

Berkley School Committee
Regular Meeting
February 8, 2021

AGENDA ITEM #1: CALL TO ORDER & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The regular meeting of the Berkley School Committee was held at the Berkley Middle School Library on Monday, February 8, 2021. Mrs. Vincent, Secretary, called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present

Daniel Fagan
Jennifer Vincent
Christopher Ghilarducci

Excused

Tara Weber
Jilleen Solomon

Other

Thomas Lynch, Superintendent
Patricia Silvia, Executive Assistant to Supt. & SC
Andrea Porter, Business Administrator
Dona Andreasen, Michelle Bringle, Public

Mrs. Vincent stated "Let the record show that this meeting is being electronically recorded. If anyone in the audience wishes to electronically record this meeting, you should notify the Committee at this time. Any such recording may be subject to reasonable restrictions imposed by the Chair to the extent permitted under the Open Meeting Law."

AGENDA ITEM #2: APPROVE BILLS AND PAYROLLS

It was moved by Mr. Fagan, seconded by Mr. Ghilarducci and VOTED to approve bills and payrolls.

Vote: UNANIMOUS

AGENDA ITEM #3: APPROVE AND SIGN MINUTES

It was moved by Mr. Fagan, seconded by Mr. Ghilarducci and VOTED to approve the regular meeting minutes of January 11, 2021 as written.

Vote: UNANIMOUS

AGENDA ITEM #4: CORRESPONDENCE AND ENCLOSURES

- Berkley School Committee minutes (1/11/21)
- Principals' Reports
- Budget Report (2/6/21)
- School Year Calendar draft, 2021/22
- Policy Subcommittee minutes, 1/25/21
- Policies for 1st reading: Holidays for Non-Instructional Personnel #4170, Current Support Staff Benefits (Non-Union) #4180
- Enrollment 2/1/21

ONE COPY FOLDER

- Principals' Newsletters, Feb. 2021
- Berkley School Committee Newsletter, January 2021
- Inside Somerset & Somerset Berkley Family Newsletter, Feb. 2021
- February 2021 Office Schedule
- Resignation letters, M. Montalto, T. Reed, D. Andrade
- DESE Report Card Cover Letters, BPS, BCS, BMS

Mr. Lynch referenced the posting for vacation week office hours, DESE report card cover letters to parents and resignation letters.

AGENDA ITEM #5: PUBLIC INPUT

Danielle Boulay, a parent, spoke to the Committee about her concerns and read statements from other parents with concerns about the remote and hybrid-learning models in place in Berkley. They asked for information on plans to bring students back full time. She spoke about the mental, social, emotional and physical issues some children are experiencing that are associated with their not being in school full time. She asked why other districts have been able to bring their students back full time.

Mr. Lynch responded that the Reopening Committee has been meeting since July and explained that plans to reopen must follow the Governor's and DESE guidelines and restrictions. Because of distancing restrictions, our classrooms are not large enough to bring the students back full time and buses can only transport a limited number of students at one time, again because of distancing requirements. Students in Grades 1 and 2 recently returned four days a week. These grades have smaller classes so desks could be spaced accordingly in the classrooms and a bus was added to accommodate the additional students. The plan is to next bring back students in grades 5 & 8 in the near future. Grade 7 is our largest class (110 students) and will be the most difficult to bring back with the distancing requirements.

Synchronous learning time was increased on January 25 and DESE has just issued new regulations to increase that even more. Administration will be meeting this week to address the new regulations. Mr. Lynch emphasized that we will return more or all students full time once the spacing restrictions are lifted and teachers have been vaccinated. Mr. Fagan and Mrs. Vincent have children in the system and stated they understand how difficult this is on the children and the parents. Mrs. Andreasen spoke about how hard the teachers are working under the current plan with the two cohorts and are doing a great job. Mr. Lynch reiterated that our goal is to have most, if not all students back, as soon as we can. As far as other districts whose students are back full time, we will research it; most likely they have additional space to do it. Mr. Fagan suggested that parents contact legislators and call elected officials to ask that they ease the restrictions on the public schools. We cannot return all students to full time until the restrictions are lifted. Mr. Lynch will continue to keep parents informed as plans develop.

AGENDA ITEM #6: EDUCATIONAL REPORTS

AGENDA ITEM #6a: PRINCIPALS' REPORTS ON SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

Written reports from the principals were circulated in the packet.

AGENDA ITEM #7: ADMINISTRATIVE & SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPORTS

AGENDA ITEM 7a: SOMERSET BERKLEY REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Jaycee Tessier, a student at SBRHS, reported on happenings at the high school. She spoke about the hybrid, virtual cohorts models in use there and said mostly all activities are virtual. Some sports are being allowed. She reported on DECA, which is also virtual this year. Twenty-five DECA members qualified for the virtual state competition this year.

AGENDA ITEM #7b: SUPERINTENDENT SEARCH

The Superintendent Search Committee is interviewing applicants this week.

AGENDA ITEM #7c: POLICY SUBCOMMITTEE

Mrs. Vincent reviewed minutes of the January meeting. Twenty-eight policies were reviewed in the 1000 section, no changes were needed. Due to the new MA holiday, Juneteenth, two policy revisions are recommended: Holidays for Non-Instructional Personnel #4170 and Current Support Staff Benefits (Non-Union) #4180. This school year June 19 falls on Saturday and does not affect the school year calendar. Next year it falls on Sunday and is recognized on Monday, June 20. School may or may not be in session that day depending on whether or not snow days are used.

AGENDA ITEM #8: UNFINISHED BUSINESS

AGENDA ITEM #8a: POLICY READINGS

It was moved by Mr. Fagan, seconded by Mr. Ghilarducci, and VOTED to approve 1st readings for: Holidays for Non-Instructional Personnel #4170, Current Support Staff Benefits (Non-Union) #4180.

Vote: UNANIMOUS

AGENDA ITEM #8b: SCHOOL DEPARTMENT BUDGET FY '21

FY'21 remains in good shape.

AGENDA ITEM #9: NEW BUSINESS

AGENDA ITEM #9a: SCHOOL YEAR CALENDAR DRAFT, 2021/22

A first draft of the 2021/22 school year calendar was circulated and will be voted next month.

AGENDA ITEM #9b: SURPLUS ITEM

It was moved by Mr. Ghilarducci, second by Mr. Fagan and VOTED to declare a non-working IBM personal wheel writer typewriter a surplus item.

Vote: UNANIMOUS

AGENDA ITEM #10: SUPERINTENDENT'S PERSONNEL REPORT

AGENDA ITEM #10a: RESIGNATION/RETIREMENT

T. Reed, Van Driver

M. Montalto, Custodian

D. Andrade, Maintenance/Grounds Custodian

AGENDA ITEM #10b: APPOINTMENT/TRANSFER

D. Mazzocca, Van Driver

AGENDA ITEM #11: EXECUTIVE SESSION

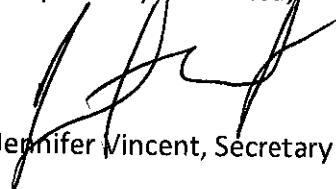
Not needed.

AGENDA ITEM #12: ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Mr. Fagan, seconded by Mr. Ghilarducci and VOTED to adjourn at 7:21 PM.

Vote: UNANIMOUS

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jennifer Vincent', is written over the printed name.

Jennifer Vincent, Secretary