

**Berkley School Committee
Regular Meeting
January 24, 2022**

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

The regular meeting of the Berkley School Committee was held in the Berkley Middle School Library on Monday, January 24, 2022. Mrs. Weber, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 6:31 PM, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present

Jennifer Vincent
Tara Weber
Daniel Fagan
Kaitlyn Robichaud

Excused

Jilleen Solomon

Other

Melissa Ryan, Superintendent
Patricia Silvia, Executive Assistant
Jennifer Francisco, Principal, BCS
Kimberly Hebert, Principal, BMS
Melissa Abrego, Adm. for Student Services
Andrea Porter, Business Administrator
Ryan Andrade, Asst. Principal, BMS
Timothy McCarthy, Head of Bldgs. & Grounds
BTA: Dona Andreasen, Michelle Bringle
Select Board: George Miller, Wendy Cochrane,
Finance Committee Members, Public

Let the record show that this meeting is being electronically recorded by Berkley Cable TV. 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: GUEST

Curtis DaRosa, the new District Coordinator for Instructional Technology, was introduced and welcomed. He will start on February 7, he currently works at Taunton Public Schools. This is a new position that was created after two computer technicians at the middle school resigned and retired.

AGENDA ITEM #3: APPROVE BILLS AND PAYROLLS

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

Vote: UNANIMOUS

AGENDA ITEM #4: APPROVE AND SIGN MINUTES

It was moved by Mrs. Vincent, seconded by Mr. Fagan and VOTED to approve the regular meeting minutes of December 13, 2021 and the executive session minutes of December 13, 2021 as written and circulated.

Vote: UNANIMOUS

AGENDA ITEM #5: CORRESPONDENCE AND ENCLOSURES

- Berkley School Committee minutes (12/13/21)
- Principals' Reports

- Annual Report of the School Department, 2021
- Policy Subcommittee minutes (1/3/22)
- 1st Policy readings: Current Support Staff Benefits (Non-Union) #4180 Basis for Personnel Policies #3000, Professional Job Descriptions #3001, Official Personnel Folder #3020, Legal Restrictions on Teachers #3030, Maintenance of Discipline #3120, Responsibility For Work of Substitutes #3140, Substitute Teachers #3480, Home Education Policy #5220
- Expense Report (January 2022)
- Preliminary Budget FY '23 (1/20/22)
- Surplus List (1/10/22)
- Enrollment (1/3/22)
- Regular Transportation Bid Summary & Recommendation
- Superintendent Mid-Cycle Evaluation

ONE COPY FOLDER

- BMS & BCS Newsletters, January 2022
- School Committee Newsletter, Dec. 2021
- Regional Special Education Parent Advisory Council meeting (1/31/22)
- Letter to DESE re: Chapter 70 formula from MASC, MASS, AFT, MTA(12/22/21)
- Summary of Conflict of Interest Law for Municipal Employees
- DESE Update: Extension of Mask Requirement (1/10/22)
- Letters to Legislators, DESE from Supt. re: Chapter 70 formula(1/13/22)
- Letter from Supt. re: contract tracing ending (1/24/22)
- Math Acceleration Academies Grant letter (1/12/22)
- Letter of Intent to Retire from Patricia Silvia, Supt. response (1/13/22)

NIGHT OF MEETING FOLDER

- Budget Presentation Power point
- Exec. Session envelope

Ms. Ryan announced that Berkley received a \$35,000 Math Acceleration Grant from the state to offer math academies over vacation weeks. She referenced an updated Mask Information memo, a contract tracing letter, letters from professional organizations and to legislators regarding Chapter 70 funding and to legislators, newsletters and Patricia Silvia's letter of intent to retire after 23 years in the school department.

AGENDA ITEM #6: PUBLIC INPUT

AGENDA ITEM #7: EDUCATIONAL REPORTS

AGENDA ITEM #7a: PRINCIPALS' REPORTS

Mrs. Francisco, BCS: Grade 4 students & Mrs. Reynolds gave a wonderful performance at "Lites On" in December, winter DIBELS testing is complete, students continue to earn point values for practicing their Core values and a thank you was extended to BCS staff for all they have done this year in working through Covid demands.

Mrs. Hebert, BMS: Grade 8 attended an assembly with Somerset Middle School, Student Council participated in a virtual conference on Diversity, Equity & Inclusivity, high school application process is continuing, the Theatre Club performance will be held March 11 & 12.

AGENDA ITEM #7b: CURRICULUM ACCELERATION TEAM (CAT)

Ms. Ryan reported that Atlas training was held with the curriculum team.

AGENDA ITEM #8: ADMINISTRATIVE & SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPORTS

AGENDA ITEM#8a. SOMERSET BERKLEY REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Mrs. Vincent stated a Regional Planning Board presentation will be held on Jan. 25 to present results of the study recently completed with grant funds to look at aligning the three school districts: Somerset Berkley Regional HS, Somerset K-8 and Berkley K-8. Most of the findings focus on the high school and Somerset K-8 and ways to save money as Berkley town people voted at town meeting last year not to regionalize K-8 with Somerset.

AGENDA ITEM #8b: ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SCHOOL DEPARTMENT, 2021

The school department annual report includes reports from the Superintendent and Principals, a synopsis of School Committee actions, school calendar, budget information and a personnel listing. It will be posted on the Berkley Public Schools website and forwarded to the Board of Selectmen.

AGENDA ITEM #8c: SUPERINTENDENT'S MID-CYCLE EVALUATION

Mrs. Weber reported that the Superintendent earned proficient in all standards (Instructional Leadership, Management & Operations, Family & Community Engagement, Professional Culture) and is making significant progress toward focus indicator goals.

AGENDA ITEM #8d: COVID / MASK UPDATE

Ms. Ryan reported that DESE released a new at-home test program for staff and students to eliminate the contract tracing process. She described how the new program works and sent emails to all staff and families. Updated Covid information is posted on the district website. Under this new program, only individuals with symptoms or who have tested positive need to stay home and quarantine. Concerning masks, our vaccinated numbers are still too low to reach the 80% threshold needed to unmask.

AGENDA ITEM #8e: POLICY SUBCOMMITTEE

Minutes from the Subcommittee meeting of January 3 were circulated. Three policies were reviewed

with no changes needed: Staff Ethics/Conflict of Interest #3050/MASC GBEA, Staff Conduct #3100/MASC GBEB, Responsibility for Supervision of Classes #3130.

AGENDA ITEM #9: UNFINISHED BUSINESS

AGENDA ITEM #9a: POLICY READINGS

It was moved by Mr. Fagan, seconded by Mrs. Robichaud and VOTED to approve 1st readings to amend six policies: Current Support Staff Benefits (Non-Union) #4180, Home Schooling Policy #5220/MASC IHBG, Basis for Personnel Policies #3000/MASC GA, Professional Job Descriptions

#3001, Official Personnel Folder #3020/MASC GBJ, Substitute Teachers #3480/MASC GCG; and to retire/delete three policies: Legal Restrictions on Teachers #3030, Maintenance of Discipline #3120, Responsibility For Work of Substitutes #3140.

Vote: UNANIMOUS

AGENDA ITEM #9b: SCHOOL DEPARTMENT BUDGET 2021/22

This year's budget remains in a favorable position.

AGENDA ITEM #10: NEW BUSINESS

AGENDA ITEM #10a: AWARD REGULAR TRANSPORTATION BID, 2022-2025

One bid was received from H & L Bloom Bus Co. There was discussion about the large, unexpected \$76,000/year increase. It was suggested that a one-year contract option be in future specs. We are addressing some transportation issues this year with afternoon bus schedules. Next year's routes, start and end times will be adjusted to alleviate some of this year's issues. There also is concern that many parents are not using the buses. There are traffic issues at BCS which cost the district an additional, unplanned \$30,000/year to have an officer direct traffic.

It was moved by Mr. Fagan, seconded by Mrs. Robichaud and VOTED to award the regular bus transportation bid to H & L Bloom Bus Co. for 7 buses at \$447,300/year for three years (2022-2025).

Vote: UNANIMOUS

AGENDA ITEM #10b: PRESENTATION ON PRELIMINARY BUDGET, 2022/23

Ms. Ryan presented the school department's preliminary budget request for 2022/23 (attached). She reviewed the budget development process and the historical budget perspective. She recognized and thanked town officials, School Committee and the Administrative Team, especially Andrea Porter. She reviewed Chapter 70, grants and ESSER grant funding. The presentation included budget priorities, contractual requirements, known fixed budget increases and Surround Care financials. In conclusion she highlighted the funding breakdown and budget increases for FY19-FY23 and identified potential concessions/reductions. The preliminary budget request for FY23 totals \$9,136,051; a 4.56% / \$398,686 increase over this year. Question and answer session followed.

It was moved by Mr. Fagan, seconded by Mrs. Vincent and VOTED to approve the preliminary budget for 2022/23 in the amount of \$9,136,051 as presented.

Vote: UNANIMOUS

AGENDA ITEM #10b: SURPLUS LIST

It was moved by Mr. Fagan, seconded by Mrs. Robichaud and VOTED to approve the Surplus list as circulated.

Vote: UNANIMOUS

AGENDA ITEM #11: SUPERINTENDENT'S PERSONNEL REPORT

AGENDA ITEM #11a: APPOINTMENT

Curtis DaRosa, District Coordinator of Instructional Technology

AGENDA ITEM #11b: RETIREMENT

Patricia Silvia, Exec. Assistant to the Supt. & School Committee

AGENDA ITEM #12: EXECUTIVE SESSION

It was moved by Mrs. Vincent, seconded by Mrs. Robichaud and VOTED to enter Executive Session at 7:40 PM in accordance with MGL Chapter 30A, Sec. 21 to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining and/or litigation in preparation for negotiations with union and non-union personnel and will return to open session only to adjourn.

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

It was moved by Mrs. Vincent, seconded by Mr. Fagan and VOTED to adjourn Executive Session at 7:48 PM and return to open session only to adjourn.

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

AGENDA ITEM #13: ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Mrs. Vincent, seconded by Mr. Fagan and VOTED to adjourn the meeting at 7:48 PM.

Vote: UNANIMOUS

Respectfully submitted,


Jennifer Vincent, Secretary