

**Berkley School Committee
Regular Meeting
September 21, 2020**

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

The regular meeting of the Berkley School Committee was held in the Berkley Middle School Cafeteria on Monday, September 21, 2020. Mrs. Weber, Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:32 PM, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present

Jillean Solomon
Tara Weber
Daniel Fagan
Christopher Ghilarducci

Other

Thomas Lynch, Superintendent
Patricia Silvia, Executive Assistant to Supt. & S.C.
Jennifer Francisco, Principal, BCS
Kimberly Hebert, Principal, BMS
Timothy McCarthy, Head of Bldgs/Grounds
Andrea Porter, Business Administrator
Sarah Cogar, Assistant Principal, BCS
Diane Maxwell, Public

Excused:

Jennifer Vincent

Mrs. Weber stated: "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: GUESTS – NEW STAFF

Mrs. Francisco introduced new BCS staff: Michelle Beaton (Para), Kayley Danaher (Gr 1 Teacher), Jennifer Bentley (IA/Monitor), Keri-Ann Capelo (Gr 4 Teacher), Darren Soens (Gr 4 Teacher). Mrs. Hebert introduced new BMS staff: Christian deLano (Gr 8 Science Teacher), Leah Rickey (Gr 6 Science Teacher).

AGENDA ITEM #3: APPROVE BILLS AND PAYROLLS

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

Vote: UNANIMOUS

AGENDA ITEM #4: APPROVE AND SIGN MINUTES

It was moved by Mr. Fagan, seconded by Mr. Ghilarducci and VOTED to approve the regular meeting minutes of August 25, 2020 as written.

Vote: UNANIMOUS

AGENDA ITEM #5: CORRESPONDENCE AND ENCLOSURES

- School Committee Minutes (8/25/20)
- Reports from Principals
- BMS Fundraising Efforts info, 2020/21
- Budget statement 9/19/20

- Recommended budget transfers 9/21/20
- Enrollment (9/14/20)
- Proposed District Goals 2020/21
- Student Residency Requirements Policy #6131

Single File Folder:

- Superintendent's Summary, Goals 2019/20

Mr. Lynch referenced resignation letters from van driver Julie Carlstrom, paraprofessional Jayde Bizarro and a thank you letter to Mr. Keoppel of Shawmut LLC for a donation of 200 PPE gowns to BPS.

AGENDA ITEM #6: PUBLIC INPUT

Mrs. Denise Martinez, parent of a grade 5 student, informed the School Committee of her move from Berkley to New Bedford and asked them to allow her daughter to remain a student at Berkley Middle School as a choice student. Mrs. Weber explained that the School Committee voted in the spring to not accept choice students this year in Grade 5. Mrs. Weber stated another family moved from town and also requested that their child remain at BMS as a choice student; their request was denied. It was explained that the number of choice seats are determined in the spring based on class size and no choice seats were approved for the middle school so that class sizes remain small. The decision on how many choice seats to open each year is based on class size not on funding. Mrs. Martinez was advised to apply next year for her daughter to attend in grade 6 as a choice students if choice seats are approved and open for Grade 6 students at that time..

AGENDA ITEM #7a: PRINCIPAL'S REPORTS

Mrs. Francisco reported that this school year opening was very different from any other year, yet everything went extremely well. Students and staff are doing a fantastic job with remote learning, social distancing and masks. Families have reached out to say they are pleased with the how things are progressing. She expressed appreciation to Mr. McCarthy and the custodial staff for all their hard work this summer with the lighting upgrade project, as well as readying the building to open. The new lights in the school are beautiful. She also recognized the secretarial staff and computer technicians for all their work and stated the cafeteria staff is doing a great job offering five lunches per day as well as the grab and go program. BCS fund raising requests will be presented in October.

Mrs. Hebert reported that all went well with the staff and students transition back to school. With patience and perseverance all will continue to go well. Information will be sent home to parents about the open house/curriculum night which this year will be held via power point or video presentation. Remote families are included in school pictures and fundraisers. BMS will have a Student Council this year.

She thanked Mr. McCarthy and crew for all their work readying the building this summer. BMS families have been very generous and supportive of staff and teachers and she thanked PTO for recognizing the staff by supplying baked goods and a coffee bar. She reviewed the list of potential fundraisers for the year.

It was moved by Mr. Fagan, seconded by Mrs. Solomon and VOTED to approve the list of BMS fundraisers as presented.

Vote: UNANIMOUS

AGENDA #7b: ENROLLMENT

Mr. Lynch reported that enrollment the first day of school (September 14) was down 55 students from last October. Kindergarten is not mandatory and enrollment is down as many parents may have chosen to keep their child home due to Covid. Our home education numbers are up from last year also due to Covid. The enrollment total includes 111 choice students and 83 full remote students.

AGENDA ITEM #8: ADMINISTRATIVE & SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPORTS

AGENDA ITEM #8a: SOMERSET BERKLEY REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE

No report.

AGENDA ITEM #8b: FACILITIES UPDATE

The BCS lighting upgrade project is now complete after much time planning and coordinating with the architect and engineers. Young Electric completed the work and thanks to Mr. McCarthy and his crew's, they were able to complete it before school opened.

AGENDA ITEM #8c: TECHNOLOGY UPDATE

Last spring 124 devices were lent out to families. In June the town purchased 150 additional chrome books for us with Cares Act money and later this summer informed us they would purchase another 448 which enables us to have 1:1 device platform for all students in grades 2-8 when they arrive; they are currently on back order. With school choice funds, we purchased 80 chrome books/laptops last year and this year will use choice funds for computer lab desktop computers and projectors.

AGENDA ITEM #8d: END-OF-CYCLE SUMMATIVE EVALUATION: SUPERINTENDENT

Postpone to October.

AGENDA ITEM #9: UNFINISHED BUSINESS

AGENDA ITEM #9a: SCHOOL DEPARTMENT BUDGET 2020/21

Transfers are recommended as a result of much staff turnover and personnel movement this summer.

It was moved by Mr. Fagan, seconded by Mr. Ghilarducci and VOTED to approve budget transfers as recommended.

Vote: UNANIMOUS

AGENDA ITEM #10: NEW BUSINESS

AGENDA ITEM #10a: PROPOSED DISTRICT GOALS 2020/21

Mr. Lynch reviewed proposed goals for this year. No information has been received from MSBA about the Statement of Interest we submitted again this year for BCS renovations and there is no information on what MSBA's priorities will be this year.

It was moved by Mr. Fagan, seconded by Mrs. Solomon and VOTED to approve the district goals for this year as presented.

Vote: UNANIMOUS

AGENDA ITEM #10b: SURPLUS LIST

In the BMS Library there are 20 book carts (with wheels) that no longer are needed. It is recommended that these be placed on the surplus list which is sent to the Board of Selectmen to share with other departments who may need them.

It was moved by Mr. Ghilarducci, seconded by Mrs. Solomon and VOTED to declare the items listed as surplus equipment.

Vote: UNANIMOUS

AGENDA ITEM #10c: MASC DELEGATE

Postpone to next meeting.

AGENDA ITEM #11: SUPERINTENDENT'S PERSONNEL REPORT

AGENDA ITEM #11a: RESIGNATION

Julie Carlstrom, Van driver
Jayde Bizarro, Paraprofessional

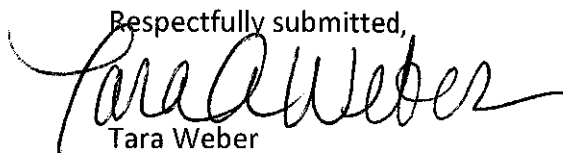
AGENDA ITEM #11b: APPOINTMENTS

Keri-Ann Capelo, Gr 4 Teacher
Megan deCastro, Gr 5 Teacher
Leah Rickey, Gr 6 Science Teacher
Kaylyn Mills, Virtual Learning Teacher/Co-Coordinator
Katelyn McChesney, Special Education Virtual Teacher
Carol DeCambra, IA/Monitor BMS
Jennifer Bentley, IA/Monitor BCS

AGENDA ITEM #12: ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Mrs. Solomon, seconded by Mr. Ghilarducci and VOTED to adjourn the meeting at 7:18 PM.

Respectfully submitted,


Tara Weber
Chair