

Berkley School Committee
Regular Meeting
February 14, 2022

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, February 14, 2022. Mrs. Weber, Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present

Tara Weber
Jennifer Vincent
Jilleen Solomon
Kaitlyn Robichaud
Daniel Fagan

Other

Melissa Ryan, Superintendent
Patricia Silvia, Executive Assistant to Supt. & SC
Andrea Porter, Business Administrator
Kimberly Hebert, Principal, BMS
Jennifer Francisco, Principal, BCS
Dona Andreasen, Michelle Bringle, Laura Dietz,
George Miller, Heather Martin-Sterling
Public

The meeting was electronically recorded by Berkley Cable station. A moment of silence was held in honor of former Superintendent of Schools Russell Latham.

AGENDA ITEM #2: APPROVE BILLS AND PAYROLLS

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

Vote: UNANIMOUS

AGENDA ITEM #3: APPROVE AND SIGN MINUTES

It was moved by Mrs. Vincent, seconded by Mrs. Solomon and VOTED to approve the regular meeting minutes of January 24, 2022 as written.

Vote: UNANIMOUS

It was moved by Mrs. Robichaud, seconded by Mrs. Vincent and VOTED to approve the executive session meeting minutes of January 24, 2022 as written.

Vote: UNANIMOUS

AGENDA ITEM #4: CORRESPONDENCE AND ENCLOSURES

- Berkley School Committee minutes (1/24/22)
- Principals' Reports
- Budget Statement (2/12/22)
- School Year Calendar draft, 2022/23
- School Start End Time Chart, 2022/23

- Face Coverings Policy #6225
- Policy Subcommittee minutes, 2/7/22
- Policies 1st reading: Establishment of Positions #3180, Sources of Applicants #3410, Appointment of Personnel #3431, Assignment & Transfer of Teachers & Other Salaried Personnel #3470, Supt. Acceptance of Resignation of Instructional Personnel #3475, Student Teachers and Interns #3490, Physical and Mental Health Examinations #3510, Professional Growth for Teachers #3800, Dismissal of Professional Staff #3940, Retirement of Professional Employees #3990, Application for Position #3420, Limit on Agency Fee #3435
- Policies 2nd reading: Current Support Staff Benefits (Non-Union) #4180 Basis for Personnel Policies #3000, Professional Job Descriptions #3001, Official Personnel Folder #3020, Legal Restrictions on Teachers #3030, Maintenance of Discipline #3120, Responsibility For Work of Substitutes #3140, Substitute Teachers #3480, Home Education Policy #5220
- READS Capital Improvement Plan & Capital Reserve Fund information
- Enrollment 2/1/22

ONE COPY FOLDER

- Principals' Newsletters, Feb. 2022
- Berkley School Committee Newsletter, January 2022
- February 2022 Office Schedule
- Memo from MA DESE, Determination IDEA Part B
- BPS 5-Year Capital Improvement Needs memo
- Thank you to Robert Rose, Berkley Highway Dept.
- BPS, BCS, BMS 2021 DESE Report Card Cover Letters
- Letter to Senator Pacheco regarding procurement
- Survey results, middle school staff regarding start/end time changes

Mrs. Ryan referenced the posting for vacation week, DESE report card cover letters, middle school staff survey results on start end time change, letter to Sen. Pacheco regarding procurement and the district's 5-year capital improvement needs request.

AGENDA ITEM #5: PUBLIC INPUT

AGENDA ITEM #6: EDUCATIONAL REPORTS

AGENDA ITEM #6a: PRINCIPALS' REPORTS ON SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

BCS: Mrs. Francisco reported on the School Council survey, PBIS training, emergency safety training, and activities to celebrate the 100th day of school.

BMS: Mrs. Hebert reported on grade 8 high school applications, safety meeting, winter and spring athletics and upcoming unified basketball games.

AGENDA ITEM #7: ADMINISTRATIVE & SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPORTS

AGENDA ITEM 7a: SOMERSET BERKLEY REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Nothing new to report at this time,

AGENDA ITEM #7b: COVID UPDATE

Governor Baker and DESE will not renew the mask mandate that expires on February 28. This means the decision to require masks or not is a local decision at the discretion of the School Committee. Berkley adopted the Face Covering Policy two years ago when the state mandated mask wearing. If the School Committee chooses to allow masks to be optional, a vote is recommended to retire the current policy or to adopt the updated MASC policy (circulated today). Should the Committee vote to retire the current policy, families then will have the choice to wear masks or not. Mrs. Ryan reported on feedback received from two families; one family supported the current mask policy and one supported retiring it. Based on our district's metrics and because we have had low positivity rates overall it is recommended that the policy be retired. We still would follow DESE requirements for those who test positive or are close contacts and per federal regulations, masks still must be worn on school buses. Masks will be required in the school health office. It was emphasized that teachers will not police who is and who is not wearing masks. Families will discuss this with their children. Mrs. Ryan stated she'd retain authority to make adjustments based on community and school metrics. Mr. Fagan expressed concern with that and the DESE regulations. See vote under 8b. Face Coverings Policy.

AGENDA ITEM #7c: POLICY SUBCOMMITTEE

Mrs. Vincent reviewed minutes of the February 7 meeting.

AGENDA ITEM #8: UNFINISHED BUSINESS

AGENDA ITEM #8a: POLICY READINGS

It was moved by Mrs. Vincent, seconded by Mrs. Solomon, and VOTED to approve 1st readings to amend: Establishment of Positions #3180, Sources of Applicants #3410, Appointment of Personnel #3431, Assignment & Transfer of Teachers & Other Salaried Personnel #3470, Supt. Acceptance of Resignation of Instructional Personnel #3475, Student Teachers and Interns #3490, Physical and Mental Health Examinations #3510, Professional Growth for Teachers #3800, Dismissal of Professional Staff #3940, Retirement of Professional Employees #3990, and to retire/delete: Application for Position #3420 and Limit on Agency Fee #3435.

Vote: UNANIMOUS

It was moved by Mrs. Vincent, seconded by Mrs. Solomon, and VOTED to approve 2nd readings to amend: Current Support Staff Benefits (Non-Union) #4180 Basis for Personnel Policies #3000, Professional Job Descriptions #3001, Official Personnel Folder #3020, Substitute Teachers #3480,

Home Education Policy #5220 and to retire/delete: Legal Restrictions on Teachers #3030, Maintenance of Discipline #3120, Responsibility For Work of Substitutes #3140.

Vote: UNANIMOUS

AGENDA ITEM #8b: FACE COVERINGS POLICY #6225

It was moved by Mrs. Vincent to retire/delete Face Coverings Policy #6225 and to authorize the Superintendent to make adjustments to the masking requirements as needed. Mr. Fagan indicated he would not support that vote. Mrs. Vincent revised her motion.

It was moved by Mrs. Vincent, seconded by Mrs. Robichaud and VOTED to retire/delete the Face Coverings Policy #6225 effective February 28 and for the School Committee to maintain authority to require masks for the district or an individual school based on positivity and transmission rates.

Vote: UNANIMOUS

It was moved by Mrs. Robichaud, seconded by Mrs. Vincent and VOTED to waive the 1st and 2nd readings to retire/delete the Face Coverings Policy #6225.

Vote: UNANIMOUS

In summary, the DESE COVID protocols remain in place, requiring individuals who test positive for COVID-19 or who are close contact and are not exempt from the quarantine protocols to adhere to the strict mask use through day 10 of the identified quarantine period; all students will be required to wear a mask while riding the bus as required by federal regulations; students will be required to wear a mask while in the nurse's office. Staff will not police mask wearing based on parental preference. Parents are asked to have a conversation with their student(s) about expectations for wearing a mask in school. The School Committee maintains the authority to require masks for the district or an individual school based on positivity and transmission rates.

AGENDA ITEM #8c: SCHOOL DEPARTMENT BUDGET FY '22

FY'22 budget remains in good shape.

AGENDA ITEM #9: NEW BUSINESS

AGENDA ITEM #9a: SCHOOL YEAR CALENDAR DRAFT, 2022/23

A first draft of the 2022/23 school year calendar was reviewed. It proposes students return on Tuesday after Labor Day weekend and Thursday and Friday before the holiday would be two PD days for staff which would eliminate the PD day typically held in November on election day. As next year is a non-presidential year the election traffic will be low this day. Surrounding districts shared their

PD calendar to maybe coordinate PD with other districts. There was discussion about allowing adults in the school to vote when school is in session. This will be further reviewed and brought back to the March meeting.

AGENDA ITEM #9b: READS CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN & CAPITAL RESERVE FUND

Mrs. Ryan reported on the READS Capital Improvement Plan and Capital Reserve Fund request. Each School Committee member district is asked to approve the reason for the reserve and limit on the balance that may be held in the reserve. A video will be shown at the next meeting to further explain this request.

It was moved by Mrs. Solomon, seconded by Mrs. Robichaud and VOTED to table this item to the March meeting.

Vote: UNANIMOUS

AGENDA ITEM #9c: SURPLUS ITEM

It was moved by Ms. Solomon, second by Ms. Robichaud and VOTED to declare the 2013 Chevrolet Equinox SUV with approximately 200,000 miles a surplus item.

Vote: UNANIMOUS

AGENDA ITEM #9d: SCHOOL START END TIMES 2022/23

Mrs. Ryan described issues with the current school schedule and effects on afternoon bus routes. The middle school buses are taking too long and arriving late at the Community School. Consideration is being given to changing start and end times at the middle school next year and changing door to door stops to group stops. The proposed start end times are in line with other middle schools which would allow student athletes to not miss class time when they are dismissed at the end of the day for away games. Mrs. Hebert surveyed the middle school staff and 70% were in favor of time changes. Discussion ensued about the time changes, scheduling, student safety issues and bus stops. Once changes are finalized, families will be notified so they have advance notice. Mrs. Ryan will further review stops and routes and bring back additional information to the next meeting.

AGENDA ITEM #10: SUPERINTENDENT'S PERSONNEL REPORT

AGENDA ITEM #10a: APPOINTMENT/TRANSFER

AGENDA ITEM #10b: RESIGNATION/RETIREMENT

AGENDA ITEM #11: EXECUTIVE SESSION

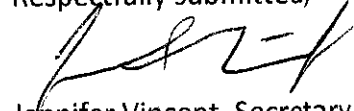
Not needed

AGENDA ITEM #12: ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Mrs. Solomon, seconded by Mrs. Robichaud and VOTED to adjourn at 7:21 PM.

Vote: UNANIMOUS

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jennifer Vincent', written over the text 'Respectfully submitted,'.

Jennifer Vincent, Secretary