



**BELCHERTOWN PUBLIC SCHOOLS
REGULAR SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
April 15, 2016**

LOCATION: CHCS Auditorium
TIME: 4:30 p.m.

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

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

BHS STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES: Benjamin Stone, Maddie Hamparian

VISITORS: see attached

Minutes

Pledge of Allegiance

- I. Call to order
Mr. Fritsch called the meeting to order at 4:30 pm.

- II. Public comment regarding items on the agenda
There were no public comments regarding items on the agenda.

- III. Unfinished business
 - A. Discussion and Vote on FY 2017 School Department Budget (A.I.)
Motion: Ms. Bogdanovich moved to go with the tier 2 option with hockey being added as a tier 4. Amended with wrestling as tier 1 under option 2.
Second: Ms. French
Vote: 4,0,0
Discussion: Dr. Knapp looked at athletics and noted some programs lower numbers if you raise the fee it might push them out. Lower participation should have lower fee. The Committee discussed the fees for football and hockey. Ms. French note the football booster club helps. Dr. Knapp noted that some student will not take advantage of support that may be offered. Ms. French does not think a higher fee will hurt the football program. The Committee discussed the wrestling program and lack of interest. Dr. Knapp noted that once you lose a sport program you lose opportunity for students. The Committee discussed what the increase would be to revenue if fees were increased.

Motion: Dr. Knapp moved to increase the parking fee to \$125 and to keep transportation fees the same.

Second: Ms. Bogdanovich

Vote: 3,1,0

Motion: Ms. French moved to raise the music rental fee from \$40 to \$50

Second: Ms. Bogdanovich

Vote: 4,0,0

Discussion: The Committee discussed a raise in fees for parking and music instrument rental. Dr. Knapp noted that there are more issues with students who drive to school than those that ride the bus. Parking fees could only be used for parking lot maintenance and snow removal. The Committee discussed transportation fees; it is listed separately in the town's budget but comes out of the school's budget. Ms. French noted the increase should be across the board.

Motion: Ms. Bogdanovich moved to approve \$27,734,631 budget

Second: Dr. Knapp

Vote: 4,0,0

Discussion: Ms. French noted that the School Committee can discuss a list of priorities but cannot tell the Superintendent what she can put in the budget. Dr. Knapp appreciated the change in staff reductions. Dr. Knapp noted this is a number the town can afford

Discussion: Mr. Fritsch noted he would hate to give up the music program. Music teaches math, history, and English. Mr. Dunn noted there was \$1,050 collected in fees this year. Dr. Knapp requested Ms. Smith (JBMS band director) to elaborate on the instrument repair. Why is cost so high. Ms. Smith noted that all the schools own percussion instruments that need repair those are not rented out to students so there are no fees collected. It was noted that there are 120 students in the 5th grade band. Dr. Knapp suggested there may be another opportunity for music at 5th grade level. The Committee questioned the number of student involved in band. That number was not available.

V. Correspondence

A. Agenda, April 15, 2016

VI. Adjourn

Motion: Ms. Bogdanovich moved to adjourn at 6:00 pm.


Second: Ms. French

Vote: 4,0,0


Respectfully submitted by,

Ramona Griffin
Non-Confidential Recording Secretary to the School Committee

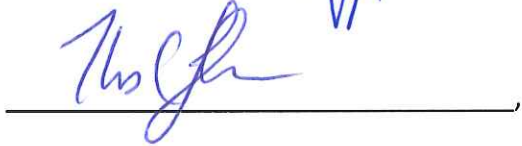
School Committee members' signatures:

 _____, Richard Fritsch, Chair

 _____, Myndi Bogdanovich, Vice Chair

 _____, Dawn French, Secretary

 _____, Michael Knapp, Member

 _____, Thomas Laughner, Member

Belchertown students, both individually and collaboratively, will be innovative thinkers, problem solvers and unique, creative contributors to their community and the world.

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](#)).