

**Berkley School Committee  
Regular Meeting  
January 11, 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, January 11, 2021. Mrs. Weber, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 6:37 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 (via remote)  
Melissa Abrego, Adm. for Student Services  
Andrea Porter, Business Administrator  
D. Maxwell, Kathy Avilla, Wendy Cochrane, Heather  
Martin-Sterling, Finance Com. members

Let the record show this meeting was electronically recorded.

**AGENDA ITEM #2: 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 December 14, 2020 as written.

**Vote: UNANIMOUS**

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

- Berkley School Committee minutes (12/14/20)
- Principals' Reports
- Annual Report of the School Department, 2020
- Annual Report of READS Collaborative 2019/20
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Policy readings: Covid-Related Issues #6220; Homeless Students: Enrollments Rights and Services #6136; Interrogation, Search and Arrest of Students Policy #6900.
- Expense Report (January 2021)

- Preliminary Budget FY '22 (1/5/21)
- Enrollment (1/4/21)

**ONE COPY FOLDER**

- BMS & BCS Newsletters, January 2021
- School Committee Newsletter, Dec. 2020

**NIGHT OF MEETING FOLDER:**

- FY'22 Preliminary Budget updated (1/8/21)
- Budget Presentation Power Point
- Student Opportunity Plan draft

**AGENDA ITEM #6: PUBLIC INPUT**

**AGENDA ITEM #7: EDUCATIONAL REPORTS**

**AGENDA ITEM #7a: PRINCIPAL'S REPORTS**

BCS: Mrs. Francisco reported on the "Hour of Code" lesson given to students in Grades K through 4. Several students qualified for VIP Recognition under the PBIS Program. Winter DIBELS and Grade Assessments are underway. Chromebooks are in and distribution to students in Grades 2-8 begins this week.

BMS: Mrs. Hebert reported that grade 8 students are working on their high school applications. Shaun LaCivita is this year's student Ambassador to the Governor's Project 351. Winter after-school programs began today.

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

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

Mrs. Vincent reported on the three subcommittees that continue to meet; any recommendations from the subcommittee will be forwarded to the School Committees. High school winter sports began and camera's were installed so families are able to watch the games on a live feed.

**AGENDA ITEM #8b: SUPERINTENDENT SEARCH**

Mrs. Weber stated the first meeting of the Search Committee is January 25 at 6 PM via Zoom. It will be an orientation session.

**AGENDA ITEM #8c: ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SCHOOL DEPARTMENT, 2020**

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 can be found on the Berkley Public Schools website and will be forwarded to the Board of Selectmen.

**AGENDA ITEM #8d: READS ANNUAL REPORT, 2019/20**

Also circulated was the Annual Report for READS Collaborative for 2019/20. Mr. Lynch reported that READS Academy has purchased a building at the Middleboro Rotary. The building they currently occupy is very old and need extensive renovations. All offices and services from the W. Grove St. building will move to the new building.

**AGENDA ITEM #8e: SURROUND CARE PROGRAM**

The survey results indicate there is ample interest from parents to re-open the Surround Care Program. There is more need at BCS than BMS. A limited number of slots will be available and a lottery system will be used if there are more requests than available slots. Students will attend on the same days they are in school. The program will be structured differently so all safety guidelines will be followed. It will be staffed by previous employees who had been laid-off.

**AGENDA ITEM #9: UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

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

It was moved by Mrs. Vincent, seconded by Mr. Ghilarducci and VOTED to approve 2<sup>nd</sup> readings for: Second readings for Covid-Related Issues #6220; Homeless Students: Enrollments Rights and Services #6136; Interrogation, Search and Arrest of Students Policy #6900.

**Vote: UNANIMOUS**

**AGENDA ITEM #9b: SCHOOL DEPARTMENT BUDGET 2020/21**

The January 2021 expense report was circulated; the budget is in good shape.

**AGENDA ITEM #10: NEW BUSINESS**

**AGENDA ITEM #10a: PRESENTATION ON PRELIMINARY BUDGET, 2021/22**

Mr. Lynch presented the school department's preliminary budget request for 2021/22. Some Finance Committee members attended as did Mrs. Cochrane, Ms. Avilla and Ms. Martin-Sterlin. He reviewed projected costs for Administration; School Leadership, Offices & Building Technology; Instruction; Operations & Maintenance; Transportation; and Fixed Charges & Acquisitions. The preliminary budget is 1.9% more than the current budget. Reasons for increases are due to an increase in computer tech. support, potential increases in contractual obligations, classroom & custodial supplies, operations & maintenance, and one teacher salary line moved from the choice account to the budget.

He compared this year's numbers to the requested numbers. The requested budget totals \$8,800,454. He did caution that the preliminary budget is the amount needed if school returns to "normal" in September. If we remain in a "Covid" situation, at least another \$379,575 will be needed.

It was moved by Mrs. Vincent, seconded by Mrs. Solomon and VOTED to approve the preliminary budget for 2021/22 in the amount of \$8,800,454 as presented.

**Vote: UNANIMOUS**

**AGENDA ITEM #10b: STUDENT OPPORTUNITY ACT (SOA)**

Mr. Lynch reviewed the district's proposed SOA report we are required to complete because of the additional \$22,000 received in Chapter 70 funds this year. The plan is due to the MA DESE by January 15; approval is recommended.

It was moved by Mrs. Vincent, seconded by Mrs. Solomon and VOTED to approve the Student Opportunity Act Plan as presented.

**Vote: UNANIMOUS**

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

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

**AGENDA ITEM #11b: APPOINTMENT/TRANSFER**

Sarah Aguiar, Art Teacher, BMS

**AGENDA ITEM #12: ADJOURNMENT**

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

**Vote: UNANIMOUS**

Respectfully submitted,

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

Jennifer Vincent, Secretary