

**Berkley School Committee  
Regular Meeting  
March 16, 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 Library on Monday, March 16, 2020. Mrs. Weber, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Present**

Jenifer Andrews  
Jennifer Vincent  
Tara Weber  
Christopher Ghilarducci  
Tara Weber

**Excused**

Daniel Fagan

**Other**

Thomas Lynch, Superintendent  
Patricia Silvia, Executive Assistant to Supt. & SC  
Jennifer Francisco, Principal, BCS  
Kimberly Hebert, Principal, BMS  
Melissa Abrego, Adm. for Student Services  
Andrea Porter, Business Administrator  
Diane Maxwell  
Heather Martin-Sterling, Town Administrator

Mrs. Weber read the following statement "Let the record show that this meeting is being electronically recorded. 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: GUESTS**

None

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

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

**Vote: UNANIMOUS**

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

It was moved by Mrs. Vincent, seconded by Mr. Ghilarducci and VOTED to approve the regular meeting minutes of February 10, 2020 as written.

**Vote: UNANIMOUS**

It was moved by Mr. Ghilarducci, seconded by Mrs. Vincent and VOTED to approve the emergency meeting minutes of March 14, 2020 as written.

**Vote: UNANIMOUS**

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

- Berkley School Committee meeting minutes (2/10/20)

- Principals' Reports
- Budget Expense Report (3/14/20)
- Recommended Transfers (3/16/20)
- Proposed School Year Calendar 2020/21
- Policy Subcommittee minutes (2/10/20)
- Tier Focused Monitoring Report (12/17/19)
- Policies for 1st reading: Student Activity Accounts #6400, Equal Educational Opportunities #1142, Educational Equity #6150, Public Comment at School Committee Meeting #1541, School Year/School Calendar #5531, School Day #5533
- Enrollment (3/2/20)

**ONE COPY FOLDER**

- Principals' Newsletters (March 2020)
- Berkley School Committee Newsletter (February 2020)
- Tammy Ford resignation letter
- Debra Czorny retirement letter
- MASC Day on the Hill info.

**NIGHT OF MEETING FOLDER:**

- Minutes of March 14, 2020 Emergency School Committee meeting (3/14/20)
- Bid Recommendation for #2 heating oil, E/Rate, Cafeteria Management
- 9b. Proposed vote

Mr. Lynch reported that Mrs. Ford, paraprofessional, resigned and Mrs. Czorny, BCS teacher, will retire at the end of the school year. The MASC Day on the Hill is cancelled.

**AGENDA ITEM #6: PUBLIC INPUT**

Due to crowd gathering restrictions, the Chair requested questions in advance of the meeting, no questions were received.

**AGENDA ITEM #7: EDUCATIONAL REPORTS**

**AGENDA ITEM #7a: PRINCIPALS' REPORTS**

BCS: Mrs. Francisco reported on the DECA mock completion at SBRHS, MCAS tutorials, Professional development day, and the Glow Dance. The activity committee is working on events for the remainder of the year, School Council is working on the School Improvement Plan and Kindergarten Registration is delayed.

BMS: Mrs. Hebert reported on fundraising, 30 out of 40 applicants were accepted to Bristol Plymouth, ten are wait listed; one to Diman, unified sports basketball teams did outstanding, tech. trainers, teachers and administration worked today to put resources together for students. Sadly, the decision was made to cancel Camp Bournedale this year.

Both principals expressed their appreciation and gratitude to everyone for their help and support during this difficult time.

**AGENDA ITEM #7b: TIERED FOCUSED MONITORING REPORT**

The Tiered Focused Monitoring Review in December monitored our compliance with regulatory requirements focusing on special education and civil rights. We are pleased to report that the school district was found to be in compliance with all criteria reviewed; no corrective action is required at this time. Mr. Lynch commended Mrs. Abrego and her staff for their hard work on this.

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

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

Mr. Ghilarducci reported the 19 teams they coached all qualified to go to Nashville, which unfortunately was cancelled.

**AGENDA ITEM #8b: COVID-19 PRECAUTIONS**

As directed by Gov. Baker, Berkley schools are closed for three weeks. All our schools have been thoroughly cleaned three times. The cafeteria manager met with the cooks, grab & go bag lunch will be provided from 11-12 each day at BCS for students in need. Mr. Lynch recognized the teachers who worked today with administration to develop distance learning resources that were emailed to all families and are posted on the website. It is impressive how thorough and quickly this was done. It also was noted that the Open Shelves Food Pantry is open to families in need and is taking donations.

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

Minutes from the February meeting were circulated; today's meeting was cancelled. Six policies are recommended for 1<sup>st</sup> reading, see below.

**AGENDA ITEM #9: UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

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

1<sup>st</sup> reading is recommended for the following policies to amend: Equal Educational Opportunity Policy #1142, Student Activity Accounts Policy #6400, Public Comment at School Committee Meeting #1541, and to adopt: Educational Equity #6150, School Year/School Calendar #5532, School Day #5533.

It was moved by Mr. Ghilarducci, seconded by Mrs. Andrews and VOTED to approve 1<sup>st</sup> readings as written above.

**Vote: UNANIMOUS**

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

Mr. Lynch reported the budget this year is in good shape, transfers are recommended.

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

**Vote: UNANIMOUS**

It was explained that school-year employees will have to work one extra day at year end due to the one snow day and five coronavirus days. In response to the three-week school closing due to coronavirus, it is recommended that a vote be taken concerning pay for school department employees during this time.

It was moved by Mrs. Andrews, seconded by Mrs. Vincent and VOTED to extend school year employees' contract by four days in order to pay them from day one of the school closing due to the coronavirus.

**Vote: UNANIMOUS**

**AGENDA ITEM #9c: PROPOSED SCHOOL YEAR CALENDAR, 2020/21**

The revised calendar draft was reviewed by Mr. Lynch. It was agreed that the PD day in March would move to March 15.

It was moved by Mrs. Vincent, seconded by Mr. Ghilarducci and VOTED to approve the school year calendar for 2020/21 as amended (Full PD day will change to March 15).

**Vote: UNANIMOUS**

**AGENDA ITEM #9d: FACILITIES UPDATE & MSBA STATEMENT OF INTEREST**

The Board of Selectmen voted to support the MSBA Statement of Interest for BCS renovations on March 4. This is a similar request to last year except for the lighting project that will be done in the summer.

It was moved by Mrs. Andrews, seconded by Mr. Ghilarducci and VOTED to approve the vote as follows:

“Having convened in an open meeting on March 16, 2020 prior to the Statement of Interest submission closing date, the School Committee of Berkley, MA, in accordance with its charter, bylaws, and ordinances, has voted to authorize the Superintendent to submit to the Massachusetts School Building Authority the Statement of Interest Form dated March 17, 2020 for the Berkley Community School located at 59 South Main Street, which describes and explains the following deficiencies and the priority category(s) for which an application may be submitted to the Massachusetts School Building Authority in the future,

1. Concrete Work: The concrete handicap ramp, sidewalks, and areas on the exterior of the school need to be replaced. They are porous in main areas, especially where the railing posts enter the concrete of the handicap ramp and at the corners of the 4' x 4' squares of

concrete at the sidewalks. The concrete 16' bench located in the front of the school has sunk down approximately 6".

2. Windows: The 57 windows in the 1989 section of the school are sagging and most of them are no longer air and water tight. When there is a driving rain they allow a great deal of water to come in. There are two windows in nearly all of the classrooms that are located above the heating vents that get wet.
3. Gymnasium floor: The gymnasium floor needs to be replaced. It is ripped in many places and nearly worn through in numerous areas as well. It is also difficult for students running on it to run or stop quickly.
4. Roof: The roof at the school leaks in many places. The leaks are sometimes above LCD projectors and computes, making it hazardous. Ceiling tiles need to be replaced more and more often as they become saturated and a danger to be under.
5. Sealing/ Waterproofing: The sealing on the exterior of the building has eroded in many areas, resulting in leaking along the interior walls. The water runs onto the heating vents and onto the floor.
6. Parking lot: The parking lot at the school needs to be replaced. It has numerous cracks and potholes;

And hereby further specifically acknowledges that by submitting this Statement of Interest form, the Massachusetts School Building Authority in no way guarantees the acceptance or the approval of an application, the awarding of a grant or any other funding commitment from the Massachusetts School Building Authority, or commits the City/Town/Regional School District to filing an application for funding with the Massachusetts School Building Authority. "

**VOTE: UNANIMOUS**

**AGENDA ITEM #10: NEW BUSINESS**

**AGENDA ITEM #10a: AWARD BIDS: HEATING OIL, E/RATE, FOOD SERVICE MANAGEMENT (Vote)**

The results of the bid openings were presented. Whitson's Group bid came in \$14,000 less than Fresh Picks. TMLP's bid will provide dedicated fiber with three times more speed. Dennis K. Burke's price is \$.11/gallon less than Peterson Oil's bid.

It was moved by Mrs. Vincent, seconded by Mrs. Andrews and VOTED to award the food service management bid to Whitson's Culinary Group.

**VOTE: UNANIMOUS**

It was moved by Mrs. Vincent, seconded by Mr. Ghilarducci and VOTED to award the E/rate bid to TMLP at 500 Mbps for four years per specifications.

**VOTE: UNANIMOUS**

It was moved by Mrs. Vincent, seconded by Mrs. Andrews and VOTED to award the #2 heating oil bid to Dennis K. Burke, Inc. at the fixed rate of \$1.4420/gal.

**VOTE: UNANIMOUS**

**AGENDA ITEM #10b: STUDENT OPPORTUNITY PLAN**

Postpone to future meeting, the deadline was extended by the DESE.

**AGENDA #10c: SCHEDULE PUBLIC HEARINGS: FY '21 SCHOOL BUDGET & FY'21 SCHOOL CHOICE**

State law requires that an Annual School Budget Hearing occur prior to Town Meeting and that a Public Hearing on School Choice be held prior to June 1st. It was agreed to hold both hearings at the April 13, 2020 School Committee meeting. They will be publicized in the Taunton Gazette, as required by law.

**AGENDA ITEM #10d: APPOINT SUPERINTENDENT TO COLLABORATIVE BOARDS**

It was moved by Mrs. Vincent, seconded by Mr. Ghilarducci and VOTED that:

Superintendent Lynch is directed to serve as a member of the Board of Directors of South Coast Collaborative for the 2020/21 school year, in accordance with Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 40, Section 4E.

Superintendent Lynch is appointed to serve as the Berkley representative on the Board of Director's of READS Collaborative, in accordance with Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 40, Section 4E as amended by Chapter 43 of the Acts of 2012 for the 2020/21 school year.

**VOTE: UNANIMOUS**

**AGENDA ITEM #10e: SOUTH COAST EDUCATIONAL COLLABORATIVE LEASE**

It was moved by Mrs. Vincent, seconded by Mrs. Andrews and VOTED to extend the lease agreement with South Coast Educational Collaborative for two classrooms at BCS and two classrooms BMS.

**VOTE: UNANIMOUS**

**AGENDA ITEM #10f: SURPLUS LISTS**

It was moved by Mrs. Andrews, seconded by Mrs. Vincent and VOTED to approve the enclosed list of non-working items at BCS as surplus.

**VOTE: UNANIMOUS**

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

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

Tammy Ford, BCS Paraprofessional  
Debra Czorny, BCS Teacher

**AGENDA ITEM #11b: APPOINTMENTS/TRANSFERS**

Debra Smith, BCS Paraprofessional

**AGENDA ITEM #12: EXECUTIVE SESSION**

It was moved by Mrs. Andrews, seconded by Mrs. Vincent and VOTED to enter Executive Session at 7:06 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. Vincent –AYE  
Mrs. Andrews –AYE  
Mr. Ghilarducci – AYE  
Mrs. Weber - AYE**

It was moved by Mrs. Vincent, seconded by Mrs. Andrews and VOTED to exit Executive Session at 7:26 PM and to return to Open Session only to adjourn.

**VOTE: Mrs. Vincent –AYE  
Mrs. Andrews –AYE  
Mr. Ghilarducci – AYE  
Mrs. Weber – AYE**

**AGENDA ITEM #13: ADJOURNMENT**

It was moved by Mrs. Vincent, seconded by Mrs. Andrews and VOTED to adjourn at 7:26 PM.

**VOTE: UNANIMOUS**

Respectfully submitted,



Jennifer Vincent, Secretary