



**BELCHERTOWN PUBLIC SCHOOLS
REGULAR SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
October 27, 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; Mr. Shawn Fortin, Director of Teaching & Learning; Mr. Edward Dunn, Contracted School Business Manager; Phyllis DuComb, Nurse Leader; Ms. Paula Fitzgerald, CHCS Principal; Mr. Bruce Hastings, BHS Athletic Director/Dean of Students;

BHS STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES: Benjamin Stone,

VISITORS: Brenda Aldrich, Debra Keefe, Susan Comstock, Amanda Saklad, Kim Bernashe,
Minutes

- I. Call to order
Mr. Fritsch called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.
- II. Public comment regarding items on the agenda
Amanda Saklad spoke with regard to the CHCS Nature's Classroom field trip. She expressed her concerns about the coverage for special ed students on the trip. Last year her husband went and spent most of his time with their son. She questioned what the procedure is for students in an all-inclusive classroom. Ms. Saklad also requested that there be a policy for student support. The concerns were addressed during the Nature's Classroom field trip approval request on the agenda, item IX, B.
- III. Special awards and presentations
There were no special awards or presentations.
- IV. Update from BHS Student Advisory Council representatives
Ben Stone updated the School Committee.
CSS: students have begun their bi-weekly visits to the Clapp Memorial Library. Children's librarian, Jennifer Whitehead, reads a story to them after which they browse for books.
SRE; students were assessed with the easyCBM math assessment system, using the computer labs and iPads.
CHCS; 6th grade students have started broadcasting daily morning announcements from the TV station in the library with the help of librarian, Mrs. Marley.
JBMS; the 5K road race will be held November 8th, to support the JBMS after school program.

BHS; Humanities Club is hosting the “Monster Mash” on Thursday, October 29th in the BHS cafeteria from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm.

V. Approval of minutes

A. September 28, 2015, Special Session (A.I.)

B. October 13, 2015, Regular Session Minutes (A.I.)

Motion: Ms. French moved to accept the September 28, 2015 as amended and October 13, 2015 as presented.

Second: Dr. Laughner

Vote: 5,0,0

Discussion: amend September 28, 2015 minutes, Section III under School Committee mission second sentence to read “After revising the Committee agreed to work on the following”.....

VI. Reports and recommendations of the Superintendent

Superintendent Coffin noted the Vision team met at CHCS. There was a greater turn out that at previous schools. The next meeting is November 2nd at SRE. Superintendent Coffin noted that child care would be available. CSS will hold their meeting November 16th at 6:30. The meetings are open to everyone. Belchertown will host Rice University November 18th with a STEMposium. This is available for the area. Superintendent Coffin us opening the event to local area educators. November 3 will be a professional development day with a presentation by Ruth Poti who is a leading expert in opioid addiction. This presentation is open to all Belchertown employees. Superintendent Coffin is also inviting surrounding communities nursing staff. The presentation is at 1:30 November 3rd, in the BHS auditorium. Ms. Bogdanovich noted this is a subject that touches everyone.

VII. Personnel Update

Superintendent Coffin noted Mr. Fortin starting yesterday. He is also working on a professional development for January.

VIII. Unfinished business

A. Discussion on committee members’ reimbursement

Motion: Ms. Bogdanovich moved to send to the Personnel & Policy Committee

Second: Dr. Laughner

Vote: 5,0,0

Discussion: The Committee discussed the policy with regard to member reimbursement. It was noted that there is no policy and no historical data on previous members’ reimbursement. Discussion involved benefits to the district for members attending conferences. Superintendent Coffin noted that employees of the district are reimbursed if participation is required, but if it is something an employee wants to attend and it is not required it is not reimbursed.

IX. New Business

A. BHS Out of State Field Trip Request (Heritage Music Festival, Florida) (A.I.)

Motion: Ms. French moved to approve the chorus field trip for April 28-May1st.

Second: Dr. Knapp

Vote: 4,0,1 (Mr. Fritsch abstained)

Discussion: Susan Comstock presented the request. Mr. Fritsch noted his son is attending and will abstain from the vote. Ms. Comstock noted the cost is currently set at \$1,100, she is still trying to reduce the cost. There are many fundraising events going on to help fund the cost. Dr. Laughner questioned if a more local trip would be considered? Ms. Comstock noted historically they take a trip every 2 years. The last trip was to Chicago, 4 years ago they went to Florida. They had previously planned to go to Florida every 4 years and will consider for future trips.

B. CHCS Overnight Field Trip Request (Nature's Classroom) (A.I.)

Motion: Ms. Bogdanovich moved to approve the Nature's Classroom field trip.

Second: Dr. Knapp

Vote: 5,0,0

Discussion: Ms. Fitzgerald, Ms. Bernashe, and Ms. Breen presented the request. The trip is scheduled for June 8-10 in Cape Cod. Ms. Bogdanovich requested they address Ms. Saklad concerns. Ms. Fitzgerald noted that parents of students currently in self-contained classrooms are offered first to chaperone. Discussion with regard to the amount of coverage for students on the trip. Mr. Cameron noted that every student has a one on one coverage. Ms. Fitzgerald noted that the school will meet with parents to discuss and plan for supervision. Mr. Cameron noted the need for careful wording for any policy dealing with a protected class. Ms. Bernashe suggested the possibility of adding a 3rd chaperone to each group. Ms. Bernashe also noted that she reviews all chaperone requests with the principal and SPED teachers before approving the chaperones. Dr. Laughner noted he has a student attending.

C. Summary of MASC Divisions V, VIII and IX Joint Division Meeting

Dr. Knapp attended and presented the School Committee with a summary. He noted there are 3 resolutions that may apply to Belchertown;

- Resolution 1 – regarding high school starting times
- Resolution 2 - Poverty & children – advocate to ask for funding
- Resolution 7 – relative to the TS-Gold assessments for kindergarten students.

Superintendent Coffin noted the TS-Gold assessment is attached to the kindergarten grant. CSS has done this for 2 years and it is very time consuming and difficult to sustain. She also noted there is an educational gap in the low income group that is fairly consistent. Historical info notes the gap in CPI is less in Belchertown than in the state. The gap has closed in ELA and science but has widened in math. This gap is across levels.

X. Reports of subcommittees/representatives

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

Dr. Knapp noted they have not met.

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

1. Recommendation to Approve Policy JJIF, Concussion Policy and Policy JJIF-R Regulations (A.I.)

Motion: Ms. Bogdanovich moved to approve policies JJIF and JJIF-R.

Second: MS. French

Vote: 5,0,0

2. Recommendation to Approve Policy JM, Scholarships, Prizes and Awards (A.I.)

Motion: Ms. Bogdanovich moved to approve the policy JM for scholarships

Second: Ms. French

Vote: 5,0,0

Discussion: Dr. Laughner requested clarification on #6 of the policy.

Superintendent Coffin noted the language was given by legal counsel for the addition of private awards.

3. Recommendation to Approve Policy EBCD, Lightning/Threatening Weather (A.I.)

Motion: Ms. Bogdanovich moved to approve policy EBCD as amended.

Amended Motion: Ms. Bogdanovich moved to replace with policy EBCD-1

Second: Ms. French

Vote: 5,0,0

Discussion: Dr. Laughner noted all "contest" should be replaced with "event". The Committee agreed to replace as noted.

Dr. Knapp questioned;

- does policy differs substantially from the original policy?
- does this supersede policy EBCD?
- this is consistent with MIAA guidelines, is it necessary?

Ms. Bogdanovich noted this would supplement the MIAA policy. Superintendent Coffin noted Mr. Hastings has developed safe zones for each location. Mr. Hastings noted that the golf courses each have a safe zone during inclement weather.

4. Recommendation to Approve Suspension Policy and Regulations (A.I.)

Motion: Ms. Bogdanovich moved to amend the policy.

Amended Motion: Ms. Bogdanovich moved to table.

Second: Ms. French

Vote: 5,0,0

Discussion: Mr. Cameron requested this item be tabled. Legal counsel has noted there are changes needed.

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

Mr. Fritsch noted nothing at this time.

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

Dr. Laughner noted the committee met earlier. There are a series of meetings scheduled to coincide with the central office budgeting schedule.

F. Collaborative for Educational Services (Dr. Knapp)

Dr. Knapp noted nothing at this time.

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

Mr. Cameron noted at their last meeting they discussed the food survey and why there are low numbers in school lunch participation. School nurses to survey the students on ESBET. Discussion about NARCAM and all schools should have and training. Next meeting is in December.

H. Technology Advisory Committee
Dr. Laughner noted nothing at this time.

H. Vision Advisory Committee
Ms. Bogdanovich noted the next meeting is November 2nd at SRE.

XI. Correspondence

- A. Agenda, October 27, 2015
- B. Minutes, September 28, 2012, Special Session
- C. Minutes, October 13 2015, Regular Session
- D. BHS Field Trip Request
- E. CHCS Field Trip Request
- F. Summary from MASC Divisions V, VIII and IX Joint Division Meeting
- G. Concussion Policy and Regulations
- H. Suspension Policy and Regulations
- I. Policy JM, Scholarships, Prizes and Awards
- J. Policy EBCD Lightning/Threatening Weather

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, Unit A, as conducting business in open session would have a detrimental effect on the School Committee's bargaining or litigation position. The Committee will not return to open session.

Richard Fritsch – yes
Myndi Bogdanovich – yes
Dawn French – yes
Michael Knapp – yes
Thomas Laughner – yes

The Committee entered into Executive Session at 8:30 pm.

XIII. Adjourn

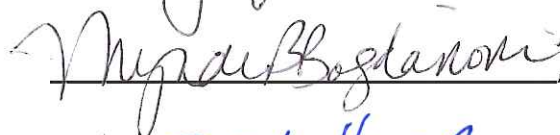
Motion: Ms. Bogdanovich moved to adjourn at 9:10 pm.
Second: Ms. French
Vote: 5,0,0

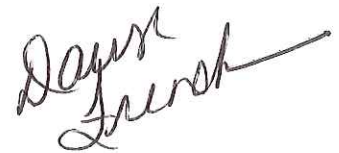
Respectfully submitted by,

Ramona Griffin
Non-Confidential Recording Secretary to the School Committee

School Committee members' signatures:

 _____, Richard Fritsch, Chair

 _____, Myndi Bogdanovich, Vice Chair



 _____, Michael Knapp, Secretary

_____, 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](#)).