



**BELCHERTOWN PUBLIC SCHOOLS
REGULAR SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
February 28, 2017**

LOCATION: Swift River Elementary School Library

TIME: 7:00 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 (absent); Mr. Jeff Charron (present)

ADMINISTRATION: Mrs. Karol Coffin, Superintendent of Schools; Mr. Brian Cameron, Assistant Superintendent and Director of Student Support Services; Dr. Shawn Fortin, Director of Teaching & Learning; Mr. Edward Dunn, Contracted School Business Manager; Ms. Christine Vigneux, Principal BHS; Ms. Andrea Mastalerz interim Director CSS

BHS STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES: Mr. Parker Mas

VISITORS: Sue Comstock, TJ Howell, Corina Smith, Ruby Bansal, Laurie Frank, Frankie Murray, Jacquelia Currier, Karen Bourque, Justin Bourque, Cheryl Chabascz, Ryan Chabascz, Sean Calnan, Kerry Calnan, Liam Calnan, Virginia Bilz, Lynn Clark, Hope Guardenier, Brian Meehan

Minutes

Pledge of Allegiance

- I. Call to order
Ms. French called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.
- II. Public comment regarding items on the agenda
Mr. Howell spoke to the Social Media Policy. Questioned what qualify as "inappropriate" and noted the wording was too vague. Who and/or what determines inappropriate. #4 notes "examples of inappropriate behavior from other districts, as behavior to avoid." In addition, the last paragraph notes internet searches of teachers for inappropriate materials on-line, there is a better use of administration time. Mr. Howell asked if this is the second time up for this item and is it an action item? Ms. French noted this is the second time it is up and is an action item.
- III. Special awards and presentations
 - A. BHS Golf Team-Division II Golf Champions
Superintendent Coffin congratulated the BHS golf team

Jonathan Bechta, Justin Bourque, Liam Calnan, Ryan Chrabascz, Samuel Clark, Nathan Courchesne, Aidan Dupont, David Fredenburgh, Grant Irving, Francis Murray, and Samantha Teschke, on their winning season and winning the Mass Division II championship.

- B. 2017 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Scholarship recipients – Hi Chul Chung, Kodwo Ampiah-Bonney
Superintendent Coffin congratulated Hi Chul Chung and Kodwo Ampiah-Bonney on receiving the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. scholarship awards.
- C. Pioneer Valley Excellence in Teaching winners-verbal announcement
Dr. Fortin announced the Pioneer Valley Excellence in teaching winners as Mary Dulchinos of CSS, and Virginia Doucette of JBMS. The winning teachers will receive their awards at the next scheduled meeting.

IV. Update from BHS Student Advisory Council representative – Mr. Parker Mas

Cold Spring School

Cold Spring School will be continuing their donation drives. Beginning on February 27th through March 10th, they will be collecting new, unopened toothbrushes and toothpaste, and will donate these items to the Amherst Survival Center and Friends of Hampshire County Homeless. Any help and support is very much appreciated.

Swift River Elementary School

Swift River Elementary School will be continuing its literacy initiative for the spring with the program called “One School, One Story” beginning the week of February 27th. The entire school community...teachers, librarians, students, staff, and parents...will all be reading the same children's book at the same time. The program will be enjoyable and engaging for everyone, while celebrating the importance of reading shared around quality literature.

Chestnut Hill Community School

The Chestnut Hill Community School 6th Grade Chorus and Band students have been working hard in preparation for their Annual Winter Concert which will be held on Wednesday, March 1st at 7:00 PM in the CHCS Auditorium. It promises to be a wonderful night of entertainment and all are welcome to attend.

Jabish Brook Middle School

Jabish Brook Middle School students will be attending the Jr. District Rehearsal and Concert at UMASS, Amherst on Saturday, March 18th from 9:00 AM to - 5:00 PM. The bus will leave at 8:00 AM from the school and the Concert starts at 3:00 PM.

Belchertown High School

Belchertown High School will hold the SADD White Ribbon Campaign on Thursday, March 2nd and Friday, March 3rd. On Wednesday, March 8th the Humanities Club Blood Drive will take place in the Auxiliary Gymnasium and the Foreign Language Fair is scheduled for Thursday, March 9th at 6:00 PM in the cafeteria.

- V. Approval of minutes (A.I.)
- A. February 7, 2017, Regular Session
Motion: Dr. Knapp moved to accept the February 7, 2017 as amended
Second: Dr. Laughner
Vote: 4,0,0
- VI. Approval of Warrants and Budget Transfers (A.I.)
- A. Accounts payable warrant S/021317, 021317SA
- B. Payroll warrants W#1732, W#1734
Motion: Dr. Laughner moved to approve the February 13th, February 6th, and February 21st warrants
Second: Mr. Charron
Vote: 4,0,0
- C. Approval of FY17 budget transfers
This item is informational and does not require a vote. Mr. Dunn noted these are the budget transfers for September through December 16th.
- VII. Reports and recommendations of the Superintendent
- Superintendent Coffin noted, with regard to gender identity, the federal government rescinded control to the state. She received a legal notice noting that Massachusetts already passed law to protect gender identity. This will not impact Massachusetts and adjustments are already being made in the district.
- A. BHS School Improvement Plan update
Ms. Vigneux updated the Committee on the BHS school improvement plan. Ms. Vigneux noted the move toward MassCore requirements for graduation.
- B. FY 18 Budget Presentations
- 1) PreK tuition (A.I.)
Motion: Mr. Charron moved to approve the free Pre-K tuition for next year
Second: Dr. Laughner
Vote: 4,0,0
Discussion: Mr. Dunn spoke to the proposal. Currently noted there is a \$2,300 tuition charged for "role model" students. DESE will not count students as enrolled if a tuition is charged. If the program is free tuition, then the students will be counted by DESE in Chapter 70 monies. Reimbursement through the state would be \$2,857 as opposed to the \$2,300 now charged. There are currently 16 students in the program with only the addition of 14 role model students. The program is set up for 2 role model students for every 1 special education student. The estimated cost to change this program in the first year is \$16,000. Ms. Mastalerz spoke to the benefits of this program. There are many advantages to the district. Detractors that were discussed included time of the classes and transportation of role model student.
- 2) BPS funding history
Superintendent Coffin presented the Committee with the "Budget Story" for

FY17. This will be the start of budget presentation over the next meetings leading toward the April 4th public meeting. She noted the 3 year strategic goals and the 4 strategic goals being;

- K-12 alignment
- professional development
- more community involvement
- type of learning and tools needed
- Mr. Dunn spoke to the 5-year funding history of the district, the percentages breakdown of funding, and the 4% education materials funding was explained.

Breakdown of the district funding was listed as;

- 64 % payroll
- 12 % benefits
- 7 % transportation
- 6 % special education
- 4 % education materials
- 3 % utilities
- 2 % maintenance
- 2 % general operations

Breakdown of educational materials breakdown was;

- 38 % instructional supplies
- 24 % technology
- 20 % student activities
- 15 % professional development
- 3 % curriculum

Superintendent Coffin noted the public budget presentation is scheduled for April 4th. Is still currently waiting to hear from the Finance Committee for a date to present to them.

3) Areas to save: Substitute, teachers prep costs

Superintendent Coffin wanted to bring it to the School Committee's notice the current system in use for the substitute teacher costs. The Committee discussed the best use for teachers as subs during their prep periods and the cost difference to using a substitute versus a teacher with a prep period. Current substitute costs are \$70 or \$75 per day for a substitute with the cost of a teacher prep being \$30 per class period. Superintendent Coffin proposed an increase in the substitute payment.

The Committee asked for more information;

- how often does this happen?
- was there an increase in subs with the last pay increase
- what are other districts paying
- what is the "pool" of subs
- are other districts having the same issues

- A. Update as of February 28, 2017
Superintendent Coffin welcomed the new hires to the district; Michelle Andre, Laura Meneke, and Pamela Picard.
- IX. Unfinished business
There was no unfinished business.
- X. New business
- A. BHS Out of State Field Trip Request-NYC (A.I.)
Motion: Dr. Knapp moved to approve the field trip to New York
Second: Mr. Charron
Vote: 4,0,0
Discussion: Sue Comstock presented the request. Cost \$150, 4 students and 9 chaperones.
- B. Approval of 2017-2018 school calendar (A.I.)
Motion: Dr. Laughner moved to approve next year's calendar
Second: Mr. Charron
Vote: 4,0,0
- C. Pioneer Valley Chinese Immersion Charter School- Letter of Opposition
Superintendent Coffin noted that this expansion was voted down. No further action required.
- XI. Reports of subcommittees
- A. Curriculum & Instruction (Dr. Knapp/Mr. Charron)
Dr. Knapp noted the met this evening, discussed;
- no policies currently need changing
 - supplemental materials for instruction
 - Ms. Vigneux spoke to metrics for high school excellence
 - Pre-K tuition
- B. Personnel & Policy (Ms. Bogdanovich/Dr. Laughner)
1. Policy AC – Nondiscrimination (A.I.)
Motion: Dr. Laughner moved to approve Policy AC - Nondiscrimination
Second: Mr. Charron
Vote: 4,0,0
Discussion: gender identity added, Mr. Charron noted an edit.
 2. Policy IJNDD – Social Media (A.I.)
This item was tabled and returned to the subcommittee.
 3. Policy JH – Student Absences and Excuses (A.I.)
Superintendent Coffin requested this item be returned to the subcommittee.

- C. Property & Transportation (Ms. Bogdanovich/Ms. French)
Ms. French noted they have not met.
 - D. Finance & Budget Subcommittee (Dr. Laughner/Mr. Charron)
Dr. Laughner noted they met yesterday, discussed;
 - fiscal FY 18 budget
 - school choice budget spending
- XII. Reports of school department liaisons
- A. Healthy & Safer Schools Advisory Committee (Ms. French)
Ms. French noted they have not met.
 - B. Technology Working Group (Dr. Laughner)
Dr. Laughner noted they have not met.
 - C. Collaborative for Educational Services (Dr. Knapp)
Dr. Knapp noted they will meet later in March.
 - D. RADAR (Dr. Laughner, Mr. Charron)
Mr. Charron noted they met since Feb 8th.
- XIII. Correspondence
- A. Agenda, February 28, 2017
 - B. February 7, 2017, Minutes
 - C. Accounts Payable and Payroll Warrants
 - D. FY17 Budget transfers
 - E. BHS School Improvement Plan update
 - F. FY18 Budget documents
 - G. Personnel update
 - H. BHS Out of State Field Trip request
 - I. 2017-2018 school calendar draft
 - J. Pioneer Valley Chinese Immersion Charter School – Commissioners recommendation
 - K. Policy AC – Nondiscrimination
 - L. Policy IJNDD – Social Media
 - M. Policy JH – Student Absences and Excuses

- XIV. Vote to enter into Executive Session under M.G.L. 30A, §21, Part 3 to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining Unit A, Teacher , Unit C, Custodians, and negotiations with Single Contracts Employees and/or litigation as conducting said business in open session would have a detrimental effect on the School Committee's bargaining or litigation position. The committee will return to open session.

School Committee voted to enter into executive session at 8:56 pm. They will not return to open session.

Vote:

Dawn French - yes

Thomas Laughner - yes

Michael Knapp - yes

Myndi Bogdanovich - absent

Jeff Charron - yes

- XV. Adjourn

Motion: Dr. Laughner moved to adjourn at 9:49 pm


Second: Mr. Charron


Vote: 4,0,0


Respectfully submitted by,

Ramona Griffin
Non-Confidential Recording Secretary to the School Committee

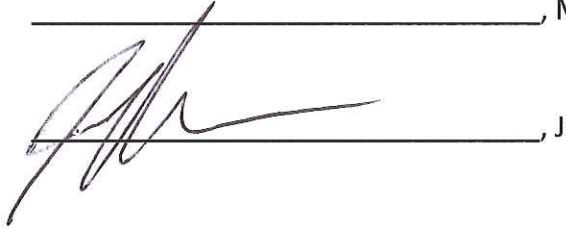
School Committee members' signatures:

 _____, 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](#)).