

**Berkley School Committee**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**October 26, 2020**

**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, October 26, 2020. Mrs. Weber, Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:32 PM, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Present**

Jilleen Solomon  
Tara Weber  
Daniel Fagan  
Christopher Ghilarducci  
Jennifer Vincent

**Other**

Thomas Lynch, Superintendent  
Patricia Silvia, Executive Asst. to Supt. & S.C.  
Jennifer Francisco, Principal, BCS  
Kimberly Hebert, Principal, BMS  
Melissa Abrego, Admin. For Student Services  
Diane Maxwell, BTA Co-President  
Public

Mrs. Weber stated "Let the record show that this meeting is being electronically recorded. If anyone wishes to electronically record this meeting, you should notify the Committee. 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: GUESTS**

No guests.

**AGENDA ITEM #3: APPROVE BILLS AND PAYROLLS**

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

**Vote: UNANIMOUS**

**AGENDA ITEM #4: APPROVE AND SIGN MINUTES**

It was moved by Mrs. Solomon, seconded by Mr. Ghilarducci and VOTED to approve the regular meeting minutes of September 21, 2020 as written.

**Vote: UNANIMOUS**

**AGENDA ITEM #5: CORRESPONDENCE AND ENCLOSURES**

- School Committee Minutes (9/21/20)
- Principals' Reports

- Budget Statement (10/20/20)
- Recommended Transfers (10/20/20)
- FY' 22 Budget Timeline & SC Memo
- Policy Subcommittee minutes 9/28/20
- Policies for 1st reading: Inoculations of Students #6305, Harassment/Sexual Harassment #1145, Remote Learning #6215, Policy on Covid-Related Issues #6220, Face Coverings #6225.
- BPS Enrollment

**One Copy Folder:**

- School Committee Newsletter
- BMS & BCS Newsletters
- MASC Annual Meeting & Annual Report

**Night of Meeting Folder:**

- Retirement letter from Mr. Lynch
- BTA Intent to Bargain Notice
- BPS Full Remote Learning Plan Draft
- DESE FAQ Week of Oct. 25, 2020
- Protocols for responding to Covid-19 scenarios in schools, Rev. 9/14/20
- BPS Comprehensive Reopening Plan August 2020
- Executive Session envelope

**AGENDA ITEM #6: PUBLIC INPUT**

**AGENDA ITEM #7: EDUCATIONAL REPORTS**

**AGENDA ITEM #7a: PRINCIPALS' REPORTS ON SCHOOL ACTIVITIES**

BCS: Mrs. Francisco reported that Preschool and Kindergarten screenings are complete. The Activities Committee has postponed the annual Craft & Vendor Fair. An online book fair will be held and spirit wear order forms were sent home. DIBELS testing is complete for all students in Grades K - 4. Berkley Fire Dept. partnered with the schools again this year to instruct students on fire safety. Online lessons will go home to all students this week. Start of year fire drills and bus evacuation drills have been held. The parent survey was sent to all families.

BMS: Mrs. Hebert reported that Bristol Plymouth and Somerset Berkley will share their high school information virtually with our grade 8 students. Student Council elections will be held later this

month, under Mr. Wheeler and Mrs. Thorne's leadership. After-school intramural cross country and soccer programs are underway. The parent survey was sent to all families.

Mr. Lynch provided the School Committee with a draft of the full remote plan that would be implemented if Berkley Public Schools has to go that route in the future. He explained that students would log in to their respective teachers and follow similar schedules to what they now have. The draft has been sent to the teachers' union for their review. He asked School Committee members to send him any comments/questions about the plan.

#### **AGENDA ITEM #8: ADMINISTRATIVE & SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPORTS**

##### **AGENDA ITEM #8a: SOMERSET BERKLEY REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

Mrs. Vincent reported that the high school is now operating under a hybrid model. A tri-district committee meeting with representatives from the Berkley K-8 SC, the Somerset K-8 SC and the Somerset Berkley Regional High School SC was held to begin the review the regionalization agreement and to update language in the agreement.

##### **AGENDA ITEM #8b: OCTOBER 1 ENROLLMENT**

October 1st P-8 enrollment was 867 which includes 110 Choice students. Last October 1 our enrollment was 916 with 108 Choice students. Mr. Lynch reported that a group of superintendents and legislators are working to keep Chapter 70 funding this year the same as last year. Chapter 70 funding is based on enrollment. Enrollment in many districts, like ours, has declined because some families opted not to send their Kindergarten students to school this year and the number of home school students has increased.

##### **AGENDA ITEM #8c: TECHNOLOGY UPDATE**

We have been told by our vendor that there is still a backlog of districts waiting for Chrome books. To us, it is manageable right now; it will be more of an issue if we have to go full remote. We currently have about 250 Chrome books out on loan to families.

##### **AGENDA ITEM #8d: FY' 22 BUDGET TIMELINE**

The budget timeline for 2022 was shared. The proposed budget will be given to the Committee at their December meeting and presented in January. Once approved, it will be forwarded to the Finance Committee. The state has not released any budget numbers for next year yet.

##### **AGENDA ITEM #8e: POLICY SUBCOMMITTEE**

Minutes from the Policy Subcommittee meeting of September 28, 2020 and policy updates were reviewed by Mrs. Vincent.

**AGENDA ITEM #9: UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**AGENDA ITEM #9a: POLICY READINGS**

It was moved by Mr. Fagan, seconded by Mr. Ghilarducci and VOTED to approve 1<sup>st</sup> readings for two revised policies, Inoculations of Students #6305, Harassment/Sexual Harassment #1145, and to adopt three new policies, Remote Learning #6215, Policy on Covid-Related Issues #6220, Face Coverings #6225.

**Vote: UNANIMOUS**

**AGENDA ITEM #9b: 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 #9c: MASC ANNUAL MEETING DELEGATE**

The MASC Board of Directors Annual Meeting will take place virtually on November 7. A Berkley delegate should be voted at this time.

It was moved by Mr. Ghilarducci, seconded by Mr. Fagan and VOTED to approve Jennifer Vincent as the Berkley delegate for the MASC Annual Meeting.

**Vote: UNANIMOUS**

**AGENDA ITEM #9d: END-OF-CYCLE SUMMATIVE EVALUATION: SUPERINTENDENT**

Postpone to next mtg.

**AGENDA ITEM #10: NEW BUSINESS**

**AGENDA ITEM #10a: TUITION RATE**

According to town meeting, acceptance of the provisions of Chapter 71, Section 71F, allows the School Committee to accept and expend tuition payments. The Berkley School Committee annually sets the rates for the year. Although not often needed, they are in place in case a chargeback to another town is in order, i.e. Lindencroft student. It is recommended rates be increased by 2% as listed below; rates have not been increased in several years.

	Regular Education	502.1	502.2	502.3	502.4
Tuition	8337	8337	10,421	12,506	14,590
Transportation	750	750	750	750	750
Total	9087	9087	11,171	13,256	15,340
Per Diem	50.50	50.50	62	74	85

It was moved by Mrs. Solomon, seconded by Mr. Fagan and VOTED to approve the Tuition Rates as presented.

**Vote: UNANIMOUS**

**AGENDA ITEM #11: SUPERINTENDENT’S PERSONNEL REPORT**

**AGENDA ITEM #11a: APPOINTMENT**

Anthony Costa, Maintenance & Grounds

Brian Serrecchia, Computer Technician

Michael Montalto, Custodian

**AGENDA ITEM #11b: RESIGNATION/RETIREMENT**

Anthony Costa, Maintenance & Grounds

Thomas J. Lynch, Superintendent of Schools

Mr. Lynch publicly announced his retirement, saying “it is with mixed emotions that I will retire June 30, 2021; it has been a pleasure to work for the Berkley students”. He thanked the teachers, staff, administrators, families and School Committee for their support and stated “I will continue to work hard over the next eight months for our students”. Mrs. Vincent thanked him for his service and stated she was grateful for all he has done for Berkley’s students.

Mr. Lynch reported that the BTA has communicated their intent to begin negotiations on their next contract.

**AGENDA ITEM #12: EXECUTIVE SESSION**

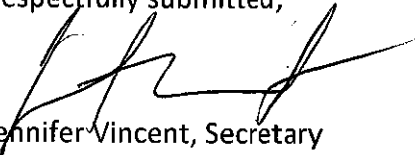
It was moved by Mr. Ghilarducci, seconded by Mrs. Vincent and VOTED to enter Executive Session at 7:05 PM in accordance with MGL Chapter 30A, Sec. 21 to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining and/or litigation with non-union personnel and to return to Open Session only to adjourn.

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

**AGENDA ITEM #12: ADJOURNMENT**

It was moved by Mr. Fagan, seconded by Mrs. Solomon and VOTED to adjourn the meeting at 7:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Jennifer Vincent, Secretary