

**Berkley School Committee  
Regular Meeting  
August 23, 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 Cafeteria on Monday, August 23, 2021. Mrs. Weber, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 5 PM, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Present**

Jennifer Vincent  
Kaitlyn Robichaud  
Daniel Fagan  
Jillleen Solomon  
Tara Weber

**Other**

Melissa Ryan, Superintendent  
Patricia Silvia, Executive Assistant  
Jennifer Francisco, Principal, BCS  
Kimberly Hebert, Principal, BMS  
Melissa Abrego, Adm. for Student Services  
Ryan Andrade, Asst. Principal  
Sarah Cogar, Asst. Principal  
Andrea Porter, Business Administrator  
Timothy McCarthy, Head of Bldgs./Grounds  
Teachers, Public

**AGENDA ITEM #2: APPROVE BILLS AND PAYROLLS**

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

**Vote: UNANIMOUS**

**AGENDA ITEM #3: APPROVE AND SIGN MINUTES**

It was moved by Mrs. Solomon, seconded by Mrs. Robichaud and VOTED to approve the regular meeting minutes of June 7, 2021 as written.

**Vote: UNANIMOUS**

**AGENDA ITEM #4: CORRESPONDENCE AND ENCLOSURES**

**Enclosures:**

- Berkley School Committee meeting minutes (6/7/21)
- Student Handbooks: BMS, Preschool, Kindergarten, Grades 1-4
- Re-Opening Plan Options
- Face Coverings Policy #6225
- Recommended budget transfers, 2020/21
- School Department budget statement, 2021/22
- Surplus Lists

**One Copy Folder:**

- MA DESE letter re: Compliance Waiver, Sp. Ed. PAC
- Retirement letter, D. Gallagher

**Night of Meeting Folder:**

- Revised Agenda
- Revised Page 4
- School Building Committee proposed member listing

Mrs. Ryan referenced the approval letter from DESE for Berkley's request to waive establishment of an active Sp. Ed. PAC. She also noted Mrs. Gallagher's letter of intent to retire effective January 1, 2022.

**AGENDA ITEM #5: PUBLIC INPUT**

Public input was welcomed at this time; however Mrs. Weber announced that the School Committee will not vote tonight on agenda item #9b. School Re-Opening Plan Options due to the planned vote by the MA State Board of Education tomorrow to mandate masks in public schools. If that vote happens, this Committee will not have options; staff and students will be mandated to wear masks in school until at least October, 1 at which time it will be re-assessed by the state. It was explained that this is a public school that receives public funding and for that reason we must follow the state mandates. The distinct difference between mandates and guidelines was reviewed. Berkley schools sent out a survey to parents and staff to solicit feedback on this, which the Committee that has taken into consideration. Several parents in attendance expressed opposition to the mask mandate and suggested the School Committee not adhere to it; many believe masks should be a parent choice. However, if the state mandates masks, public schools must follow it. Mrs. Ryan and many other superintendents in the region and the state have been communicating with DESE and state officials to make them aware of what the opinion is in their communities. Parents were advised to contact legislators and state officials with their concerns about mask mandates. Discussion ensued after the question was asked what would be done if children come to school with no mask. Mrs. Ryan responded that it is our hope that parents would not put children in that situation; it is unfair to place students in the middle of adult decisions. It was clarified that medical and/or behavioral exemptions to the mask mandate are allowed with a doctor's note. It also was stated that this is a fluid issue and changes quickly. The mask mandate, if voted, is until October 1 and things could change again after that.

**AGENDA ITEM #6: EDUCATIONAL REPORTS**

**AGENDA ITEM #6a: CURRICULUM ACCELERATION TEAM (CAT)**

Mrs. Ryan announced the formation of the Curriculum Acceleration Team (CAT) that is composed of one teacher from each grade level, specialists, interventionists and the administrative team. It will serve as a steering committee for curriculum assessment and will develop a district plan for professional development. They also will work on how best to transition students back to school after last year when students learned in many different modes (remote, hybrid, etc.). Universal social emotional screening will be done on all students at the start of the year.

**AGENDA ITEM #6b: SURROUND CARE PROGRAM UPDATE**

Surround Care reopened this summer and we have had a tremendous response from families. The software was updated so registrations can be done now online and we are working on an online payment system as well. SC Information is posted on the website.

**AGENDA ITEM #7: ADMINISTRATIVE & SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**AGENDA ITEM #7a: SOMERSET BERKLEY REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

Mrs. Vincent reported that the region is working on their strategic plan and she and Mrs. Ryan met to review what Berkley is doing so they both are on the same page.

**AGENDA ITEM #7b: MASS SUMMER INSTITUTE**

Mrs. Ryan reported that the Institute Program she attended in July focused mainly on inclusion, equity and diversity.

**AGENDA ITEM #8: UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**AGENDA ITEM #8a: SCHOOL DEPARTMENT BUDGET**

It was moved by Mrs. Robichaud, seconded by Mrs. Vincent and VOTED to approve transfers to the 2020/21 budget as presented.

**Vote: UNANIMOUS**

**AGENDA ITEM #9: NEW BUSINESS**

**AGENDA ITEM #9a: 2021/22 SCHOOL RE-OPENING PLAN OPTIONS & FACE COVERINGS POLICY #6225**

The re-opening plan had to be modified after notice was received that the MA Department of Early & Secondary Education will vote tomorrow to possibly mandate masks. Mrs. Ryan reviewed what has transpired to date, beginning with guidelines that were issued July 29 through today, which shows how quickly things changed over the past few weeks. The mask mandate if approved is only until October 1.

She reviewed changes to the protocols surrounding close contacts, social distancing and quarantine. Students/staff who are masked and at least 3' apart are exempt from quarantine and social distancing is not required this year. Arrangement of desks and hallway patterns will return to the way they were before Covid. Music, athletics and afterschool activities will return. Masks and social distancing is not required outside. Masks are required on the bus and in the school health office. She reviewed isolation and test & stay protocols and different scenarios. Mrs. Weber thanked Mrs. Ryan for her timely communication with the community as updates were received from DESE. The final plan will be released after the vote from the State.

**AGENDA ITEM #9b: APPOINT SCHOOL BUILDING COMMITTEE**

It was moved by Mrs. Vincent, seconded by Mrs. Robichaud and VOTED to appoint the following members to the MSBA School Building Committee: Melissa Ryan, Tara Weber, Jilleen Solomon, Dean Larabee, Heather Martin-Sterling, Joseph Freitas, Kate Simons, Barbara Miller, Michael McDonough, Don Emond, Timothy McCarthy, Jennifer Francisco, Sarah Cogar, George Miller.

**Vote: UNANIMOUS**

**AGENDA ITEM #9c: DISTRICT GOALS 2021/22**

Mrs. Ryan reviewed three draft goals for the next school year that are under development. She will present final goals and a formal district improvement plan and superintendent entry plan at the September School Committee meeting.

**AGENDA ITEM #9d: AUTHORIZE SUPERINTENDENT TO SIGN WARRANTS FOR CAFETERIA, TMLP, CELLULAR PHONE, UNEMPLOYMENT AND GAS/DIESEL FUEL**

It was moved by Mr. Fagan, seconded by Mrs. Solomon and VOTED to authorize the Superintendent to sign warrants for cafeteria, TMLP, cellular phone, unemployment and gas & diesel fuel for 2021/22.

**Vote: UNANIMOUS**

**AGENDA ITEM #9e: STUDENT HANDBOOKS**

Student handbooks were circulated for BMS, BCS Grades 1-4, Kindergarten, and Preschool.

It was moved by Mr. Fagan, seconded by Mrs. Robichaud and VOTED to accept the handbooks as circulated.

**Vote: UNANIMOUS**

**AGENDA ITEM #9f: SURPLUS**

Lists of outdated books and non-operating technology were circulated.

It was moved by Mrs. Vincent, seconded by Mrs. Solomon and VOTED to declare these items "surplus".

**Vote: UNANIMOUS**

**AGENDA ITEM #10: SUPERINTENDENT'S PERSONNEL REPORT**

**AGENDA ITEM #10a: RESIGNATION/RETIREMENT**

Debra Gallagher, Computer Tech., BMS (1/1/22)

**AGENDA ITEM #10b: APPOINTMENTS/TRANSFERS**

Julie Murray	Reading Specialist, Gr 5-8
Sarah Lucius	Grade 4 Teacher
Kylie Hickson	Grade 4 Teacher
Ashleigh Drew	EL Teacher, District
Lauren Sohn	School Adjustment Counselor, District
Shana Couto	School Nurse, BCS
Courtney Holt	Special Ed Teacher, BMS
Meredith Stetson	Special Ed Teacher, TLC/BMS
Rhoda Freelove	Para, BMS
Brandon Young	Para, BMS
Danielle Brodeur	Para, BMS
Kelsey Murphy	Para, BMS
Kara Belken-Tullos	Para, BMS
Cheryl Rezendes	Van Driver
Carolyn Travis	Surround Care

**Transfers:**

Karen Salamone	Special Ed Teacher to Reading Specialist K-8
Pamela Campos	Gr 4 Teacher to Math Specialist K-4
Keri-Ann Correia	Gr 2 Teacher to Reading Specialist K-4
Keri St. Laurent	Special Ed Teacher from Gr 6 to Gr 8
Katelyn McChesney	Virtual Special Ed Teacher to Special Ed Teacher Gr
Kaylyn Mills	Virtual Teacher, BCS to Gr 2 Teacher
Laura Dietz	Gr 4 Teacher to Discovery Zone Teacher
Melissa Thorne	BMS Para to Math Interventionist Gr 5-8
Alyssa Yuen	BCS Para to Grade 4 Teacher
Jay Duddy	EL Teacher to Instructional Technology Teacher, BMS
Diane Maxwell	Gr. 2 Teacher to Reading Clinic
Jennifer Bentley	IA/Monitor to Para, BCS

**AGENDA ITEM #11: EXECUTIVE SESSION**

It was moved by Mrs. Vincent, seconded by Mrs. Solomon and VOTED to enter Executive Session at 6:22 PM in accordance with MGL Chapter 30A, Sec. 21 to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining with Berkley School Paraprofessionals represented by the MA Division of Labor Relations Local 272 and will return to open session.

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

It was moved by Mrs. Robichaud, seconded by Mrs. Vincent and VOTED to adjourn Executive Session at 6:40 and to return to open session.

Vote: Mrs. Weber – AYE  
Mr. Fagan – AYE  
Mrs. Vincent – AYE  
Mrs. Robichaud – AYE  
Mrs. Solomon – AYE

**AGENDA ITEM #12: COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT BETWEEN BERKLEY SCHOOL COMMITTEE AND THE BERKLEY SCHOOL PARAPROFESSIONALS REPRESENTED BY THE MA DIVISION OF LABOR RELATIONS LOCAL 272, FOR SEPT. 1, 2021 – AUG. 31, 2024.**

It was moved by Mrs. Vincent, seconded by Mrs. Robichaud and VOTED to approve the collective bargaining agreement between Berkley School Committee and the Berkley School Paraprofessionals represented by the MA Division of Labor Relations Local 272 as presented for 2021 - 2024.

Vote: UNANIMOUS

**AGENDA ITEM #13: ADJOURNMENT**

It was moved by Mrs. Vincent, seconded by Mrs. Robichaud and VOTED to adjourn the meeting at 6:40 PM.

Vote: UNANIMOUS

Respectfully submitted,

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

Jennifer Vincent, Secretary