



**BELCHERTOWN PUBLIC SCHOOLS
REGULAR SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
March 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
There were no special awards or presentations.
- III. Update from BHS Student Advisory Council representatives
M. DeBarge and B. Stone updated the School committee on BHS happenings;
Chris Herron coming to speak at BHS Thursday during the day and again in the evening.
Girls Basketball heading to semifinals for state championship Wednesday night at the Mass Mutual Center.
Foreign language department hosted a Language Fair last week.
Volley ball lock-in was last Friday. Due to new fingerprinting laws they let out at midnight.
Sophomore dance will be next Friday.
Humanities blood drive is scheduled for tomorrow.
- IV. Public comment regarding items on the agenda
There were no public comments regarding items on the agenda.
- V. Approval of minutes
 - A. February 24, 2015, Minutes
Motion: Ms. Popowich moved to accept the minutes of February 24, 2015 as presented.

Second: Ms. French

Vote: 4,0,0

VI. Reports and recommendations of the Superintendent

A. Swift River Elementary School Highlight – Writers Workshop

Mr. Kuhn presented the SRE School Highlight-Writers Workshop. This is a sequential program. Dr. Sanford Roth, a literary specialist, presented to the SRE staff in a professional development. Writers Workshop uses conversations to encourage writing. Mr. Kuhn believes professional development and administration involvement is important.

Ms. Shattuck spoke to the first grade writing process. She noted this program works and the students like writing.

Mr. Clark spoke to the process of genre studies. Students learn that they read non-fiction and fiction in different ways.

Ms. Stanik spoke to Writers Workshop structure, there are 3 sections.

Ms. Harris spoke to the benefits to the Special Ed. Program.

Guest author, Isabella Cauley, read her personal story "CATastrophe".

Dr. Knapp asked how long the program has been in place. Mr. Kuhn noted they started in May of 2014, and had an immediate response from students.

Superintendent Coffin commented this program is being used in many other districts with great effect and it is exciting to have it here in our district.

B. Superintendent's Recommendation for the 2015–2016 School Choice Program

Motion: Ms. French moved to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent for 67 School Choice seats.

Second: Dr. Knapp

Vote: 4,0,0

Discussion: Superintendent Coffin presented the open seating available for the School Choice Program; Kindergarten–8, First–4, Second-6, Third-6, Fourth-3, Fifth-0, Sixth-4, Seventh-8, Eighth-8, and 9-12 5 seats per grade. Dr. Knapp questioned if the seats are filled in Kindergarten are they here through High School. Superintendent Coffin noted that they stay through high school. Superintendent Coffin noted that Kindergarten registration has been down and if families from other districts would like to take advantage of our programs we welcome them. Dr. Knapp questioned if high school students entering have challenges. Superintendent Coffin noted that they are addressed, some may need more instruction but there are more pros than cons.

C. School Business Management Services Bid

Superintendent Coffin noted this was only bid received.

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

A. Collaborative for Educational Services (Ms. Bogdanovich)

Ms. Bogdanovich not in attendance.

- B. Curriculum & Instruction (Dr. Knapp/Ms. French)
Dr. Knapp noted Curriculum & Instruction has not met.
- C. Healthy & Safer Schools Advisory Committee (Ms. Bogdanovich)
Mr. Cameron noted there will be a meeting March 18, 2015.
- D. Jessica's Boundless Playground Committee (Ms. Popowich)
Ms. Popowich noted there was nothing at this time.
- E. Personnel & Policy (Ms. Popowich/Ms. Bogdanovich)
 - 1) Policy KCD-E-1 School Banking Program Vote
Motion: Ms. Popowich moved to accept the School Banking Policy.
Second: Ms. French
Vote: 4,0,0

Discussion: Ms. Popowich noted that Personnel & Policy met earlier with regard to a School Banking Policy and moved to recommend it to the School Committee. Mr. Fritsch questioned if banks would need to come before the School Committee and it was affirmed that they would.

- F. Property & Transportation (Dr. Knapp/Mr. Fritsch)
Dr. Knapp noted Property & Transportation has not met.
 - G. Finance & Budget Subcommittee (Dr. Knapp/Ms. French)
Dr. Knapp noted that the Subcommittee met with administration multiple times over the past couple of weeks to discuss different budget projections. The state came out with numbers last week, Governor's projected Chapter 70 to be \$13.53 million, a .63% increase. The district level service budget is \$27.43 million with a 2.8% increase. \$28.12 million is the district needs budget. A meeting is scheduled for March 17, 2015 with 2 Finance Committee members, 2 Select board members, and Mr. Brougham.
 - H. Technology Advisory Committee (Mr. Fritsch)
Mr. Fritsch noted the Use Plan for Technology in our School will be discussed at the next School Committee meeting.
- VIII. New business
- A. Andrew Paquette, The Management Solution (TMS)
Mr. Paquette and Mr. Lockwood spoke to the bid for Business Management services. They gave a history of their company which formed in 2006. They spoke to current practices. Mr. Fritsch asked about Gill/Montague. They responded that the business was not given a chance to discuss the issue with the auditor or invited to explain. Ms. Popowich noted that our district audits have been very short due to the excellent work of Mr. Dunn.
 - B. BHS Out of State Field Trip Request - Granby, CT

Motion: Dr. Knapp moved to approve the out of state field trip for the senior class.

Second: Ms. French

Vote: 4,0,0

Discussion: Ms. Bernardin spoke to the senior class trip request. They plan to go to High Meadows on May 15, 2015, leaving the high school at 8:00 am and returning at 5:00 pm, cost would be \$45.

Ms. Popowich questioned whether there would be a bus available for athletes that need to leave early. Ms. Bernardin responded that there would be a bus available.

C. JBMS Out of State Field Trip Request – Washington D.C.

Motion: Ms. Popowich moved to approve the 8th grade field trip to Washington D. C. April 29 – May 2, 2015.

Second: Ms. French

Vote: 4,0,0

Discussion: Dr. Knapp mentioned his daughter would be going. He questioned fingerprinting for overnight chaperones, Superintendent Coffin noted they would be fingerprinted. Dr. Knapp questioned the homework requirement for students on the trip; Superintendent Coffin will look into it. Superintendent Coffin noted the intent of the trip is to expose students to government and living history. Students will be attending many of the museums there.

D. MASC Past President's Scholarship

Mr. Fritsch presented School Committee members with information regarding the MASC Past President's Scholarship.

IX. Unfinished business

A. 2015 – 2016 Calendar Update

Motion: Ms. French moved to accept the revised 2015-2016 school calendar.

Second: Dr. Knapp

Vote: 4,0,0

Discussion: Superintendent Coffin presented the additional dates for the 2015-2016 school calendar. Administration met to discuss and finalize the added dates. She noted the high school graduation would be on a Friday night. Ms. French questioned if the current Good Friday could be changed to a half day. Superintendent Coffin noted that this could be a consideration in the future, not this year. Dr. Knapp questioned the 5 days that the Kindergarten students do not attend school. Superintendent Coffin noted that previously those days were used by teachers to collect and submit data that was required by the Kindergarten grant. It is unclear what they might be used for next year.

X. Correspondence

A. Agenda, March 10, 2015 Regular Session

B. Minutes of February 24, 2015, Regular Session

C. 2015 – 2016 School Choice Program Openings

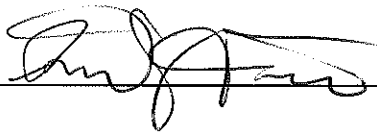
- C. School Business Management Services Bid
- D. Policy KCD-E-1 School Banking Program
- E. BHS Out of State Field Trip Request
- F. JBMS Out of State Field Trip Request
- G. MASC Scholarship Information
- H. 2015 – 2016 School Calendar

- XI. Adjourn; 8:15 pm
 Motion: Ms. French moved to adjourn.
 Second: Dr. Knapp
 Vote: 4,0,0

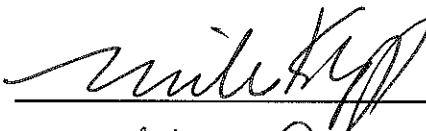
Respectfully submitted by,

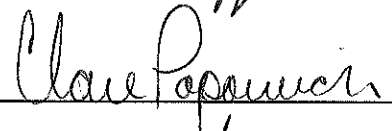
Ramona Griffin
Non-Confidential Recording Secretary to the School Committee

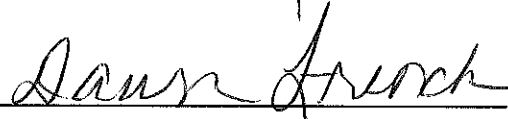
School Committee members' signatures:

 _____, 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](#)).