



**BELCHERTOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT  
PROPERTY & TRANSPORTATION SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES  
March 8, 2016**

- PLACE:** Swift River Elementary School Library
- SUBCOMMITTEE:** Ms. Dawn French, Chair (PRESENT); Mr. Richard Fritsch, Member (PRESENT)
- ADMINISTRATION:** Karol G. Coffin, Superintendent of Schools (PRESENT), Mr. Brian Cameron, Assistant Superintendent and Director of Student Support Services (ABSENT, ATTENDED CURRICULUM); Robert Lachance, Director of Buildings & Grounds (PRESENT)
- VISITORS:** Thomas Ruscio, JBMS Principal, Gary Brougham, Town Administrator, Brenda Aldrich, Board of Selectmen, Liaison

**MINUTES**

- I. Dawn French Called Subcommittee Meeting to order at 6:30
- II. Acceptance of Minutes
  - A. January 19, 2016
    - a. Motion: Rick Fritsch
    - b. Second: Dawn French
    - c. Vote 2-0-0
- III. Public comment regarding items on the agenda: NONE
- IV. Items for action/Discussion
  - A. Consider formation of a Facilities' Study Committee
    - a. We discussed developing a study committee for the formulation of a possible new school building. This building would allow the town to possibly close four other buildings that are very old and becoming quite costly to keep updated. These would be Cold Spring School, Jabish Brook, the current central office and also Tadgell School. Grades would be re configured. Dawn inquired as to how long we could expect a study committee to complete their study. Bob Lachance said this could be expected to take about two years. He also explained that a study committee would be the first step. After they completed their study, if we moved forward on a new building project this could then be expected to take several more years. The entire project is about 10 years start to finish.
      - i. We also discussed what types of individuals we would like to see on this committee, and what meeting expectations and timelines would be like. Ideas were folks with backgrounds in things such as...

1. Finance
  2. Facilities/maintenance
  3. Engineering
  4. Educational
  5. School Administrators
  6. Possibly a non local consultant
- B. Karol will be posting and making an ad for Study Committee members that will include insight on a timeline for this committee and meeting requirements so that folks understand the commitment before signing up.
- C. Gary Brougham offered to get this advertisement on BCTV as well.
- V. Unfinished Business
- A. Five Year Capital Improvement Plan
- a. Bob Lachance presented us with a current five year capital improvement plan. Karol Coffin asked Mr. Brougham and Mrs. Aldrich how we can best work with their department to make this plan happen. Mr. Brougham explained that cooperative efforts are the key. Possibilities could include an override, use of stabilization funds which would require a 2/3 town vote or a bond initiative.
- VII. Adjourn at 7:08
- A. Motion: Rick Fritsch
- B. Second: Dawn French
- C. Vote: 2-0-0

Minutes respectfully submitted by Dawn French  
School Committee Secretary

School Committee Signatures

 Dawn French, Chair

 Richard Fritsch, 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 Property & Transportation Subcommittee 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](mailto:superintendent@belchertown.org) to determine the best way to address your concerns.