

**Berkley School Committee  
Regular Meeting & Public Hearing  
May 11, 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**

The regular meeting of the Berkley School Committee & the Public Hearing on the FY '21 Budget were held Remotely via Google Meet. Mrs. Weber, Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:31 PM. 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."

Mrs. Jenifer Andrews was recognized with a plaque and certificate for her two years of service to the Berkley School Committee.

**AGENDA ITEM #2: PUBLIC HEARING ON SCHOOL DEPARTMENT BUDGET FY '21**

A public hearing on the fiscal year 2020 School Department budget was held, as required by MA state law Chapter 71, Section 38N. Mr. Lynch reported that the preliminary budget presented in January was for \$8,689,525. The preliminary budget has since been reduced to \$8,546,325. This is a 2% increase over the current year and is a level-service budget. Funds not used this year because we had to close schools in March will be used to buy supplies and other payment will be made from this year's budget to help reduce next year's budget. Mr. Lynch reported there are no new positions in this budget. He explained a custodial salary was transferred from a revolving account to the budget due to the uncertainty of next year. If school isn't in session in September, the Surround Care Program will not run and the custodial salary that is paid from that program would have to be paid from the budget. Also, because no one knows what may happen next school year, additional funds may be needed to increase technology and/or transportation expenses. Mrs. Andrews commented that even under normal circumstances this is a very responsible, conservative budget and she commended the administrative team for it.

It was moved by Mrs. Vincent, seconded by Mrs. Andrews and VOTED to approve the FY' 21 budget in the amount of \$8,543,325 as presented.

**Vote: UNANIMOUS**

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

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

**Vote: UNANIMOUS**

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

It was moved by Mrs. Andrews, seconded by Mrs. Vincent and VOTED to approve the regular meeting minutes of April 13, 2020 as written.

**Vote: UNANIMOUS**

It was moved by Mrs. Andrews, seconded by Mrs. Vincent and VOTED to approve the executive session meeting minutes of April 13, 2020 as written.

**Vote: UNANIMOUS**

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

- School Committee meeting minutes, 4/13/20
- Principals' Reports
- Expenditure Report May 2020
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Policy Readings: Student Activity Accounts #6400, Equal Educational Opportunities #1142, Educational Equity #6150, Public Comment at School Committee Meeting #1541, School Year/School Calendar #5532, School Day #5533
- Custodial Bid Summary 2020/21
- Preliminary Budget 2020/21
- Enrollment, 5/1/20

**AGENDA ITEM #6: PUBLIC INPUT**

The public was asked to e/mail comments to Mrs. Weber in advance of the meeting. Mrs. Weber received one comment from a parent suggesting that BCS consider moving whole classes together next year, because of this year's shortened time in school. Mr. Lynch said there are good and adverse reasons to not do that. Mrs. Francisco state that students were in school for two thirds of the year and they do their best to match the students to the teachers that would best meet each student's needs and it is the best interest of the overall student population to not move the classes as a whole next year. Mrs. Hebert said in the middle school they keep some together but do move some due to individual's student needs. Mrs. Francisco added that next year will be different for all and some transition will be needed because of the unexpected school

closures. Ms. Hebert stated they are hoping to do something for Grade 8 such as the dance/social and graduation and also do some kind of transition for incoming grade 5 students.

### **AGENDA ITEM #7: EDUCATIONAL REPORTS**

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

Mrs. Francisco reported that distance learning at BCS is going very, very well. Everyone is pleased with the job faculty have done. Student belongs pick up last week went very well, a video of it will be sent to families. There was close to 100% participation by faculty and staff. Staff were recognized in many ways last week for Staff Appreciation Week. The plan for year-end report cards is not final yet. This last term work is for credit / no credit and may have more teacher comments about the child's learning for the last period of the year.

Mrs. Hebert reported that the BMS clean out week was successful. BMS signs have been delivered to all grade 8 students yards, thanks to financial support from PTO. Distance learning plans are going well. Fortunately, we had moved to Google this year and had Gmail accounts so many teachers were able to quickly get online learning up and running. We have close to 100% participation and are reaching out to individuals who may be struggling. Report cards will reflect trimesters. For grade 8 awards, we will use first three years grades and the first two terms of this year and the close out grade. Third term grades will use grades from time in school and distance learning grades and average together for final grade.

### **AGENDA ITEM #8: ADMINISTRATIVE & EDUCATIONAL REPORTS**

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

Mr. Ghilarducci reported that the high school had their review by New England Association of Schools and Colleges. Two concerns were identified; they will be reviewed again in two years. Dr. Susan Brelsford was appointed the new principal of SBRHS. The Committee has not voted a budget yet for next year; the current proposal is 5.4% higher than this year's budget. They were advised to prepare a 1/12 budget in case one of the towns don't approve it. Mr. Ghilarducci recognized student representatives Grace Sedell and Emily Rose for their attendance and reporting at the Berkley School Committee meetings. Certificates of appreciation have been signed by Mrs. Weber and will be sent to them.

#### **AGENDA ITEM #8b: BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE**

The subcommittee met on May 5 and reviewed the preliminary FY '21 budget. As stated earlier in the Budget Hearing, it was reduced to \$8,546,325. It is a 2% increase above this year's budget; it is a level-service budget.

### **AGENDA ITEM #9: UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

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

Mr. Lynch reviewed second policy readings. Revisions are recommended for: Student Activity Accounts #6400, Equal Educational Opportunities #1142, Public Comment at School Committee Meeting #1541,

and these policies are recommended for adoption: School Year/School Calendar #5532, School Day #5533, Educational Equity #6150.

It was moved by Mrs. Vincent, seconded by Mrs. Andrews and VOTED to approve 2<sup>nd</sup> readings for: Student Activity Accounts #6400, Equal Educational Opportunities #1142, Educational Equity #6150, Public Comment at School Committee Meeting #1541, School Year/School Calendar #5532, School Day #5533.

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

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

This year's budget is in good shape.

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

The FY' 21 preliminary budget was presented at the start of the meeting during the public hearing.

It was moved by Mrs. Vincent seconded by Mrs. Andrews and VOTED to approve the FY '21 school department budget as presented, in the amount of \$8,546,325.

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

**AGENDA ITEM #10: NEW BUSINESS**

**AGENDA ITEM #10a: AWARD BID – CUSTODIAL SUPPLIES**

Custodial bids for next year were circulated and reviewed as follows: Land-Tek #1,6,7,8,10,12,15,17,19. Pyramid: #2,3,11,13,14,21. Unipak: #9. W.B.Mason: #4, 5, 18, 20.

It was moved by Mrs. Vincent, seconded by Mrs. Andrews and VOTED to approve custodial bids as presented above.

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

**AGENDA ITEM #10b: ACTION ON DIRECT CERTIFICATION FOR FREE & REDUCED-PRICE LUNCHES & ACTION ON PARTICIPATION IN FREE & REDUCED-PRICE LUNCH PROGRAM**

In accordance with federal regulations, the Superintendent recommends that the School Committee approve participation in the free and reduced-price lunch program for the 2020/21 school year. Participation in the program enables the Berkley School Department to receive food commodities from the state. 26% of our students qualify for free and/or reduced lunch.

It was moved by Mrs. Vincent, seconded by Mrs. Andrews and VOTED to approve the participation in the Direct Certification for Free & Reduced Price Lunches & participation in free & reduced price lunch program.

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

(A point of order was made by Mrs. Andrews that votes needed to be roll call votes because this is a remote meeting; minutes reflect second votes which were the roll call votes.)

**AGENDA ITEM #10c: SUPERINTENDENT EMPLOYMENT CONTRACT**

A vote to renew the superintendent's contract for two years is recommended.

It was moved by Mrs. Vincent, seconded by Mrs. Andrews and VOTED to approve the superintendent's employment contract as circulated for two years.

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

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

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

Valerie McNamara, BCS Librarian

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

**AGENDA ITEM #12: EXECUTIVE SESSION**

It was moved by Mrs. Vincent, seconded by Mrs. Andrews and VOTED to enter Executive Session at 7:17 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 will not return to Open Session to adjourn.

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

It was moved by Mrs. Vincent, seconded by Mr. Ghilarducci and VOTED to exit Executive Session at 7:45 PM and to adjourn the meeting.

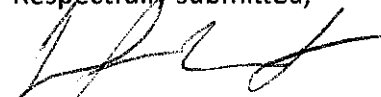
**Vote: Mrs. Weber – AYE  
Mrs. Andrews – AYE  
Mrs. Vincent – AYE  
Mr. Fagan – AYE  
Mr. Ghilarducci - AYE**

**AGENDA ITEM #13: ADJOURNMENT**

It was moved by Mrs. Vincent, seconded by Mr. Ghilarducci and VOTED to adjourn at 7:45 PM.

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

Respectfully submitted,

  
Jennifer Vincent, Secretary