

**Berkley School Committee  
Regular Meeting  
September 23, 2019**

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

The regular meeting of the Berkley School Committee was held at the Berkley Middle School Library on Monday, September 23, 2019. Mrs. Weber, Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Present**

Jenifer Andrews  
Jennifer Vincent  
Daniel Fagan  
Christopher Ghilarducci  
Tara Weber

**Other**

Thomas Lynch, Superintendent  
Patricia Silvia, Executive Assistant to Supt. & S.C.  
Jennifer Francisco, Principal, BCS  
Kimberly Hebert, Principal, BMS  
Melissa Abrego, Adm. for Student Services  
Andrea Porter, Business Administrator  
Sarah Cogar, Assistant Principal, BCS  
Diane Maxwell, Public

**AGENDA ITEM #2: GUESTS – NEW STAFF**

Mrs. Francisco introduced new staff members Danielle Gray (Grade 2 Teacher), Paula Kiely (BCS Nurse), and Maxwell Richmond (BCS School Psychologist). They stated they have had a wonderful start to the year; everyone has made them feel very welcome.

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

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

**Vote: UNANIMOUS**

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

It was moved by Mr. Ghilarducci, seconded by Mrs. Vincent and VOTED to approve the regular meeting minutes of August 26, 2019 as written.

**Vote: UNANIMOUS**

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

- School Committee Minutes (8/26/19)
- Reports from Principals
- The Blue Raider Read (SBRHS Newsletter)
- DESE letter, Innovation Pathway Program
- Budget statement 9/20/19
- Recommended transfers 9/23/19
- Somerset Berkley Education Foundation Fun Run flyer

- Fund-raising requests
- Policy Subcommittee minutes, 9/16/19
- Policies for 1st reading: Administration of Medication #6515, School Choice #6133, Student Fees, Fines, and Charges #6405
- BMS Surplus List

**One Copy Folder:**

- BMS & BCS Principal's Newsletters
- Enrollment
- After-School Enrichment Program information

**Night of Meeting:**

- Revised Agenda

**AGENDA ITEM #6: PUBLIC INPUT**

Mrs. Marge Ghilarducci spoke on behalf of the Berkley Historical Commission about the South Coast Rail and its impact on Berkley. Three historical homes will be lost, 26 trains/day will be traveling through Berkley, there will be increased air and noise pollution and vibrations. She is asking the Rail to acknowledge its impact on Berkley and to work with the town to set an improvement plan for this historic section of Berkley. She's started a letter-writing campaign and is asking all residents, students, town Committees and Boards to write letters of support for the requested improvements to Route 79 Myricks baseball field area. She will post on the Facebook Berkley group pages a list of improvements being requested and a sample letter. Once all letters are received, she will hand deliver the letters to the Dept. of Transportation in October.

**AGENDA ITEM #7a: SOMERSET BERKLEY EDUCATION FOUNDATION**

Jamison Souza provided information on his background and presented information on the formation of the SB Education Foundation. They are raising funds in order to provide additional funds to teachers for creative projects and to help fund new initiatives at all schools in both towns. Their mission is to enhance the education currently being provided to our students. The first fundraiser is a 5K & Fun Run on Sat., Oct 12. The Foundation has surpassed their initial goal and will be awarding mini grants on November 5. Heather Lubold discussed future fundraisers and donations are being accepted. Volunteers are needed and are welcome. Their website address is: [somesetberkleyeducationfoundation.org](http://somesetberkleyeducationfoundation.org)

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

Mrs. Francisco reported on PBIS and BCS core values. The school year opening went well. She reported on the course offered to staff over the summer, "Creating a Positive Environment for All Students" which ties in nicely to PBIS. Much work was done on the building over the summer. Summer events included the Kindergarten picnic and book swap. Last week the instrumental music night, DOT day and Curriculum night were held.

Mrs. Hebert reported that BMS also had a great start. Upgrades to the foyer are complete. She reported on the BMS focus and core values. The Color Run this week had more than 300 participants; Student Council elections will be Thursday. Welcome back grade level meetings are complete. This year's Open House night included a health/wellness meeting and Fall athletic night for parents.

**AGENDA #7c: ENROLLMENT:** Mr. Lynch reported there are four teachers at each grade level in the elementary school as well as additional support staff and special educators. He reviewed the average class size for each grade level. The largest classes are grade 6 with 116 students and grade 3 with 101. Three of the four grade 3 classes are inclusion which means students are pulled out. Grade 3 is also supported by three paraprofessionals, a special educator as well as an ABA tutor. At this time, all students' needs are being met. It was unusual this year to have so many grade 3 students register over the summer and we had accepted four choice students which brought the total up a little more than we would have liked. Mrs. Weber questioned the school choice vote numbers. It was expected that the average would be 21-22/class but it is 25-26. Our long range plans call for class size averages of 22-25. Concern was expressed about increasing enrollment and the desire to keep class sizes small.

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

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

SBRHS student rep. Grace Sedell reported that the school has new traffic flow for morning drop off as well as a new schedule that includes a Blue Raider block which gives students time to further pursue their passion. Parent volunteers are needed at the high school on the Parent Advisory Council, PTO, Boosters, and Friends of Music to name a few. She reported on upcoming fundraisers and fall sports. She introduced Cruz Whiting, a Berkley grade 11 student at SBRHS. He spoke to the Committee about the life of a Raider including all the academic, athletic and extracurricular opportunities available to students.

**AGENDA ITEM #8b: SCHOOL SAFETY/SECURITY**

BMS foyer upgrade is complete. The BCS foyer is on hold until the structural engineer completes the design. Meetings were held with the security company and the police department to discuss an upgrade to cameras; one quote has been received to date.

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

MA School Building Authority (MSBA) will be at BCS on October 23 at 1 PM to discuss the Statement of Interest we submitted. Facilities subcommittee members and others are welcome to attend. The handicap ramp and draining project at BCS were complete this summer.

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

Minutes of the subcommittee meeting were circulated. Mrs. Andrews reviewed recommended changes to two policies and the adoption of one policy.

**AGENDA ITEM #9: UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

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

It was moved by Mrs. Vincent to approve 1st readings for Administration of Medication #6515, School Choice #6133, Student Fees, Fines, and Charges #6405. Mr. Fagan questioned, discussion ensued and it was agreed to revise paragraph 5 in the Student Fees, Fines, and Charges #6405 policy.

It was moved by Mrs. Vincent, seconded by Mr. Ghilarducci and VOTED to approve 1<sup>st</sup> readings for: Administration of Medication #6515, School Choice #6133, and Student Fees, Fines, and Charges #6405 as amended.

**Vote: UNANIMOUS**

**AGENDA ITEM #9b: SCHOOL DEPARTMENT BUDGET 2019/20**

The budget statement dated 9/20/19 and recommended transfers were circulated.

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

**Vote: UNANIMOUS**

**AGENDA ITEM #10: NEW BUSINESS**

**AGENDA ITEM #10a: FUND-RAISING REQUESTS**

Requests from the principals for fund-raising activities for the year were presented.

It was moved by Mr. Fagan, seconded by Mrs. Andrews and VOTED to approve the fund-raising requests as presented.

**Vote: UNANIMOUS**

**AGENDA ITEM #10b: BMS SURPLUS LIST**

A list of unused equipment at Berkley Middle School was circulated.

It was moved by Mrs. Vincent, seconded by Mrs. Andrews and VOTED to declare the BMS list of unused equipment as surplus.

**Vote: UNANIMOUS**

**AGENDA ITEM #10c: TUITION RATES 2019/20**

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. These are rarely needed but are in place in case a chargeback to another town is in order. Approval is requested to keep the rates the same as last year.

	Regular Education	502.1	502.2	502.3	502.4
Tuition	8174	8174	10,217	12,261	14,304
Transportation	735	735	735	735	735
Total	8909	8909	10,952	12,996	15,039
Per Diem	49	49	61	72	83

It was moved by Mr. Fagan, seconded by Mr. Ghilarducci and VOTED to approve Tuition Rates for 2019/20 as presented.

**Vote: UNANIMOUS**

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

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

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

John Egan, Long Term Substitute Grade 8 Math Teacher

**AGENDA ITEM #12: ADJOURNMENT**

It was moved by Mrs. Vincent, seconded by Mr. Fagan and VOTED to adjourn the meeting at 7:54 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Jennifer Vincent  
Secretary