. Personnel & Policy (Ms. Popowich/Ms. Bogdanovich)
1. Recommendation to revise Policy BDA, School Organizational Meeting Policy BDFA-E2, Submission and Approval of the School Improvement Plan
Motion: Ms. Popowich moved to approve the revision to Policy BDA, School Organizational Meeting.
Second: Ms. Bogdanovich
Vote: 5,0,0
Discussion: Ms. Popowich noted that a meeting of the Personnel & Policy committee voted to recommend the policy change. Mrs. Koffin spoke to the changes.

Motion: Ms. Popowich moved to approve the revision of Policy BDFA-E2, Submission and Approval of the School Improvement Plan.
Second: Dr. Knapp
Vote: 5,0,0
Discussion: Ms. Popowich noted that a meeting of the Personnel & Policy committee voted to recommend the policy change. Ms. Popowich spoke to the changes.
- F. Property & Transportation (Dr. Knapp/Mr. Fritsch)
Dr. Knapp noted the committee has not met.
- G. Finance & Budget Subcommittee (Dr. Knapp/Ms. French)
Dr. Knapp noted that there was an organizational meeting. Meeting dates were set, February 23, March 2, and March 9, at 5:00 pm in the Swift River Library. Mrs. Coffin mentioned there are three budget scenarios being looked at;
1. Level service funding
 2. 1% decrease in budget
 3. Advocate for things needed in the district
- H. Technology Advisory Committee (Mr. Fritsch)
Mr. Fritsch noted the committee is drawing up the 3 year improvement plan for approval by the School Committee.

VIII. New business

A. Western Mass. Education Leaders Coalition Proposal

Motion: Dr. Knapp moved to table the discussion

Second: Ms. French

Vote: 5,0,0

Discussion: Mrs. Coffin presented a Position Statement she received at a Superintendents Round Table discussion.

IX. Unfinished business

A. Governance Training Update

Motion: Ms. Bogdanovich moved to receive Governance training.

Second: Ms. French

Vote: 5,0,0

Discussion: Ms. Popowich agrees the training is needed but not at this time of year. Ms. Bogdanovich noted the School Committee and Superintendent are new and believes the training is important. Mrs. Koffin agreed to what the School Committee decides. Dr. Knapp noted that the training modules and/or schedule had not been previously discussed during a scheduled School Committee meeting. He asked what the training encompasses. Mr. Fritsch noted 2 of the modules are finance and strategic planning. Mr. Fritsch said dates available are February 26, and March 27. Mr. Fritsch mentioned training is not mandatory. He also noted there is a memo available in the Town office inviting anyone taking out papers for a seat on the School Committee to attend the training.

Motion: Ms. Bogdanovich moved to approve the Governance training dates of February 26, 2015 and March 27, 2015.

Second: Ms. French

Vote: 3,2,0

Discussion: Ms. Popowich and Dr. Knapp noted that the dates for training had not been previously discussed. Dr. Knapp requested information on what would be covered in the first meeting. Mr. Fritsch replied the first meeting is organization forming and how to approach training. It would be introductory.

X. New Business

Ms. Popowich requested Mr. Dunn look into the feasibility of staying in or leaving the Federal school lunch program. How could we get more participation in the program?

XI. Correspondence

A. Agenda, February 10, 2015 Regular Session

B. Minutes of January 13, 2015, Regular Session

C. Entry Plan Document

D. Policy BDA, School Organizational Meeting

E. Policy BDFA-E2, Submission and Approval of the School Improvement Plan

F. School Improvement Plan format document

G. WMELC Proposal

- H. Donation to CHCS Library
- I. Press Release regarding M.A.S.S. Award
- J. Jessica's Boundless Playground Invoice

- XII. Adjourn
 - Motion: Ms. Bogdanovich moved to adjourn.
 - Second: Dr. Knapp
 - Vote: 5,0,0

Respectfully submitted by,

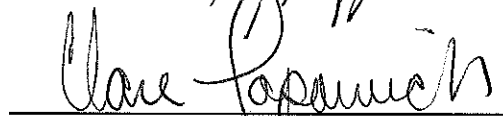
Ramona Griffin
Non-Confidential Recording Secretary to the School Committee

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 21st 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 to determine the best way to address your concerns (see [School Committee Policy BEDH](#)).