



**BELCHERTOWN PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
REGULAR SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING  
MAY 28, 2013**

**LOCATION:** Swift River Elementary School Library  
**TIME:** 7:00 pm

**SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBERS:**

Dr. Linda Tsoumas (present); Mr. Eric Weiss (not present); Ms. Clare Popowich (present); Mr. Richard Fritsch (present); Ms. Myndi Bogdanovich (present)

**ADMINISTRATION:**

Dr. Judith Houle, Superintendent of Schools (present); Mr. Brian Cameron, Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning (present)

**BHS STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES:**

(not present)

**VISITORS:**

Mr. Jim Russell, Republican reporter

**MINUTES**

- I. Call to order  
Dr. Houle called the Regular School Committee meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
  
- II. Reorganization of the School Committee  
Dr. Houle stated that after the Town Election of May 20<sup>th</sup>, it is required that the School Committee be reorganized with election of its officers, as well as appointees to subcommittees. As a result of the Town Election, Ms. Myndi Bogdanovich was elected as a member of the School Committee.
  - A. Election of officers: Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary  
Dr. Houle requested that a motion be made to elect the Chair of the School Committee.  
MOTION: Ms. Popowich moved to elect Dr. Tsoumas as Chair of the School Committee. Mr. Fritsch seconded the motion.  
VOTE: 4-0-0, approved unanimously  
  
*Dr. Houle turned the meeting over to Dr. Tsoumas as elected Chair.*  
  
Dr. Tsoumas requested that a motion be made to elect the Vice Chair of the School Committee.  
MOTION: Mr. Fritsch moved to elect Ms. Popowich as Vice Chair of the School Committee. Ms. Bogdanovich seconded the motion.  
VOTE: 4-0-0, approved unanimously  
  
Dr. Tsoumas requested that a motion be made to elect the Secretary of the School Committee.  
MOTION: Ms. Bogdanovich moved to elect Mr. Fritsch as Secretary of the School Committee. Ms. Popowich seconded the motion.  
VOTE: 4-0-0, approved unanimously

B. Appointment of Subcommittee members

Dr. Tsoumas polled the School Committee to fill the positions on the various subcommittees, and appointments were made, as follows:

1. Curriculum & Instruction  
Dr. Tsoumas, Chair; Mr. Fritsch, Member
2. Personnel & Policy  
Ms. Popowich, Chair; Ms. Bogdanovich, Member
3. Property & Transportation  
Mr. Fritsch, Chair; Mr. Weiss, Member (until July 1, 2013)

C. Appointment of liaisons to Advisory Committees

Dr. Tsoumas polled the School Committee to fill the positions of liaisons to Advisory Committees, and appointments were made, as follows:

1. Healthy & Safer Schools Committee  
Ms. Popowich
2. Playground Committee  
Mr. Weiss (until July 1, 2013)
3. Student Advisory Council  
Ms. Bogdanovich
4. Technology Advisory Committee  
Mr. Fritsch

D. Appointment of member to the Collaborative for Educational Services Board of Directors

Ms. Bogdanovich agreed to serve in this position.

E. Appointment of Sick Bank Committee Members

Ms. Popowich and Mr. Fritsch will serve on the Unit A Teacher Sick Bank Committee. Dr. Tsoumas and Mr. Fritsch will serve on the Sick Bank Committees for the remaining four bargaining units (B, C, D, and E) as well as the Administrative Sick Bank Committee, alternating their attendance at meetings in accordance with their respective schedules.

III. Special awards and presentations  
None

IV. Update from BHS Student Advisory Council representatives  
None

V. Public comment regarding items on the agenda  
None

VI. Approval of minutes

A. May 14, 2013

MOTION: Ms. Popowich moved to approve the minutes of the May 14, 2013 Regular School Committee meeting, as presented. Mr. Fritsch seconded the motion.

VOTE: 3-0-1 (abstention: Ms. Bogdanovich)

## VII. Reports and recommendations of the Superintendent

## A. Approval of Mathematics textbooks, grades K-8

Dr. Tsoumas stated that in accordance with state law, two readings are required for the approval of the purchase of new textbooks. Tonight's presentation constitutes the second reading for Mathematics textbooks, grades K-8. Mr. Cameron gave a brief overview of the two math programs which were recently piloted, and then explained the final choice of the My Math series published by McGraw-Hill. This program will begin with My Math (K-5), followed by Glencoe (6-8), and will consist of textbooks and digital access. The purchase price of \$173,830.85 will include five years of consumables and two additional years of the digital component in the Glencoe series.

MOTION: Mr. Fritsch moved to approve the purchase of the McGraw-Hill My Math program (K-8) in the amount of \$173,830.85, as presented. Ms. Popowich seconded the motion.

DISCUSSION: Ms. Bogdanovich inquired as to the last time the Mathematic textbooks for grades K-8 had been updated, and Mr. Cameron replied that it has been more than eight years, noting the important factor is that the new math series will meet the Common Core Standards. Mr. Fritsch asked how technology will interface with the new math series, and Mr. Cameron explained that all information contained in the textbooks will also be available for students to explore online, offering an integration of textbooks and the digital component.

VOTE: 3-0-1 (abstention: Ms. Bogdanovich)

## B. School Committee meeting calendar: 2013-2014

Dr. Houle submitted a draft calendar for School Committee meetings for the 2013-2014 school year. She noted that it follows past practice of one meeting per month in the summer, and meetings typically scheduled every two weeks in subsequent months, with the understanding that additional dates may be added or dates changed as necessary. Dr. Houle recommends that the School Committee approve this proposed 2013-2014 calendar.

MOTION: Mr. Fritsch moved to approve the School Committee meeting calendar for the 2013-2014 school year, as presented. Ms. Popowich seconded the motion.

VOTE: 4-0-0, approved unanimously

## VIII. Unfinished business

None

## IX. New business

None; Dr. Houle announced that Senior Awards will take place on Thursday, May 30<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. at Belchertown High School, and graduation will take place on Sunday, June 2<sup>nd</sup> at 2:00 p.m. in the Belchertown High School gymnasium.

## X. Reports of subcommittees

## A. Collaborative for Educational Services

Dr. Houle reported that at a meeting last Friday the chair of the finance subcommittee moved to approve the budget for the coming fiscal year.

- B. Curriculum & Instruction  
A meeting was scheduled for June 11, 2013 at 6:30 p.m. to review three curriculum guidelines.
  - C. Healthy & Safer Schools Advisory Committee  
Ms. Popowich stated that this committee will meet in the fall.
  - D. Personnel & Policy  
A meeting was scheduled for July 23<sup>rd</sup> at 6:30 p.m. Two agenda items for discussion will be revisions of the school district's fundraising policy (as will be posted on the BPS website), and also the matter of individuals wishing to do research in the schools.
  - E. Playground Committee  
A meeting is scheduled for tomorrow evening.
  - F. Technology Advisory Committee  
Mr. Fritsch stated that this committee will meet in the fall.
  - G. Property & Transportation  
No meeting is currently scheduled as there is no pending business for this committee.
- XI. Correspondence
- A. Agenda: May 28, 2013
  - B. Minutes: May 14, 2013
  - C. Instructional Resource Form and quote for Mathematics Textbooks from McGraw-Hill
- XII. Vote to enter into Executive Session under M.G.L., c. 30A, §21, Part (3), to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining with Unit A, Teachers, Unit B, Secretaries, Unit C, Custodians, Unit D, Food Service Workers, Unit E, Paraprofessionals, and with nonunion school administrators as conducting said business in open session would have a detrimental effect on the School Committee's negotiating position. The Committee will not return to open session.
- Dr. Tsoumas – yes  
Ms. Popowich – yes  
Mr. Fritsch – yes  
Ms. Bogdanovich – yes

The School Committee entered into Executive Session at 7:30 p.m.

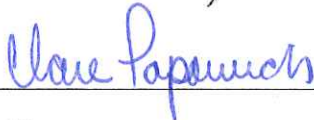
Respectfully submitted by,


*Kathryn A. Petersen*

Kathryn A. Petersen  
Non-Confidential Recording Secretary to the School Committee

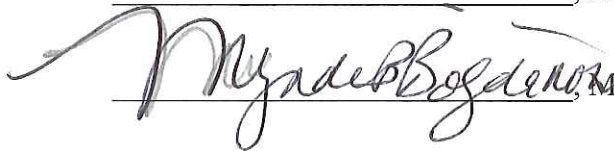
School Committee members' signatures:

 Linda Tsoumas, Chair

 Clare Popowich, Vice Chair

 Richard Fritsch, Secretary

\_\_\_\_\_, Eric Weiss, Member

 Myndi Bogdanovich, 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 Dr. Judith Houle, Superintendent of Schools, at 413.323.0423 or via email at [jhoule@belchertown.org](mailto:jhoule@belchertown.org) to determine the best way to address your concerns.