

Berkley School Committee
Regular Meeting & Public Hearings
April 13, 2020 – REMOTE via Google Meet

The meeting was held fully remote via Google Meet in accordance with the Governor of Massachusetts' March 12, 2020 order suspending certain provisions of the Open Meeting Law G.L.c.30A, Section 20.

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

The regular meeting of the Berkley School Committee & the Public Hearing on the FY '21 Budget and FY '21 School Choice were held Remotely via Google Meet. Mrs. Weber, Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:36 PM, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Public were notified to send input to the Chair via e/mail in advance of the meeting.

Present

Tara Weber
Jenifer Andrews
Daniel Fagan
Jennifer Vincent
Christopher Ghilarducci

Other

Thomas Lynch, Superintendent of Schools
Patricia Silvia, Executive Assistant to Supt. & SC
Jennifer Francisco, Principal, BCS
Kimberly Hebert, Principal, BMS
Melissa Abrego, Adm. For Student Services

The following statement was read by Mrs. Weber: "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: REMOTE MEETING ACCESS AUTHORIZATION

This is the first remote meeting of the School Committee, a vote is recommended.

It was moved by Mrs. Andrews, seconded by Mr. Ghilarducci and VOTED to authorize remote meeting access pursuant to the Emergency Executive Order given by Governor Baker dated March 12, 2020.

Vote: UNANIMOUS

AGENDA ITEM #3: PUBLIC HEARING ON SCHOOL DEPARTMENT BUDGET FY '21

The public hearing on the fiscal year 2021 School Department budget was postponed.

AGENDA ITEM #4: PUBLIC HEARING ON SCHOOL CHOICE 2020/21

A public hearing was held on School Choice for 2020/21 as required by MA state law Chapter 76, Section 12b. It was recommended that the Committee vote to offer School Choice in 2020/21 in the following grades: K – up to 12 students, Grade 2 – up to 6 students, Grade 3 – up to 10 students. Mrs. Vincent raised concerns about class size. Mr. Lynch reported that next

year's Grade 2 as of now has 85 students and next year's Grade 3 as of now has 80 students; these are the two smallest classes. No public input was received.

AGENDA ITEM #5: APPROVE BILLS AND PAYROLLS

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

Vote: UNANIMOUS

AGENDA ITEM #6: APPROVE AND SIGN MINUTES

It was moved by Mr. Ghilarducci, seconded by Mrs. Vincent and VOTED to approve the regular meeting minutes of March 16, 2020 as written and the executive session meeting minutes of March 16, 2020 as written.

Vote: UNANIMOUS

AGENDA ITEM #7: CORRESPONDENCE AND ENCLOSURES

Enclosures:

- Berkley School Committee meeting minutes (3/16/2020)
- Principals' Report – Online Learning
- FY '21 Preliminary Budget (3/16/20)
- Enrollment (4/1/20)

AGENDA ITEM #8: PUBLIC INPUT

The public was asked to e/mail comments to Mrs. Weber in advance of the meeting. No public input was received.

AGENDA ITEM #9: EDUCATIONAL REPORTS

AGENDA ITEM #9a: PRINCIPALS' REPORT – ONLINE LEARNING

Mrs. Hebert reported that on March 12 the decision was made to close schools to deep clean the buildings and then the Governor closed all schools until May 6, 2020. The staff immediately begin to plan how to stay connected to students and educational resources were placed on the district website and printed packets were made available. Staff begin to prepare for distance learning. We began making and distributing grab and go breakfast and lunch bags to families which continues on a daily basis.

Mrs. Francisco reported that due to the extended school closure, the Berkley Distance Learning Plan was implemented on April 8. This is a three-tiered plan that includes teacher-directed learning, teacher/student check ins, and additional learning resources via paper/internet based opportunities. All staff began to fully distance learn with all students via video and online lessons at BCS and Google classroom at BMS. Staff have done an exceptional job learning new technology and getting the information to students and are staying connected. Over 100 chrome books and/or laptops have been loaned to families so all have devices to access distance learning

initiatives and the district has referred families who qualify to Comcast for free internet or provided internet hot spots as needed so everyone has internet access.

As required, services are being provided to students who receive related services such as ABA, speech/language occupational therapy, physical therapy, etc. as well as special educators, unified arts teachers, counselors and therapists. Individual Education Plan meetings will be held while school is closed via conference calls. Nurses are checking in with students/families who have school-based care plans and paraprofessionals are providing support as well. Together the staff have done an amazing job with distance learning and we have received excellent feedback from families.

Mrs. Andrews asked if teachers will receive PDP's for the extra work involved in learning new technology needed for distance learning. Mr. Lynch stated the technology trainers went above and beyond to bring everyone up to speed with distance learning technology. The administrative team has discussed compensating staff with PDP's or extra stipends. Committee members expressed appreciation to the staff for their hard work and complimented them on the great job they have done.

AGENDA ITEM #10: NEW BUSINESS

AGENDA ITEM #10a: SCHOOL CHOICE VOTE FOR 2020/21

Based on the presentation and public hearing held at the start of the meeting, it was recommended we accept School Choice students for 2020/21. The number of choice students recommended for the various grades is as follows: **K – up to 12 students, Grade 2 – up to 6 students, Grade 3 – up to 10 students.**

It was moved by Mr. Fagan, seconded by Mr. Ghilarducci and VOTED to accept school choice students for 2020/21 in the following grades: K-up to 12 students, Grade 2-up to 6 students, Grade 3-up to 10 students.

Vote: UNANIMOUS

AGENDA ITEM #10b: DISCUSSION OF APRIL SCHOOL VACATION

The Committee discussed the option of cancelling April vacation so that the online learning process that began on April 8 may continue without interruption. If April vacation is cancelled, the last day of school will be Friday, June 19 rather than Thursday, June 25. Students have had one full week of distance learning and this is recommended in order to keep the momentum going. BTA co-presidents were consulted and teachers agree it is best for teachers and students to keep it going and not break at this time. It was clarified that the remote learning would be Tuesday – Friday of April vacation week as Monday is a holiday.

It was moved by Mrs. Andrews, seconded by Mrs. Vincent and VOTED to approve the continuation of remote learning from Tuesday, April 21, 2020 – Friday, April 24, 2020.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS

It was moved by Mrs. Vincent, seconded by Mrs. Andrews and VOTED to approve the last day of school for the 2019/20 school year to be Friday, June 19, 2020.

Vote: UNANIMOUS

AGENDA ITEM #11: SUPERINTENDENT'S PERSONNEL REPORT

AGENDA ITEM #11a: RESIGNATION/RETIREMENT

Sarah Springer, Surround Care

AGENDA ITEM #11b: APPOINTMENT/TRANSFER

AGENDA ITEM #12: EXECUTIVE SESSION

It was moved by Mrs. Andrews, seconded by Mr. Ghilarducci and VOTED to enter Executive Session at 6:57 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. Andrews – AYE
Mrs. Vincent – AYE
Mr. Fagan – AYE
Mr. Ghilarducci - AYE**

It was moved by Mrs. Weber, seconded by Mrs. Andrews and VOTED to exit Executive Session at 7:25 PM in accordance with MGL Chapter 30A, Sec. 21 and to return to Open Session only to adjourn.

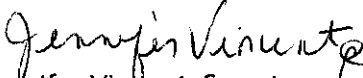
**Vote: Mrs. Weber – AYE
Mrs. Andrews – AYE
Mrs. Vincent – AYE
Mr. Fagan – AYE
Mr. Ghilarducci - AYE**

AGENDA ITEM #13: ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Mrs. Weber, seconded by Mrs. Vincent and VOTED to adjourn at 7:25 PM.

Vote: UNANIMOUS

Respectfully submitted,


Jennifer Vincent, Secretary