



**BELCHERTOWN PUBLIC SCHOOLS
REGULAR SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
October 13, 2015**

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

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(present)

ADMINISTRATION: Mrs. Karol Coffin, Superintendent of Schools; Mr. Brian Cameron, Assistant Superintendent and Director of Student Support Services; Ms. Christine Vigneux, Principal BHS; Mr. Thomas Ruscio, JBMS Principal; Ms. Paula Fitzgerald, Principal CHCS; Mr. Doug Daponde, BHS Assistant Principal; Mr. Ben Admussen, Data Administrator

BHS STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES:

VISITORS: Vicky Martin, Monica Panek, Robert Panek, Erin Schotanus, Ed Weigel,
Minutes

- I. Call to order
Mr. Fritsch called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm.
- II. Public comment regarding items on the agenda
There were no public comments regarding items on the agenda.
- III. Special awards and presentations
 - A. Acknowledge service of the members of Jessica's Boundless Playground Committee
Mr. Fritsch acknowledged the members of the Committee for their time and effort. He also recognized Ms. Vicky Martin and members of the J.B.P. for all their efforts fundraising. Mr. Weiss spoke to the legacy project and the efforts by many in the town. Ms. Martin spoke to the dedication of the committee and the J.B.P. members' commitment. This project took 5 years and many stayed from start to finish. Ms. Martin also noted there are potentials for the future. Superintendent Coffin spoke to her experience first seeing the group at work and how impressed she was with the group and the town as a community. She also extended her congratulations and thanks for the completion of the project.
- IV. Update from BHS Student Advisory Council representatives
There was no update at this time.
- V. Approval of minutes
 - A. September 22, 2015, Regular Session Minutes (A.I.)
Motion: Ms. French moved to accept the minutes from September 22, 2015 as amended.
Second: Dr. Laughner

Vote: 5,0,0

Discussion: Dr. Knapp noted he arrived to the meeting during discussion of Section VI. Under VII remove (Dr. Knapp abstained) Dr. Knapp was not in attendance to vote.

VI. Reports and recommendations of the Superintendent

A. Science MCAS Results Report (Ben Admussen)

Mr. Admussen presented the MCAS results to the Committee. He noted the PARCC results were not available as yet. PARCC assessments are due to be available in November. Mr. Admussen noted that MCAS was used for Science grades 5 & 8 and all the grade 10 tests.

Results;

- Grade 5 –
- Grade 8 – 61%, which is 19% higher than the state
- Grade 10
 - ELA – 98 advanced/proficient – 28th out of 291 districts (includes charter schools)
 - Math – 93% advanced/proficient – 14 out of 286 districts (includes charter schools)
 - Science - 92% advanced/proficient – 33 out of 286 districts (includes charter schools)

Mr. Admussen also presented the results with comparable districts.

- CHCS – 1st
- JBMS – 2nd
- BHS – 1st in all subjects

Dr. Knapp questioned whether some of the increase could be due to the STEM program at the middle school. Mr. Ruscio noted that student knowledge has benefitted with the new course. He also noted that curriculum work done by the department has made and impact as well. Dr. Laughner questioned whether the data can validate the increase. Mr. Admussen noted that the data can be pulled apart to see strengths and weaknesses but the numbers cannot tell exactly why Belchertown does so well in Science. Mr. Admussen also spoke to the gaps in the different populations within the district.

B. Superintendent's Goals

Superintendent Coffin presented her final copy of the Superintendent goals to the Committee.

VII. Personnel Update

A. Shawn Fortin, Director of Teaching & Learning - Start Date , October 26, 2015
Superintendent Coffin noted Mr. Fortin has been active in the district already.

B. Newly Hired Faculty/Staff

Superintendent Coffin presented the new faculty/staff to the Committee.

VIII. Unfinished business

A. Response to SEPAC presentation

Mr. Cameron updated the Committee. This was a follow up to the June presentation by

the SEPAC group. Suggestions the district has been working on are;

- More inclusion throughout district – brought in an inclusion specialist to work with staff.
- Social skills – contracted with TDS – a few of the schools are piloting a social opportunities program – this program models social behaviors
- K-12 peer building – met with building principals and guidance departments about a program ongoing
- Transparency – trust; hired a 3rd team leader, the large caseload contributed to the lack noted by SEPAC

Dr. Knapp questioned if a survey would be advisable to measure the success of the work being done?

IX. New Business

A. Accept Country Bank donations (A.I.)

Motion: Ms. Bogdanovich moved to accept the \$250 Staples gift cards to CSS, SRE, CHCS and JBMS.

Second: Ms. French

Vote: 5,0,0

Discussion: Superintendent Coffin presented the donation; Country Bank would like to donate \$250 Staples gift cards to CSS, SRE, CHCS, and JBMS.

X. Reports of subcommittees/representatives

A. Curriculum & Instruction (Dr. Knapp/Dr. Laughner)

Dr. Knapp noted nothing at this time.

B. Personnel & Policy (Ms. Bogdanovich/Ms. French)

Ms. Bogdanovich noted the committee met earlier this evening. For the next School Committee meeting items to be added for action are;

- Threatening Weather Policy
- Suspension procedure for handbooks
- Changes to the Concussion Policy at BHS

C. Property & Transportation (Mr. Fritsch/Ms. French)

Mr. Fritsch noted that there will be a meeting with the town after a Route 202 presentation. Superintendent notified the district of the construction on Route 181.

D. Finance & Budget Subcommittee (Dr. Laughner/Dr. Knapp)

1. Recommendation for Student Activity Accounts Procedures for Operations (A.I.)

Motion: Ms. French moved to approve the Student Activity Accounts Procedures for Operations.

Second: Dr. Knapp

Vote: 5,0,0

Dr. Laughner noted that after a presentation by Mr. Dunn the committee voted to recommend the procedures. Next meeting is scheduled for October 27th.

E. Collaborative for Educational Services (Dr. Knapp)

1. Summary of CES Meeting

Dr. Knapp noted the Collaborative spoke specifically about;

- Social justice initiative
- School choice and the Charter Schools populations

The School committee discussed the school choice numbers and possible reasons that families may not stay in the district.

F. Healthy & Safer Schools Advisory Committee (Mr. Fritsch/Ms. Bogdanovich)

Ms. Bogdanovich noted there will be a meeting October 22.

G. Jessica's Boundless Playground Committee (Ms. French)

1. Vote to pay final invoice for Jessica's Boundless Playground (A.I.)

Motion: Ms. Bogdanovich moved to pay \$642.87 invoice to Wanczyk Nursery.

Second: Dr. Knapp

Vote: 5,0,0

2. Vote to accept Minutes of Oct. 7, 2015 as written and dissolve Jessica's

Motion: Dr. Knapp moved to accept the minutes as written.

Second: Ms. Bogdanovich

Vote: 5,0,0

Discussion: Mr. Fritsch noted that the School Committee needed to vote on the minutes so the committee would not have to meet again.

3. Boundless Playground Committee (A.I.)

Motion: Ms. Bogdanovich moved to dissolve Jessica's Boundless Playground Committee.

Second: Ms. French

Vote: 5,0,0

Discussion: The School Committee thanked the group for all their efforts.

H. Technology Advisory Committee

Dr. Laughner noted they have not met.

I. Vision Advisory Committee

Dr. Knapp updated the School Committee on the latest meeting at JBMS. Both Dr. Knapp and Ms. Bogdanovich noted that there were many similarities during this discussion at the high school. Dr. Knapp noted the JBMS meeting noted a growth mindset for transition from 8th to 9th grade. The next Vision meeting is October 19th at CHCS.

XI. Correspondence

A. Agenda, October 13, 2015

B. Minutes, September 22, 2015, Regular Session

C. Gr. 10/Science MCAS Results

D. Superintendent's Goals

E. Personnel Update

- F. Response to SEPAC Presentation document
 - G. Country Bank donations
 - H. Student Activity Accounts Procedures for Operation
 - I. Summary of CES meeting
 - J. JBP - Invoice from Wanczyk Nursery
 - K. JBP- Minutes of October 7, 2015
- XII. Vote to enter into Executive Session under M.G.L., 30A, §21, Part 3 to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation as conducting 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.
- A. Superintendent Job Expectations

Mr. Fritsch: yes

Ms. Bogdanovich: yes

Ms. French: yes

Dr. Knapp: yes

Dr. Laughner: yes

The Committee entered into Executive Session at 8:44 pm.

The Committee reconvened to Open Session at 9:23 pm.

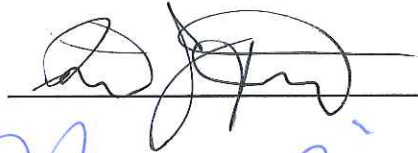
- XIII. Adjournment
- Motion: Ms. Bogdanovich moved to adjourn at 9:24 pm.
- Second: Dr. Knapp
- Vote: 5,0,0

Respectfully submitted by,

Ramona Griffin

Non-Confidential Recording Secretary to the School Committee

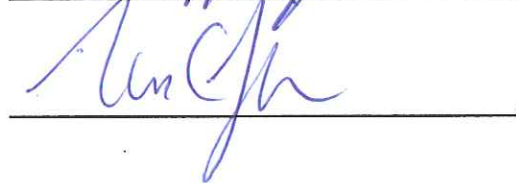
School Committee members' signatures:

 _____, Richard Fritsch, Chair

 _____, Myndi Bogdanovich, Vice Chair

 _____, Dawn French, Secretary

 _____, Michael Knapp, Member

 _____, Thomas Laughner, 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.

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](#)).