

**Berkley School Committee
Regular Meeting
March 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, March 8, 2021. Mrs. Weber, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present

Daniel Fagan
Jennifer Vincent, via Remote
Tara Weber
Jilleen Solomon

Excused

Christopher Ghilarducci

Other

Thomas Lynch, Superintendent
Patricia Silvia, Executive Assistant to Supt. & SC
Jennifer Francisco, Principal, BCS
Kimberly Hebert, Principal, BMS
Melissa Abrego, Adm. for Student Services
Andrea Porter, Business Administrator
Ryan Andrade, Asst. Principal, BMS
Teachers, Public
Diane Maxwell, via Remote
James Hardy, MASC

Mrs. Weber stated Diane Maxwell is attending via live stream and School Committee member Jennifer Vincent is participating remotely via phone.

AGENDA ITEM #2: APPROVE BILLS AND PAYROLLS

It was moved by Mr. Fagan, seconded by Mrs. Solomon and VOTED to approve the bills and payrolls.

Vote: UNANIMOUS

AGENDA ITEM #3: APPROVE AND SIGN MINUTES

Table minutes of February 8, March 1, 2, and 4, 2021.

AGENDA ITEM #4: CORRESPONDENCE AND ENCLOSURES

- Berkley School Committee meeting minutes (2/8/21, 3/1/21, 3/2/21, 3/4/21)
- Principals' Reports
- Budget Expense Report (3/5/21)
- Proposed School Year Calendar 2021/22
- Policies for 2nd reading: Holidays for Non-Instructional Personnel #4170 and
- Current Support Staff Benefits (Non-Union) #4180
- Christopher Ghilarducci resignation e/mail (3/2/21)
- Termination of Office and Filling Vacancies Policy #1350
- BMS Surplus Equipment
- Enrollment (3/1/21)
-

ONE COPY FOLDER

- Principals' Newsletters (March 2021)
- Berkley School Committee Newsletter (February 2021)

NIGHT OF MEETING FOLDER

- School Committee minutes, 3/4/21
- Bid Summary & Recommendation, #2 heating oil

AGENDA ITEM #5: PUBLIC INPUT

AGENDA ITEM #6: EDUCATIONAL REPORTS

AGENDA ITEM #6a: PRINCIPALS' REPORTS

BCS: Mrs. Francisco reported that BCS welcomed back students in Grades 3 & 4 today; it was a fabulous day. Ten students have returned to school from either virtual or home schooling. Other pertinent information is in the report that was circulated.

BMS: Mrs. Hebert reported that BMS welcomed back Grade 8 students last week and all went well. Grade 5 returns next week. Families are encouraged to send their children on the bus to decrease traffic congestion at drop off and pick up times. She thanked Mr. Andrade for reconfiguring the schedules as students return. She announced that Ms. Blaser, BMS administrative assistant, is leaving next week for a new job opportunity; she wished her the very best.

AGENDA ITEM #7: ADMINISTRATIVE & SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPORTS

AGENDA ITEM #7a: SOMERSET BERKLEY REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE

No report

AGENDA ITEM #8: UNFINISHED BUSINESS

AGENDA ITEM #8a: POLICY READINGS

With the new MA holiday, Juneteenth, it is recommended that two support staff policies be amended: Holidays for Non-Instructional Personnel #4170 & 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 the holiday falls on Sunday & 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.

It was moved by Mrs. Solomon, seconded by Mr. Fagan and VOTED to approve 2nd readings for Holidays for Non-Instructional Personnel #4170 & Current Support Staff Benefits (Non-Union) #4180.

Vote: UNANIMOUS

AGENDA ITEM #8b: SCHOOL DEPARTMENT BUDGET 2020/21

Mr. Lynch reported the budget is in good standing at this time.

AGENDA ITEM #8c: PROPOSED SCHOOL YEAR CALENDAR, 2021/22

Next year is the first year Juneteenth will be recognized during the school year, if snow days are used. As it falls on Sunday, June 19, we are required to recognize it Monday, June 20. School may or may not be session depending on the number of snow days used. Professional development/ orientation will be Wednesday, September 1; Grades 1-8 start on Thursday, September 2; P & K start on Friday, September 3.

It was moved by Mr. Fagan, seconded by Mrs. Solomon and VOTED to approve the school year calendar for 2021/22 as presented.

Vote: UNANIMOUS

AGENDA ITEM #9: NEW BUSINESS

AGENDA ITEM #9a: SCHOOL COMMITTEE VACANCY

Christopher Ghilarducci has submitted his resignation from the Committee; his last meeting is April 12. Anyone interested in filling his vacancy on the School Committee should send a letter to the Board of Selectmen.

AGENDA ITEM #9b: AWARD BIDS: #2 HEATING OIL

Bids results for #2 heating oil for fiscal year '22 from Dennis K. Burke, Peterson Oil Services and East River Energy were reviewed.

It was moved by Mr. Fagan, seconded by Mrs. Solomon and VOTED to award the #2 heating oil bid to Dennis K. Burke, Inc. at the fixed rate of \$2.0472/gal. for the fiscal 2021/22 year.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS

AGENDA ITEM #9c: SCHEDULE PUBLIC HEARINGS: FY '22 SCHOOL BUDGET & FY'22 SCHOOL CHOICE

State law requires that an Annual School Budget Hearing occur prior to Town Meeting and that a Public Hearing on School Choice be held prior to June 1st. It was agreed to hold both hearings at the April 12, 2021 School Committee meeting.

AGENDA ITEM #9d: SOUTH COAST EDUCATIONAL COLLABORATIVE LEASE

Mr. Lynch recommends renewal of the lease. It is a positive relationship for us and for South Coast.

It was moved by Mrs. Solomon, seconded by Mr. Fagan and VOTED to extend the lease agreement with South Coast Educational Collaborative for two classrooms at BCS and two classrooms BMS.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS

AGENDA ITEM #9e: SURPLUS LISTS

It was moved by Mr. Fagan, seconded by Mrs. Solomon and VOTED to approve the enclosed list of non-working items at BMS as surplus.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS

AGENDA ITEM #9f: APPOINTMENT OF SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Three finalists, Jane Daly, Timothy McLaughlin and Melissa Eakins-Ryan were interviewed by the School Committee last week. Mrs. Weber thanked everyone who participated in the process; the screening committee, administrators, as well as those who did site visits and interviews. All three candidates had key attributes that would bring something to the district and each would serve the

community well. It was a difficult choice as each is well qualified. Each School Committee member recommended a candidate they felt would be the best choice for Berkley and stated why they chose that candidate. Three members recommended Ms. Eakins-Ryan, one member recommended Ms. Daly. During a 5-minute recess, Mrs. Weber telephoned Ms. Eakins-Ryan to offer her the position; she accepted.

It was moved by Mrs. Vincent, seconded by Mrs. Solomon and VOTED to appoint Melissa Eakins-Ryan to the position of Superintendent of Schools, pending successful contract negotiations.

VOTE: Mrs. Solomon – AYE
Mrs. Vincent – AYE
Mrs. Weber – AYE
Mr. Fagan – NAY

AGENDA ITEM #10: SUPERINTENDENT'S PERSONNEL REPORT

AGENDA ITEM #10a: RESIGNATION/RETIREMENT

Heather Blaser, Administrative Assistant, BMS

AGENDA ITEM #10b: APPOINTMENTS/TRANSFERS

Kimberly Duffy-Toth, Paraprofessional LT Sub, BCS

Anthony Costa, Maintenance/Grounds Custodian, BMS

Christopher Thompson, Custodian, BCS

AGENDA ITEM #11: EXECUTIVE SESSION

Not needed.

AGENDA ITEM #12: ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Mrs. Solomon, seconded by Mrs. Vincent and VOTED to adjourn at 6:56 PM.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS

Respectfully submitted,



Jennifer Vincent, Secretary