

**Berkley School Committee  
Regular Meeting & Public Hearings  
April 12, 2021**

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

The regular meeting of the Berkley School Committee and Public Hearings were held in the Berkley Middle School Cafeteria on Monday, April 12, 2021. Mrs. Weber, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Present**

Jennifer Vincent  
Jilleen Solomon  
Daniel Fagan  
Christopher Ghilarducci  
Tara Weber

**Other**

Thomas Lynch, Superintendent  
Patricia Silvia, Executive Assistant  
Jennifer Francisco, Principal, BCS  
Kimberly Hebert, Principal, BMS  
Melissa Abrego, Adm. for Student Services  
Andrea Porter, Business Administrator  
Timothy McCarthy, Head of Buildings & Grounds  
Sarah Cogar, Asst. Principal, BCS  
Ryan Andrade, Asst. Principal, BMS  
Melissa Eakins-Ryan  
Somerset/SBRHS Supt. Jeffrey Schoonover  
Somerset/SBRHS School Com: Victor Machado, Rick  
Pierce, Mike McDonald  
Diane Maxwell, Laura Dietz  
SBRHS student rep. Jaycee Tessier  
Public

**AGENDA ITEM #2: PUBLIC HEARING ON SCHOOL DEPARTMENT BUDGET FY '22**

The public hearing was held on the FY '22 School Department budget as is required by MA General Law Chapter 71, Section 38N. Mr. Lynch provided a brief summary of the budget for next year. This budget was presented and approved by the School Committee in January. Mr. Lynch reviewed administrative costs; school leadership, offices & building technology; instructional costs; operations & maintenance; transportation. The budget request totals \$8,800,454; a 1.9% increase over the current year. It includes two teacher positions that were previously lost; one at the BCS Library which will be renamed the Discovery Zone and one at the BMS Library which will be renamed the Digital Learning Center. Both will have a STEM focus and be more activity-related. We anticipate allowing students to check out books.

**AGENDA ITEM #3: PUBLIC HEARING ON SCHOOL CHOICE 2021/22**

The public hearing on School Choice was held as required by MA General Law Chapter 76, Section 12B. The Superintendent recommended the Committee vote to offer School Choice in 2021/22 in the following grades: Kindergarten (up to 15 students), Grade 1 (up to 6 students), Grade 3 (up to 4 students), Grade 4 (up to 14 students), Grade 6 (up to 4 students), and Grade 7 (up to 4 students) for a total of 47 new seats.

**AGENDA ITEM #4: APPROVE BILLS AND PAYROLLS**

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

**Vote: UNANIMOUS**

**AGENDA ITEM #5: APPROVE AND SIGN MINUTES**

It was moved by Mrs. Vincent, seconded by Mrs. Solomon and VOTED to approve the meeting minutes (2/8/21, 3/1/21, 3/2/21, 3/4/21, 3/8/21) as written.

**Vote: Mr. Ghilarducci - ABSTAIN**

**Mrs. Solomon - AYE**

**Mrs. Vincent - AYE**

**Mr. Fagan - AYE**

**Mrs. Weber - AYE**

**AGENDA ITEM #6: CORRESPONDENCE AND ENCLOSURES**

- Berkley School Committee minutes (2/8/21, 3/1/21, 3/2/21, 3/4/21, 3/8/21)
- Principals' Reports
- Proposed Transfers (4/12/21)
- Budget Statement (4/5/21)
- Enrollment (4/1/21)
- School Department Audit FY '20
- Policy Subcommittee minutes (4/5/21)
- 1st Reading: Indemnification of Members Policy #1260
- BCS Surplus List
- School Choice Recommendation

**One Copy Folder**

- April Office Schedule
- Newsletters
- Mrs. Paull retirement letter

**AGENDA ITEM #7: PUBLIC INPUT**

Agenda item #11a. was moved to #7 Public Input. At this time the Committee recognized Mr. Ghilarducci, with today being his last meeting of the Berkley School Committee after serving the students of Berkley and Somerset Berkley Regional High School for a span of 25 years. Mr. Lynch presented a resolution on behalf of Rep. Orrall from the State of MA. He then read a request from the Berkley Administrative Team requesting approval to name the Berkley Middle School stage the "Christopher Ghilarducci Theater" in honor of Mr. Ghilarducci and his support of the arts. He and his wife Marge have attended all the musical and drama productions over the years at both schools. They donated hand bells to the Community School Music Program for student use. They are yearly guest readers to the BCS Kindergarten students. They are well known in the community and are very

active in the lives of our young students. Mr. Ghilarducci asked that his wife's name Marge be added to the request; the Committee agreed.

Somerset/SBRHS School Committee member Mr. Machado presented a citation to Mr. Ghilarducci from both School Committees for his service to the students, specifically for all the time spent with DECA and the National Honor Society. Mr. Pierce and Mr. McDonald thanked Chris and his wife Marge for all their work and time spent with the students. The general consensus from all speakers was that Chris is a "great friend, role model and mentor to all". SBRHS Supt. Jeffrey Schoonover also offered thanks to Mr. Ghilarducci and Marge for the numerous hours spent with the DECA students and for all their contributions to their success; he positively influenced and touched many young lives and every decision he makes is for the children.

Mr. Lynch presented Mr. Ghilarducci with a plaque for serving the School Committee the last 8 years and Mrs. Weber presented a certificate for serving the School Committee over a span of 25 years and she thanked him for all he's done for the children of the community and for being a wonderful mentor.

Mr. Ghilarducci thanked everyone for their kindness and for considering him a colleague and friend. He is appreciative of everything that was said and reiterated his feeling that he has done it all for the children.

#### **AGENDA ITEM #8: EDUCATIONAL REPORTS**

##### **AGENDA ITEM #8a: PRINCIPALS' REPORTS**

BCS: Mrs. Francisco reported on Grade 1's 120th day parade celebration, reinstatement of the Reading Intervention Clinic, the Welcome Back Wednesday celebration, the Community Rock Garden and the PBIS "Buddy Ticket" Recognition Program.

BMS: Mrs. Hebert reported on the BMS Project 351 Cradles to Crayons Project, grade 8 Scholar Leader nomination process, spring sports, acceptances for BP and BA, and grade 8 year-end activities.

##### **AGENDA ITEM #8b: PRESCHOOL PROGRAM**

Mrs. Abrego highlighted Preschool Program changes being considered for next year. Being looked at is the possibility of opening up a full day preschool program for families who are interested in that or they may add another 5-day program. Now we offer a 2-day and a 3-day program. A survey was sent to current families to gather data and additional input will be solicited from the community. Mrs. Cogar talked about changes to the curriculum to focus more on purposeful play for 3 and 4 year olds. Social emotional issues also are being looked at especially more so since the pandemic and this new program encompasses that as well. The Preschool Program still will be a tuition-based program. Once all the information is known, it will be shared with families so they know their options.

#### **AGENDA ITEM #9: ADMINISTRATIVE & SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**AGENDA ITEM #9a: INTRODUCTION OF NEW SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS**

Mrs. Weber introduced and welcomed Melissa Eakins-Ryan, who will be in Berkley over the next few months to start to transition over; her start date is July 1. Mrs. Eakins-Ryan stated she is very excited and happy to be here and looks forward to working with everyone.

**AGENDA ITEM #9b: SBRHS SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

Jaycee Tessier reported on high school activities.

**AGENDA ITEM #9c: SCHOOL DEPARTMENT AUDIT FY '20**

The Audit for FY '20 is complete; there was one finding which has been corrected. Mr. Lynch complimented Mrs. Porter for her hard work on this.

**AGENDA ITEM #9d: POLICY SUBCOMMITTEE**

Fifteen policies were reviewed; no changes are recommended. 1st reading is recommended to delete the Indemnification of Members Policy #1260.

**AGENDA ITEM #10: UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**AGENDA ITEM #10a: POLICY READING**

It was moved by Mrs. Vincent, seconded by Mrs. Solomon and VOTED to approve 1<sup>st</sup> reading to delete the Indemnification of Members Policy #1260.

**Vote: UNANIMOUS**

**AGENDA ITEM #10b: SCHOOL YEAR CALENDAR 2020/21**

One snow day was used this year. An additional ten professional development days were declared by DESE this year which resulted in students attending school 170 days in total. It is recommended that the Committee vote **Friday, June 18, 2021** the last day for this school year; the last day is an early release day.

It was moved by Mrs. Vincent, seconded by Mrs. Solomon and VOTED to approve June 18, 2021 as the last day of school for the 2020/21 school year.

**Vote: UNANIMOUS**

**AGENDA ITEM #10c: SCHOOL DEPARTMENT BUDGET 2020/21**

It was moved by Mrs. Vincent, seconded by Mrs. Solomon and VOTED to approve budget transfers as recommended.

**Vote: UNANIMOUS**

**AGENDA ITEM #11: NEW BUSINESS**

**AGENDA ITEM #11a: AWARD & MEMORIAL 1<sup>ST</sup> READING**

As was presented during Public Input, it is recommended that the BMS stage be named the Christopher & Marjorie Ghilarducci Theater.

It was moved by Mrs. Solomon, seconded by Mrs. Vincent and VOTED to approve the 1<sup>st</sup> Reading to name the BMS stage the Christopher and Marjorie Ghilarducci Theater.

**Vote: UNANIMOUS**

**AGENDA ITEM #11b: SCHOOL CHOICE FOR 2021/22**

A vote is recommended to accept School Choice students for the 2021/22 school year in the following grades: Kindergarten (up to 15 students), Grade 1 (up to 6 students), Grade 3 (up to 4 students), Grade 4 (up to 14 students), Grade 6 (up to 4 students), Grade 7 (up to 4 students). Applications are on the district website.

It was moved by Mrs. Vincent, seconded by Mrs. Solomon and VOTED to approve Choice students in the grades as stated above.

**Vote: UNANIMOUS**

**AGENDA ITEM #11c: BCS SURPLUS LIST**

It was moved by Mrs. Vincent, seconded by Mrs. Solomon and VOTED to approve the BCS Surplus List as circulated.

**Vote: UNANIMOUS**

**AGENDA ITEM #12: SUPERINTENDENT'S PERSONNEL REPORT**

**AGENDA ITEM #12a: RESIGNATIONS/RETIREMENT**

Mark Leary, Custodian, BCS  
Heather Blaser, Administrative Assistant, BMS  
Kimberly Paull, Computer Teacher, BMS

**AGENDA ITEM #12b: APPOINTMENTS/TRANSFERS**

Patricia Trottier, Administrative Assistant, BMS  
Cristine Lebeaux, Office Assistant, BMS  
Paul Messier, Custodian, BCS

**AGENDA ITEM #13: EXECUTIVE SESSION**

It was moved by Mrs. Solomon, seconded by Mrs. Vincent and VOTED at 7:18 PM to enter Executive Session in accordance with MGL Chapter 30A, Sec. 21 to discuss strategy with respect to collective

bargaining and/or litigation with union and non-union personnel and to return to Open Session only to adjourn.

**Vote:** Mrs. Vincent - AYE  
Mr. Fagan - AYE  
Mrs. Solomon - AYE  
Mr. Ghilarducci - AYE  
Mrs. Weber – AYE

It was moved by Mrs. Vincent, seconded by Mrs. Solomon and VOTED at 7:28 PM to exit Executive Session in accordance with MGL Chapter 30A, Sec. 21 and to return to Open Session only to adjourn.

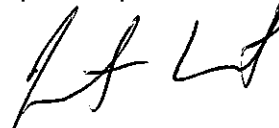
**Vote:** Mrs. Vincent - AYE  
Mr. Fagan - AYE  
Mrs. Solomon - AYE  
Mr. Ghilarducci - AYE  
Mrs. Weber - AYE

**AGENDA ITEM #14: ADJOURNMENT**

It was moved by Mrs. Vincent, seconded by Mrs. Solomon and VOTED to adjourn at 7:29 PM.

**Vote: UNANIMOUS**

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Vincent', written over a horizontal line.

Jennifer Vincent  
Secretary