



**BELCHERTOWN PUBLIC SCHOOLS
REGULAR SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
November 26, 2013**

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

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Dr. Linda Tsoumas, Chair (present); Ms. Clare Popowich, Vice-Chair (present); Mr. Richard Fritsch, Secretary (present); Ms. Myndi Bogdanovich, Member (present); Dr. Michael Knapp, Member (present)

ADMINISTRATION: Dr. Judith Houle, Superintendent of Schools (present); Mr. Brian Cameron, Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning (present); Mr. Edward Dunn, Contracted School Business Manager (not present)

VISITORS: Ms. Brenda Aldrich, Selectmen Liaison to School Committee; Ms. Mona Griffin

MINUTES

- I. Call to order
Ms. Popowich called the Regular School Committee meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
Dr. Tsoumas excused herself from the meeting at 7:01 p.m.

- II. Vote to enter into Executive Session under M.G.L., c. 30A, §21, Parts (2) and (3), to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining with Unit A, Teachers and with single contract employees; as conducting said business in open session would have a detrimental effect on the School Committee’s negotiating position. The Committee will return to open session (Anticipated return to Open Session no later than 7:30 pm).
Ms. Popowich – yes
Mr. Fritsch – yes
Ms. Bogdanovich – yes
Dr. Knapp – yes

The School Committee returned to Open Session at 7:29 p.m.

- III. Public comment regarding items on the agenda
None

- IV. Approval of minutes
 - A. November 12, 2013
MOTION: Ms. Popowich moved to approve the minutes of the November 12, 2013 Regular School Committee meeting, as presented. Dr. Knapp seconded the motion.
VOTE: 5-0-0, approved unanimously

B. November 14, 2013

MOTION: Ms. Popowich moved to approve the minutes of the November 14, 2013 School Committee meeting, as presented. Ms. Bogdanovich seconded the motion.

VOTE: 5-0-0, approved unanimously

V. Reports and recommendations of the Superintendent

A. Out-of-State Field trip to CT Science Center, *Bodies Revealed* exhibit, Hartford, CT: BHS Transitions Program

Dr. Houle presented the request of Ms. Ruth Kampe, BHS Teacher, who could not be present at this evening's meeting, for an out-of-state field trip to Hartford, CT on December 3, 2013. SPED students in the BHS Transitions Program will travel to the CT Science Center to view the *Bodies Revealed* exhibit, and tour the museum. Transportation will be provided by Van Pool and students will pay for their own admission and lunch. Dr. Houle stated that she has reviewed this out-of-state field trip request and found it to be fully compliant with all safety and liability requirements as required by school policy, and she recommends approval of this trip by the School Committee.

MOTION: Mr. Fritsch moved to approve the out-of-state field trip by the BHS Transitions Program to the CT Science Center, *Bodies Revealed* exhibit, in Hartford, CT on December 3rd, as presented. Ms. Bogdanovich seconded the motion.

VOTE: 5-0-0, approved unanimously

COMMENT: Dr. Tsoumas inquired as to the age of students attending this field trip, and Dr. Houle stated that the ages range from 15-19 years.

B. Payroll Warrant for signatures

Dr. Houle stated that the payroll warrant had already been signed in the Business Office as it was required to be sent to Town Hall by the end of business today.

C. Unit A Contract: signatures

Dr. Houle presented the Unit A Contract for signatures by the School Committee members and Ms. Aldrich.

No motion was needed as this contract has already been approved.

D. October 1, 2013 enrollment report

Dr. Houle reviewed the October 1, 2013 student enrollment report, noting that this was an important census date for many determinations made by the DESE, and that these numbers drive our Chapter 70 reimbursement funds. The report included a comparison to last year's enrollment figures, which indicated a decrease of 72 students.

No action was needed on this item of information.

E. Recommendation to appoint the School Physician for the 2013-2014 school year

Dr. Houle referred to her memorandum included in this evening's correspondence, in which she recommended approval of the appointment of Dr. Talia Leopold as

School Physician for the 2013-2014 school year. Dr. Leopold is affiliated with Wing Memorial Hospital and has served Belchertown Public Schools in this capacity since February 16, 2013. The annual stipend for this position is \$5,600.00.

MOTION: Ms. Popowich moved to approve the appointment of Dr. Talia Leopold as School Physician for the 2013-2014 school year, with a stipend of \$5,600.00, as presented. Mr. Fritsch seconded the motion.

VOTE: 5-0-0, approved unanimously

F. Recommendation to increase the hourly rate for Health/Clerical Aides and BHS Track Supervisor

Dr. Houle stated that the two Health/Clerical Aides to the Nurse Leader have not had a pay raise in some time, and she recommends increasing their hourly rate to \$15.00 per hour, retroactive to the beginning of the school year.

MOTION: Ms. Popowich moved to approve an increase in the hourly rate for the Health/Clerical Aides to \$15.00 per hour, retroactive to the beginning of the school year, as presented. Dr. Knapp seconded the motion.

VOTE: 5-0-0, approved unanimously

Dr. Houle recommended that the hourly rate for the BHS Track Supervisor be increased to \$11.00 per hour.

MOTION: Ms. Popowich moved to approve an increase in the hourly rate for the BHS Track Supervisor to \$11.00 per hour, as presented. Dr. Knapp seconded the motion.

VOTE: 5-0-0, approved unanimously

COMMENT: Dr. Knapp inquired as to the need for a track supervisor for a community activity, and Dr. Houle explained that it is because the district is providing a public service to the community in a school building. She added that senior citizens who have been CORI checked are also allowed to use the track during the school day.

VI. New business

A. School Committee Code of Ethics

This agenda item was tabled and at the request of Ms. Bogdanovich, it will be included as an agenda item for consideration at the Personnel & Policy Subcommittee meeting scheduled on December 10, 2013 at 6:30 p.m.

B. Signatures on warrants

This agenda item was tabled as it was already covered by an administrative directive.

VII. Unfinished business

None

VIII. Correspondence


- A. Agenda: November 26, 2013
- B. Minutes: November 12, 2013 and November 14, 2013
- C. Payroll Warrant – to be hand-carried in
- D. Unit A Contract – to be hand-carried in
- E. October 1, 2013 enrollment report
- F. Recommendation to appoint the School Physician for the 2013-2014 school year
- G. Recommendation to increase the hourly rate for Health/Clerical Aides
- H. Recommendation to increase the hourly rate for BHS Track Supervisor

IX. Adjourn

MOTION: Ms. Popowich moved to adjourn the Regular School Committee meeting at 7:47 p.m. Mr. Fritsch seconded the motion.

VOTE: 5-0-0, approved unanimously

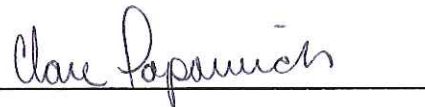
Respectfully submitted by,



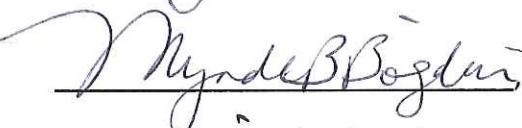
Kathryn A. Petersen
Non-Confidential Recording Secretary to the School Committee

School Committee members' signatures:

 _____, Linda Tsoumas, Chair

 _____, Clare Popowich, Vice Chair

 _____, Richard Fritsch, Secretary

 _____, Myndi Bogdanovich, Member

 _____, Michael Knapp, 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](#)).