



**BELCHERTOWN PUBLIC SCHOOLS
REGULAR SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
April 11, 2017**

LOCATION: Chestnut Hill Community School, Auditorium

TIME: Immediately following the Public Budget Hearing

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Ms. Dawn French, Chair (present); Dr. Thomas Laughner, Vice-Chair (present); Dr. Michael Knapp, Secretary (present); Ms. Myndi Bogdanovich, Member (present); Mr. Jeff Charron (present)

ADMINISTRATION: Mrs. Karol Coffin, Superintendent of Schools; Mr. Brian Cameron, Assistant Superintendent and Director of Student Support Services; Dr. Shawn Fortin, Director of Teaching & Learning; Mr. Edward Dunn, Contracted School Business Manager; Ms. Christine Vigneux, Principal BHS; Mr. Thomas Ruscio, JBMS Principal; Ms. Jennifer Champagne, Principal CHCS; Ms. Andrea Mastalerz interim Director CSS; Ms. Jill Pelletier, Assistant Principal CHCS; Ms. Eileen Farrington, SRE Assistant Principal;

BHS STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES: Mr. Parker Mas

VISITORS: see sign in sheet

Minutes

- I. Call to order
Ms. French called the meeting to order at 8:08 pm.
- II. School Committee members' additions to the agenda (with the consent of the majority)
There were no additions to the agenda.
- III. Public comment regarding items on the agenda
Mr. Howell questioned the addition of item II to the agenda. Researched the Attorney General rules which note there is to be 48 hours notice, all reasonable topics need to be brought up on agenda. Would like to know that an updated posting would be made available as soon as possible. Additions to the agenda should be posted in advance so if someone would like to speak to it they could.
Ms. French noted this was added by advice of town clerk. This was meant to be used for an emergency situation to avoid having to call an emergency meeting. This was moved before public comment in the agenda.
Mr. Howell suggested perhaps better wording, with the addition of, for emergency only, being added.

IV. Update from BHS Student Advisory Council representative - Mr. Parker Mas
Cold Spring School

It's time for the 2017 Cold Spring Swift River PTO Spring Basket/Raffle Fundraiser. Tickets are \$2 each and available to purchase until April 25th. There are numerous theme baskets as well as some great larger prizes. All drawings will occur on Thursday, April 27th and all funds raised will go back to the children and classrooms of Cold Spring and Swift River Elementary Schools.

Swift River Elementary School

All third grade students at Swift River Elementary School will learn about life in the 1800's during their Sturbridge rotations held over a two-day period, April 10th and 11th, which will then be followed by a Sturbridge Village field trip on Thursday, April 13th.

Chestnut Hill Community School

April is "Celebrate Diversity Month" at Chestnut Hill Community School. During announcements each morning, information is shared regarding historical events and holidays that relate to various diversity topics. Additionally, the guidance department has created a diversity themed bulletin board in which students and staff have been invited to write their answers to the question "What does Diversity mean to you?" Additional activities will be held throughout the month including a poster contest and discussion groups.

Jabish Brook Middle School

On Sunday, April 30th, Jabish Brook Middle School will hold a Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser from 5:00-7:30 PM in the cafeteria to sponsor the Grade 8 N.Y.C. Field Trip. Tickets will be \$7.00 for adults and \$5.00 for students & senior citizens.

Belchertown High School

On Wednesday, April 12th, Belchertown High School will host the Choir, Jazz Band, and Percussion Concert at 7:00 PM, and Talent Tuesday will take place on Tuesday, April 25th at 7:00 PM in the auditorium.

V. Approval of minutes (A.I.)

A. March 20, 2017 Regular Session

B. March 28, 2017, Regular Session

Motion: Ms. Bogdanovich moved to approve the March 20 and 28th minutes as presented

Second: Mr. Charron

Vote: 5,0,0

VI. Approval of Warrants and Budget Transfers (A.I.)

A. Accounts payable warrants: S/041017, 041017SA

B. Payroll warrants: W #1740

Motion: Dr. Laughner moved to approve the April 10, 2017 warrants

Second: Ms. Bogdanovich

Vote: 5,0,0

VII. Reports and recommendations of the Superintendent

Budget presentation done earlier.

VIII. Personnel

A. Update as of April 11, 2017

Superintendent Coffin welcomed Mary Ann Derouin and Andrea Mastalerz to the position as Director at CSS.

IX. Unfinished business

A. Consideration of Fee Changes (Athletes, Music & Transportation)

The School Committee discussed an increase in transportation fees, sports fees, and music fees.

Ms. Bogdanovich noted would not like to see the fees raised 2 years in a row.

Mr. Charron questioned how much did the raise in fees generate.

Mr. Dunn noted \$21,922 as of February 2017 with an increase of 22 students.

Mr. Dunn noted the an increase in transportation fee to \$180 would add \$44,000. This number based on \$1 per day to ride the bus.

Questioned if the increase would potentially decrease the number of riders.

The Committee discussed a percentage increase across the board or raise to \$140.

Ms. French supports a transportation increase to cover some of the budget gap.

Dr. Knapp would like to see tier 1 sports fees stay the same.

Mr. Charron noted the last increase did not seem to affect the participation numbers.

Dr. Knapp questioned the stipend for after school band programs. The Committee discussed the fees for instrument use. Ms. Smith explained the fee is for use of school instruments. Cannot charge fees for a class.

This was tabled for future meeting.

B. FY 18 Budget Vote for Town Meeting Article (A.I.)

Motion: Ms. Bogdanovich moved to approve the town appropriation of \$28,202,000 for the school district

Second: Mr. Charron

Vote: 5,0,0

Discussion: Dr. Knapp suggested not voting tonight. Would like time to look at budget information that was just received and the public should have time as well. Dr. Laughner noted the numbers have to be in by 10 working days before town meeting, the Finance Committee gave a deadline of April 25. This is prior to the next scheduled meeting. Dr. Knapp is concerned that much in the presentation is new information. Superintendent Coffin noted that just received the final number from the Finance Committee on Thursday. Ms. French noted the School Committee cannot manage how the budget is spent, it is spent at the discretion of the Superintendent and the district Administration. The Committee discussed voting on the budget versus voting the appropriation. The School Committee will be looking to MASC on what the approval of a budget process is .

X. New business

A. MCAS Questionnaire

Dr. Knapp brought forward at last meeting. This a climate survey, is fairly short and students do not have to participate. The Committee discussed if the district will be able to utilize the data. Dr. Fortin noted the data is supposed to be shared.

B. Citizen's Petition-School Committee Response

Superintendent Coffin noted the process for a citizen's petition. Town Counsel determines if this can be a warrant.

The Committee discussed how this may take the authority away from the School Committee. The School Committee and Superintendent are expected to speak to this petition at town meeting.

The Committee discussed the reasoning and what would this petition solve. The items listed for procedure are currently already in process as part of the public documents. The warrants are posted on the website. Finance & Budget meetings are open to the public. This type of procedure would require a full time employee to process. The Committee discussed if there were other ways to make information available to the public on the website. Ms. French noted the Superintendent should check with the school counsel and send a letter from the School Committee on their position on the petition.

XI. Reports of subcommittees**A. Curriculum & Instruction (Dr. Knapp/Mr. Charron)**

Have not met

B. Personnel & Policy (Ms. Bogdanovich/Dr. Laughner)

1) Policy ACA – Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Sex (2nd reading)

2) Policy ACAB – Sexual Harassment (2nd reading)

3) Policy ADDA – C.O.R.I. Requirements (2nd reading)

Motion: Ms. Bogdanovich moved to approve policies ACA, ACAB, ADDA

Second: Dr. Knapp

Vote: 5,0,0

C. Property & Transportation (Ms. Bogdanovich/Ms. French)

Have not met.

D. Finance & Budget Subcommittee (Dr. Laughner/Mr. Charron)

Nothing to report.

XII. Reports of school department liaisons**A. Healthy & Safer Schools Advisory Committee (Ms. French)**

Mr. Cameron noted they are working on updating the wellness policy.

B. Technology Working Group (Dr. Laughner)

Nothing at this time.

C. Collaborative for Educational Services (Dr. Knapp)

Nothing at this time.

D. RADAR (Dr. Laughner, Mr. Charron)

Nothing at this time.

XIII. Correspondence

A. Agenda, April 11, 2017

B. March 20, 2017 Minutes

- C. March 28, 2017, Minutes
 - D. Accounts Payable and Payroll Warrants
 - E. Personnel Update
 - F. Fees and Transportation Survey
 - G. FY18 Budget Documents
 - H. MCAS Questionnaire
 - I. Citizen's Petitions
 - J. Policy ACA – Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Sex
 - K. Policy ACAB – Sexual Harassment
 - L. Policy ADDA – C.O.R.I. Requirements
- XIV. Vote to enter into Executive Session under M.G.L. 30A, §21, Part 3 to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining Unit A, Teachers; Unit B, Secretaries; Unit C, Custodians; Unit D, Foodservice Employees; Unit E, Paraprofessionals and negotiations with Single Contracts Employees and the Superintendent and/or litigation as conducting said business in open session would have a detrimental effect on the School Committee's bargaining or litigation position. The committee will return to open session to discuss Superintendent Contract Extension.

School Committee voted to enter into executive session at 10:05 pm. They will not return to open session.

Vote:

Dawn French - yes

Thomas Laughner - yes

Michael Knapp - yes

Myndi Bogdanovich - yes

Jeff Charron - yes

- XV. Adjourn
- Motion:
- Second:
- Vote:


Respectfully submitted by,


Ramona Griffin
 Non-Confidential Recording Secretary to the School Committee

School Committee members' signatures:


 _____, Dawn French, Chair


 _____, Thomas Laughner, Vice Chair


 _____, Michael Knapp, Secretary


 _____, Myndi Bogdanovich, Member


 _____, Jeff Charron, Member

The listings of matters are those reasonably anticipated by the Chair which may be discussed at the meeting. Not all items may in fact be discussed and other items not listed may also be brought up for discussion to the extent permitted by law.

Vision Statement

Belchertown students, both individually and collaboratively, will be innovative thinkers, problem solvers and unique, creative contributors to their community and the world

Mission Statement

In the pursuit of excellence and the development of life-long learners, it is the mission of the Belchertown Public Schools to challenge and engage all students in a respectful, positive learning environment that fosters personal, social and academic growth in order to achieve success in a global society.

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@belchertownps.org to determine the best way to address your concerns (see [School Committee Policy BEDH](#)).