



**BELCHERTOWN PUBLIC SCHOOLS
REGULAR SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
May 12, 2015**

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

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

ADMINISTRATION: Mrs. Karol Coffin, Superintendent of Schools (present); Mr. Brian Cameron, Assistant Superintendent and Director of Student Support Services (present); Mr. Edward Dunn, Contracted School Business Manager (present); Christine Vigneux, Principal BHS; Doug Daponde, Vice Principal BHS

BHS STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES: Benjamin Stone

VISITORS: Brenda Aldrich, Select board chair; Kathryn Petersen; Tom Laughner; Nick O'Connor; Maria Scudere; Maggie Folli

Minutes

- I. Call to order
Mr. Fritsch called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

- II. Special awards and presentations
 - A. Recognition of Clare Popowich, Years of Service to School Committee
Mr. Fritsch recognized Ms. Popowich for her 6 years of service to the School Committee. Ms. Popowich thanked the many people she has worked with in the past 6 years. She spoke to her 6 years of service and the honor and privilege of working. Ms. Popowich noted her concerns from this year and her concerns of the coming years in the district.

 - B. Recognition of BHS student Kathleen Sera Royal - National Merit Scholar
Superintendent Coffin recognized Kathleen Sera Royal as the National Merit Scholar.

 - C. Recognition of BHS students Lily Stowe-Alekman, Lydia Funk, Isabelle Griffin - New England Outdoor Writers Winners
Superintendent Coffin recognized the three winners of the New England Outdoor Writers. Lydia Funk read her work titled "An Old Woman".

- III. Update from BHS Student Advisory Council representatives
Ben Stone updated the School Committee.
CSS; students are studying plants and weather. They are planting seeds in the

playground gardens and will be visited by Nick Bannin, Channel 22 meteorologist, on May 18th to learn how to become Junior Weather Watchers.

SRE; Family Art Night in conjunction with Book Fair, was held last Thursday, May 7th. Book Fair sales totaled over \$7,000.

CHCS; Mass Reading Book Awards Pizza Party was held on May 7th. Teachers participated in the Writesteps Professional Development on May 7th.

JBMS; staff appreciation week included a pizza luncheon, teacher and classroom supplies, and a free massage session for staff from A Healing Touch. These were sponsored by the JBMS PTO, JBMS Student Council, Mrs. Monette and Mr. Ruscio.

BHS; Annie Jr. was held last weekend with 3 performances at BHS. May 13 is the National Honor Society Induction Ceremony. The Senior Trip is Friday, May 15th at High Meadow. The Pops Concert is next Thursday, May 21st.

- IV. Public comment regarding items on the agenda
There were no public comments regarding items on the agenda.
- V. Approval of minutes
A. April 28, 2015 Minutes
Motion: Dr. Knapp moved to accept the April 28, 2015 minutes as presented.
Second: Ms. Popowich
Vote: 4,0,1 (Ms. Bogdanovich abstained)
- VI. Reports and recommendations of the Superintendent
A. Recommendation to approve insignia on new BHS Scoreboard (Marilyn Higgins)
Motion: Ms. Bogdanovich moved to accept the new scoreboard with the new insignia.
Second: Ms. French
Vote: 4,1,0
Discussion: Superintendent Coffin presented the request for the new scoreboard. Dr. Knapp questioned what the policy is for naming? Superintendent Coffin and Mr. Fritsch noted there is no district policy for naming other than buildings. Ms. Bogdanovich noted the new scoreboard is being funded by the Coaches Fund. Ms. Popowich mentioned concerns that not every person in the school has the ability to fund a school item to be named for them posthumously. Dr. Knapp noted the tennis courts are named for Marilyn Higgins.
- VII. Reports of subcommittees/representative to Collaborative for Educational Services
A. Collaborative for Educational Services (Ms. Bogdanovich)
Ms. Bogdanovich noted they will meet at the end of the month.
B. Curriculum & Instruction (Dr. Knapp/Ms. French)
Dr. Knapp noted they have not met.

- C. Healthy & Safer Schools Advisory Committee (Ms. Bogdanovich)
Ms. Bogdanovich noted they will meet tomorrow.
 - D. Jessica's Boundless Playground Committee (Ms. Popowich)
Ms. Popowich noted nothing at this time.
 - E. Personnel & Policy (Ms. Popowich/Ms. Bogdanovich)
Ms. Popowich noted nothing at this time.
 - F. Property & Transportation (Dr. Knapp/Mr. Fritsch)
Dr. Knapp noted no meeting is scheduled.
 - G. Finance & Budget Subcommittee (Dr. Knapp/Ms. French)
Dr. Knapp noted the subcommittee met last week. There are two action items. A recommendation the School Committee meet with the town for potential a Town Capital Improvement plan and an athletic fee increase. Mr. Fritsch noted they will be put on the next agenda.
 - H. Technology Advisory Committee (Mr. Fritsch)
Mr. Fritsch noted they met May 6th and discussed research in computer platforms. Mr. Fritsch asked Mr. Ruscio to speak to the discussion. Mr. Ruscio explained the platforms discussed. They compared districts and did site visits to see how technology is integrated in the classroom. They discussed designs other schools use. Google docs were one platform discussed.
Mr. Fritsch noted they also discussed policy on website blocks and technology timeline.
- VIII. New business
- Mr. Fritsch noted that Ms. Vigneux was honored as Employee of the Year at the Town Meeting.
- Dr. Knapp questioned what the cost would be to subscribe to Education Week for professional development.
- Dr. Knapp asked what subcommittee dealt with the pool. Mr. Fritsch noted it would be the Property subcommittee.
- IX. Unfinished business
- A. CHCS Field Trip Request – Overnight, Natures Classroom
Motion: Ms. French moved to approve the 4th grade Natures Classroom Field Trip at the Cape June 3-5.
Second: Ms. Bogdanovich
Vote: 5,0,0
Discussion: Superintendent Coffin presented the trip request. Fingerprinting policy required all overnight chaperones to be fingerprinted and they will be for the trip.

B. BHS Out of State Field Trip Request – Roger Williams Zoo

Motion: Ms. Bogdanovich moved to approve the BHS Out of State Field Trip Request.

Second: Dr. Knapp

Vote: 5,0,0

Discussion: Students from the junior class at BHS spoke to the request. They would like to kick off their senior year with this field trip. A vote was taken amongst the class with 140 voting to go to the zoo. Dr. Knapp questioned the cost. It was noted that the cost is \$40 with seats for 140 calculated. Ms. Scudere noted if there was more interest they would increase the number busses.

X. Correspondence

A. May 12, 2015, Agenda

B. April 28, 2015, Minutes

C. Memo regarding BHS Scoreboard

D. CHCS Overnight Field Trip Request

E. BHS Out of State Field Trip Request

XI. Adjourn

Motion: Ms. Bogdanovich moved to adjourn

Second: Ms. French

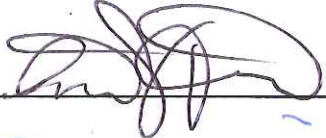
Vote: 5,0,0

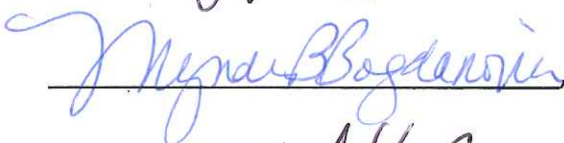
Respectfully submitted by,

Ramona Griffin

Non-Confidential Recording Secretary to the School Committee

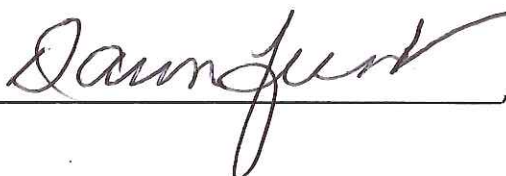
School Committee members' signatures:

 _____, Richard Fritsch, Chair

 _____, Myndi Bogdanovich, Vice Chair

 _____, Michael Knapp, Secretary

_____, 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](#)).

