



**BELCHERTOWN PUBLIC SCHOOLS
REGULAR SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
April 28, 2015**

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

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

ADMINISTRATION: Mrs. Karol Coffin, Superintendent of Schools; Mr. Brian Cameron, Assistant Superintendent and Director of Student Support Services; Mr. Edward Dunn, Contracted School Business Manager; Ms. Christine Vigneux, BHS Principal(present); Mr. Tom Ruscio, JBMs Principal(present); Ms. Paula Fitzgerald, CHCS Principal(present)

BHS STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES: Benjamin Stone, Madeline Hamparian

VISITORS: Ben Admussen, Data Admin; Debra Davidsohn, BHS Guidance Counselor; Maggie Folli, BHS Guidance Counselor; Stephen Vigneux, BHS English Teacher; Tiffany Hoar, CSS Teacher; Dr. Brian Messier, BHS Band Director; Debra Keefe, BHS School Nurse; Officer Jay Krol, Resource officer
(See sign in sheet for additional visitors.)

Minutes

- I. Call to order
Mr. Fritsch called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.
- II. Special awards and presentations
 - A. Teacher of the Month Award sponsored by 93.1 Radio Station and Country Bank – Tiffany Hoar, CSS K Teacher
Superintendent Coffin presented Ms. Tiffany Hoar with the Teacher of the Month Award sponsored by 93.1 Radio and Country Bank.
 - B. BHS Cool Science Team Award Recognition – Mi Choi, Grand Prize winner and Hannah Borntreger, recognized
Superintendent Coffin presented Mi Choi and Hannah Borntreger the Cool Science team awards. Each created a depiction of global climate change. Mi Choi received the Grand prize and her depiction of 3 panels will be on the side of a bus in Lowell, MA.
In addition, Superintendent Coffin noted that Sara Nobes won Congressman McGovern art contest and her artwork will be displayed in Washington, DC.
 - C. MICCA Concert Festival – BHS Gold Status Ensembles (Concert Band, Symphony Band, and Wind Ensemble) Mr. Paul Brozek and representative band students
Superintendent Coffin acknowledged the three High School bands for their

achievement of Gold awards at the MICCA festival. Representatives from all three bands and Dr. Messier, BHS Band Director, were there to receive the awards.

- III. Update from BHS Student Advisory Council representatives
BHS Representatives updated the School Committee.
At CSS; on Friday there will be a Spirit Day, all students will wear their red shirts.
They hosted 2 parent workshops – “Why do they do that”
At SRE; Thursday, May 6 the PTO hosting a Family Fun and Art Night – 6:30 to 8:00
On May 8, with BHS Ecology Students 2nd Grade is visiting Lake Wallace
At CHCS; Bird Lady came today with Birds of Prey presentation
May 5 & 6 MCAS returns for 5th grade
May 11 & 12 Natures Classroom meeting
At JBMS; Washington, DC trip departs tomorrow morning
those at school will have a planetarium presentation
At BHS; report cards went home
Clothesline project visiting tomorrow
Annie Jr. – drama production scheduled for Friday May 8 and Saturday May 9
AP testing is next week
Saturday, May 2 – Junior Prom at UMass
- IV. Public comment regarding items on the agenda
There were no public comments regarding items on the agenda.
- V. Approval of minutes
- A. March 27, 2015 Minutes
Motion: Ms. French moved to accept the March 27, 2015 minutes as presented.
Second: Dr. Knapp
Vote: 3,0,1 (Ms. Popowich abstained)
- B. April 7, 2015 Minutes
Motion: Ms. French moved to accept the April 7, 2015 minutes as amended.
Second: Dr. Knapp
Vote: 3,0,1 (Ms. French abstained)
Discussion: Ms. Popowich noted the change to Section VII item D, the date should read April 22nd.
- C. April 14, 2015 Minutes
Motion: Dr. Knapp moved to accept the April 14, 2015 minutes as presented.
Second: Ms. French
Vote: 4,0,0
- VI. Reports and recommendations of the Superintendent
- A. BHS Highlight
Superintendent Coffin introduced Principal Vigneux. Ms. Vigneux started the BHS highlight presentation. She noted that 10 people attended a teen mental health conference. Some of the students and staff that went spoke to what they took away

from the conference.

Dr. Knapp asked Ms. Vigneux about advisory. Ms. Vigneux responded that currently advisory meets once a month. She is working with the staff to potentially meet more often. Ms. Vigneux attended a Lifeline presentation with other staff and they are looking for ways to incorporate into the curriculum. Dr. Knapp questioned whether Lifeline would replace Peace Builders. Ms. Vigneux noted it would be in addition to Peace Builders. Mr. Fritsch asked whether there are any links available on the district website for the problems discussed. Mr. Cameron spoke to what is available. Guidance counselors Ms. Folli and Ms. Davidsohn along with students, John LeBrun and Erica Graves spoke to the Seminar Program at BHS. Each grade at the high school attends a Seminar program.

Mr. Vigneux and Ms. Teixeira spoke to Interdisciplinary Learning. BHS 10th grade English and Honors Art students recently viewed the Holocaust exhibit at Elm College. The field trip was tied to the recent reading of "Maus" by the 10th grade students.

VII. Reports of subcommittees/representative to Collaborative for Educational Services

A. Collaborative for Educational Services (Ms. Bogdanovich)

Ms. Bogdanovich was absent.

B. Curriculum & Instruction (Dr. Knapp/Ms. French)

Motion: Mr. Fritsch moved to put on the next agenda

Second: Dr. Knapp

Vote: 4,0,0

Discussion: Dr. Knapp noted the Subcommittee met earlier. They discussed the Math 10 Curriculum. Dr. Knapp would like the School Committee to recommend that Superintendent Coffin;

- 1) Explore ways to expand Honors Math 8 –what are limits
- 2) Math honors sequence 7,8,9
- 3) Explore offering Honors Math 7

Mr. Fritsch recommends Superintendent Coffin research and bring information to the Subcommittee.

C. Healthy & Safer Schools Advisory Committee (Ms. Bogdanovich)

Mr. Cameron noted the Committee will be meeting in May.

D. Jessica's Boundless Playground Committee (Ms. Popowich)

Ms. Popowich noted the Committee met last week. They discussed CPA funding and what was left for private funding.

E. Personnel & Policy (Ms. Popowich/Ms. Bogdanovich)

Ms. Popowich noted there was nothing at this time.

F. Property & Transportation (Dr. Knapp/Mr. Fritsch)

Mr. Fritsch noted the Committee has not met.

G. Finance & Budget Subcommittee (Dr. Knapp/Ms. French)
Dr. Knapp noted the budget discussion is later in the agenda.

H. Technology Advisory Committee (Mr. Fritsch)
Mr. Fritsch noted the Committee would present later in the agenda.

VIII. New business

A. CHCS Field Trip Request – Overnight, Natures Classroom

Ms. Fitzgerald presented the CHCS Field trip request for Natures Classroom. She noted this is an annual trip; it involves 3 days and 2 nights. Approximately 20% of 4th grade stays behind. There are similar activities planned for those students that stay behind. There are plans to go to the Ecotarium in Worcester and a field trip to Lake Wallace. Ms. French questioned whether all adults participating have to be fingerprinted and whether Natures Classroom employees are fingerprinted. Ms. Fitzgerald noted that all district employees are CORI checked but not all going on the trip are fingerprinted as yet. The Natures Classroom employees are not mandated to be fingerprinted. Superintendent Coffin will explore the district policy regarding overnight volunteers. Ms. French also questioned what accommodations students with allergies and special diets have. Ms. Fitzgerald confirmed that parents of students with allergies were contacted by the nurse. There are menu options available for students with special diets.

B. Dr. Knapp noted there was upcoming training for new members. Requested a meeting be set for the Finance & Budget Subcommittee and Property & Transportation. Dr. Knapp noted that the State budget went up \$5.00 per child and the Kindergarten grant may be possible. Superintendent Coffin will be checking on the Kindergarten grant and Mr. Dunn noted that the state has not approved the budget as yet.

C. Dr. Knapp noted concerns regarding public access to Jessica's Boundless Playground while school is in session and CHCS students use it for recess. Mr. Fritsch noted it is located on the public property. Ms. Fitzgerald noted the area is monitored during recess. Dr. Knapp would like Healthy & Safer School Advisory Subcommittee to discuss. Superintendent Coffin will research before the discussion. Ms. Popowich noted it may be possible to post school use hours at the playground.

IX. Unfinished business

A. Technology Plan Presentation

Motion: Ms. Popowich moved to accept the Technology Plan as presented.

Second: Dr. Knapp

Vote: 4,0,0

Discussion: Scott Karen and Ben Admussen presented the Technology plan. The current plan expires June of 2015 the new plan replaces this. Mr. Admussen noted they followed the State template and noted the 3 most relevant changes being;

- 1) 2C2 page 7 – Instructional Technology Specialist
- 2) 4A1 page 8 – ratio of computer to student
- 3) 4A6 page 10 – budgetary requests – 6 year replacement plan

Dr. Knapp questioned whether there are any plans to talk to the town about a

capital plan that would include technology. Mr. Karen noted that he visited the Foxboro district and was told that is what they do there. Dr. Knapp asked if there was a way to make a case to the taxpayer that technology will improve student learning. Mr. Admussen noted there is no research available but could talk about the current programs that improve our district, including things like the VHS program and the new program used by the nursing department.

B. FY 2016 Budget

Motion: Dr. Knapp moved to accept the proposed budget as presented.

Second: Ms. French

Vote: 4,0,0

Discussion: Superintendent Coffin noted there was an increase in the budget of \$22,630. The LEA budget is now \$27,113,992 and the budget to be approved is \$29,570,848. Dr. Knapp mentioned previous discussions about the budget, school choice money is over \$1 million and received message from a parent that was unaware our district has a SAILS program. Dr. Knapp questioned whether there was a way to get the information out to the public. Mr. Cameron will look into it.

X. Correspondence

A. April 28, 2015 Agenda

B. March 27, 2015, Minutes

C. April 7, 2015 Minutes

D. April 14, 2015 Minutes

E. CHCS Overnight Field Trip Request

F. Long Range Technology Plan 2015-2018 Proposal

XI. Adjourn

Motion:

Second:

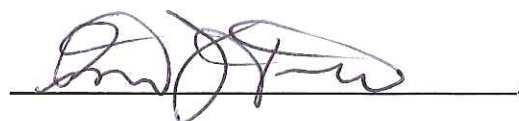
Vote:

Respectfully submitted by,

Ramona Griffin

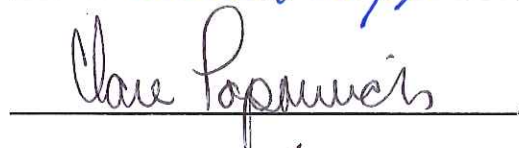
Non-Confidential Recording Secretary to the School Committee

School Committee members' signatures:

 _____, Richard Fritsch, Chair

_____, Myndi Bogdanovich, Vice Chair

 _____, Michael Knapp, Secretary

 _____, Clare Popowich, Member

 _____, Dawn French, 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](#)).

BELCHERTOWN SCHOOL COMMITTEE
REGULAR SESSION
SIGN IN SHEET

DATE: 4/28/15

PLS. PRINT NAME BELOW

Christie Vignery
Paula Fitzgerald
Bruce O'Connor
Tommy Thornton
Joyce O'Leary
Maureen Silva
Shawn Lusk
Paul McCreath
Steph Vignery
Margaret Brojek
Paul Brojek
S. Bremer
Tiffany Hoar
Kathryn O'Leary
Jordan Gaudette
Tom Laughner
Debra Keefe
Jan Kral