

**Berkley School Committee  
Regular Meeting  
May 15, 2023**

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

The regular meeting of the Berkley School Committee was held in the Berkley Middle School Library on Monday, April 10, 2023. Mrs. Weber called the meeting to order at 6:32 PM, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Present**

Tara Weber  
Jillian Solomon  
Daniel Fagan  
Michael Ricardo  
Kaitlyn Robichaud

**Other**

Melissa Ryan, Superintendent  
Melissa Coelho, Executive Assistant to Supt. & SC  
Andrea Porter, Business Administrator  
Jennifer Francisco, BMS Principal  
Kimberly Hebert, BCS Principal  
Ryan Andrade, BMS Assistant Principal

Read by Mrs. Weber: "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. "

Mrs. Weber called for nominations for Chairperson.

It was moved by Mr. Fagan and seconded by Ms. Solomon to nominate Tara Weber Chairperson.

Vote Tara Weber Chairperson: **UNANIMOUS**

It was moved by Mrs. Weber and seconded by Mr. Fagan to nominate Jilleen Solomon Secretary.

Vote Jilleen Solomon Secretary: **UNANIMOUS**

The following Subcommittee appointments were made by the Chair:

**Negotiations:** D. Fagan, K. Robichaud

**Policy:** K. Robichaud, M. Ricardo

**School & Community Relations:** K. Robichaud, T. Weber

**Budget:** D. Fagan, T. Weber

**Somerset Berkley Regional School Committee:** J. Solomon

**Teacher Sick Leave Bank:** J. Solomon (Melissa Ryan, Adm. Rep.)

**Facilities Planning:** M. Ricardo

**Curriculum:** D. Fagan, T. Weber

**AGENDA ITEM #2: APPROVE BILLS AND PAYROLLS**

It was moved by Mr. Fagan, 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. Solomon, seconded by Mr. Ricardo and VOTED to approve the School Committee Regular Meeting Minutes for April 10, 2023.

**Vote: UNANIMOUS**

**AGENDA ITEM #4: CORRESPONDENCE**

- BCS December Newsletter
- BMS December Newsletter
- Massachusetts Organization of Education Collaborative (MOEC) FY23 Legislative

**AGENDA ITEM #5: PUBLIC INPUT**

None

**AGENDA ITEM #6: Superintendent Announcements**

Superintendent Ryan reported that they have applied for the investigating history grant through DESE, grant will be targeting professional development.

**AGENDA ITEM #7: EDUCATIONAL REPORTS**

**AGENDA #7a: Principal's Reports on School Activities**

Principal Francisco reported that the BCS Activities Committee is very busy planning a school-wide Walk-a-Thon fundraiser that will be held on June 12th. We are looking forward to hosting this fun school wide event in its second year. The Activities Committee hosted a hugely successful Spring Fling Dance! There were approximately 500 people in attendance and by all accounts it was a wonderful time for all! Twenty-Five Reading Clinic students met the Lexia Challenge over April vacation and were recognized on the morning announcements. These students received a book of their choice and some Buddy Star Cards for their hard work. On April 28th, the Berkley Police Department and EMT's came to BCS for High Five Friday! The excitement for this event is fantastic! The children enjoy being greeted by our public safety heroes and also getting to see the emergency vehicles up close! The fourth grade students and their teachers took a field trip to the Hall at Patriot Place for a visit that included the chance to do a STEM activity. Several Curriculum Acceleration Team (CAT) members visited Carver Elementary School on May 2nd to view the Bridges Math Program in action. The team also met that day to hear a presentation from iReadymathematics. Preschool Screening was held from April 24-April 28. Children beginning at 2.6 years old were screened in language, motor skills, and cognitive development. The Early Childhood Staff, under the direction of Mrs. Cogar did a superb job on this important initiative. Students in grades 1-4 showed off their skills to their families at their annual dance shows. Ms. Vallone does an

excellent job preparing the students for their dances! We thank the families for attending and especially for joining in with dancing at the end of the shows! During the month of May, BCS recognized Asian American History Month by sharing biographies of famous Asian Americans with our school community! On May 18, the fourth graders will attend the Step up Social at Berkley Middle School from 2:45-4:00. The students are looking forward to this special event! We thank Mrs. Hebert & Mr. Andrade for the invitation. We celebrated Staff Appreciation Week during the week of May 5th. Among other events, the students dressed to impress the staff, “chalked” the parking lot with wonderful messages of thanks, and brought flowers. Our staff enjoyed a lemonade bar and lunch compliments of the Activities Committee and through parent donations, a wonderful coffee bar from all of you, and some other nice surprises! Our students continue to excel at demonstrating our school’s core values: Responsible, Respectful & Safe. We have recognized literally hundreds of students this spring! Students enjoy hearing their name announced over the intercom and receiving their certificates and VIP stickers. It is fantastic to see so many students achieving milestone awards! We are delighted to be returning to spring music concerts at Berkley Community School! Grade 2 performed a beautiful concert on May 12th, and the other grades will have concerts prior to the end of the school year. It is wonderful to be back to normal in this regard. Thank you to Mrs. Reynolds for her hard work in preparing the students for these performances. MCAS testing for students in Grades Three and Four will be substantially complete by the date of your meeting, May 15, 2023. The testing went very smoothly, and the efforts of our staff to ensure the preparedness of the students was appreciated.

**Principal Hebert** that the Band traveled to their Trills and Thrills competition in Agawam, MA on Friday, May 5th. Our students did a fabulous job with their performance. They were able to hear other school bands as well before heading off to Six Flags for an afternoon of fun. Thank you to Mr. Dietz for organizing this opportunity for them. It was a great experience. During the week of May 8-12, our school community celebrated Staff- Hero Appreciation Week. We would like to thank all our staff for their continued support, dedication and hard work to providing the best instructional learning environments for the students of Berkley. Our Students shared positive memories and shout outs with staff members on the hero Wall of fame; our BPTO provided a wide variety of breakfast and luncheons throughout the week, including a popcorn day and homemade treats; our Administrative team treated them to an ice cream party; the members of our School Committee provided delicious iced coffee/tea refreshments that were enjoyed and appreciated by all; some community members also brought in tokens of appreciation for the staff. These gestures are tokens of our continued appreciation for all our staff does for the students and school community of BMS. On Friday, May 12th we held our annual Spring Picture day. Grade level classes took their panoramic pictures along with individual portraits. Thank you to our friends from Lifetouch for offering our students/families this opportunity. We held our SBRHS transition meetings on Monday, May 15th. Thank you to Mrs. Abrego for putting these meetings together to help students and families have a smooth transition to the high school. Students in all grades are taking their Math MCAS testing this month and students in Grades 5 & 8 took their Science Technology and Engineering MCAS. We will use the results of these assessments to help us identify those students in need of additional support during the next school year as well as identify those students whose progress continues to be at or above grade level to help appropriately

challenge them on their educational journey. The data also helps us to see how we are doing in these content areas compared to the rest of the state to help us identify our areas of strength and areas of that need development. We appreciate all that our teachers and staff have done to prepare our students for this important experience again this year.

Our 2023 Grade 8 Scholar Leader students selected for this year are Grace Tweedie and Jacob Wilson. They will be participating in a special evening in their honor, along with their families and members of our Grade 8 school staff and Administration on Thursday, May 18th. We are so proud to have them represent our school at this event.

We will be attending the Bristol County District Attorney's Office 6th Annual Teen Safety Summit with a group of 21 middle school students from grade 6-8 on Tuesday, May 23rd. This year's theme "Adulthood 101" will cover topics that include mental health, wellness, substance issues safety and much more. Our students attending this workshop will put together a google slide presentation to share with their peers.

We are happy to have several fieldtrips happening this year for our students, along with our TLC Program, our Band and our Student Council group. Great learning takes place beyond the four walls of the classroom setting. We want to publicly acknowledge the efforts of our PTO and the generous contributions and participation of our families to our fundraising efforts that have made it possible to cover the cost of all of this year's fieldtrips including transportation for all of our students.

We scheduled two socials for the students of BMS and our 4th grade friends from BCS. Grades 4 & 5 will have their social after school on Thursday, May 18th and our 6th & 7th graders will have their social on Tuesday, May 30th. We are hopeful for beautiful weather so that our students could enjoy their time both inside and out. Thank you to all those who volunteer at these events, making them possible.

Our ELA and Special Education teachers in Grades 5 & 6 will complete the third round of Dibels for the year. All staff and students have completed the third and final SAEBRS assessment for the year and teachers in other content areas will complete final assessments and end of year benchmarks with students. The data collected will allow us to see progress throughout the year, plan for next year and address scope and sequence within our curriculums.

Our Music classes have been hard at work all year preparing for the spring Chorus concert on 5/18 and our annual Band concert on 5/25. These events always make us so proud of the hard work our students have done under the direction and support of Mr. Dietz.

Our Art program continues to provide opportunities for our students to identify and express their talents in and around the school. Ms. Aguiar inspires and makes room for our students to show their creative talents in all that they do.

Mrs. Caledonia continues to do amazing things in our Technology classes. Students are learning with hands on, creative lessons that allow them to problem solve, collaborate and share their ideas with one another.

Mrs. Lane continues to provide a variety of lessons on life topics relevant to her grade level students. These real-world issues are presented in age appropriate ways which allows our students to ask questions, share ideas and think about their futures in safe, healthy ways.

Mrs. Sylvia is working hard in the Library Literacy Lab to provide practical topics and lessons that allow for creativity and a transfer of skills into all other classes. She focuses on real world issues and helps them explore career and academic planning opportunities, financial literacy and written and oral communication opportunities that will help them both in school and later in life.

Mr. Santos continues to work with all of his students helping them to learn to be active young people in a variety of ways. His lessons teach not only physical fitness and health but give our students the opportunity to work cooperatively with one another and problem solve through team building. We are in the final planning stages for our Grade 8 trip to Washington DC from June 6-9. We are eager to learn and explore in our Nation's Capital and the surroundings areas on this once in a lifetime trip with our students and staff. We appreciate all the support we have and continue to receive as we make our plans. We are sharing information with families to help ensure the overall health and safety of our school community while on this trip together. There will be a family meeting to go over all the details for the DC on Tuesday, May 16, 2023 at 6:00 PM in the BMS cafeteria. We will be welcoming our graduating seniors from SBRHS, BP & BA to come visit their middle school on Tuesday, May 30th in the afternoon as part of their high school graduation celebrations. We are so proud of all our Berkley students and wish them well in their futures. As a school we will be celebrating our Day of Awesomeness on Wednesday, May 31st here at BMS. This day is made possible by the generous donation and participation in our fall Step It Up fundraiser. Students will get to be outside with their grade to enjoy the inflatable activities, a DJ, Kona ice and some fun. We will also have our cookout celebration on this day thanks to our friends from Whitsons and our PTO for a few extras. A good time will be had by all. We will be participating in a Unified Sports Bowling event with our friends from South Coast and our TLC program along with other schools on Thursday, June 8, 2023 in Somerset. We are so happy to be collaborating with our friends for this great event. We will be having a school wide assembly on Thursday, June 15th at 1:00 PM in our gymnasium to unveil our recently created wooden mascot by Motivational speaker and artist, Jesse "The Machine" Green. You are more than welcome to join us for the big reveal. The remainder of May and June will be an exciting and busy time for the students and staff of the Berkley Middle School...we hope you can join us for some of our events and we look forward to seeing you on Friday, June 16th at our Awards Ceremony at 9:00 AM in our cafeteria and our Graduation Ceremony at 6:00 PM on our back fields. More details to come.

**AGENDA #7b: May Enrollment - Enclosed**

No significant changes, Superintendent Ryan reported that enrollment continues to remain steady.

**AGENDA ITEM #7c: Curriculum Acceleration Team (CAT)**

Superintendent Ryan reported that the Math Curriculum Resources are currently under review. The teams will visit the school district that currently have these subscriptions on May 22 and will be moving forward. Curriculum leader structure will also be set for next school year.

**AGENDA ITEM #8: Administrative and School Committee Reports**

**AGENDA ITEM #8a: Somerset Berkley Regional School Committee Update**

Mrs. Solomon had nothing to report at this time

**AGENDA ITEM #8b: School Building Committee Update**

Superintendent Ryan provided an update that the next SBC meeting will be held on May 22 and on May 24<sup>th</sup> the presentation will be made to the BOS. June 12<sup>th</sup> the vote on the preferred solution will

be made by the Building Committee. Superintendent Ryan also emphasized the importance of coming to the meetings as public input is very important to this process.

**AGENDA ITEM #8c: Policy Subcommittee update**

Superintendent reported that the initial meeting with Mr. Jim Hardy from MASC was held on May 3<sup>rd</sup>. There will be a meeting scheduled roughly every 3 weeks and the process will be to provide 1-2 new sections to the policy subcommittee with recommendations, present the whole sections as recommended to the school committee for approval, to approve recommended sections in waiting and to adopt the whole manual at the end and retire all other policies.

**AGENDA ITEM #9: Unfinished Business**

**AGENDA ITEM #9a: Budget FY24 Update**

Budget FY24 – BOS is expected to vote on a recommended budget at the May 24<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**AGENDA ITEM #9b: DESE Tiered Focused Monitoring Final Report**

The DESE Tiered Focus Monitoring (TFM) final report was provided to the committee.

**AGENDA ITEM #10: New Business**

**AGENDA ITEM #10a: Superintendent Evaluation**

Superintendent Ryan recommended and asked for feedback by June 1<sup>st</sup>, the committee members agreed.

**AGENDA ITEM #10b: Proposed Meeting Schedule for SY23-24**

A proposed meeting schedule for next year's school committee meetings was provided to the members.

**AGENDA ITEM #10c: Custodial Bid Supplies**

It was moved by Mr. Ricardo, seconded by Ms. Solomon and VOTED to approve the Custodial Bid Supply list.

**Vote: UNANIMOUS**

**AGENDA ITEM #10d: Action on Direct Certification for Free and Reduced Lunch**

In accordance with federal regulations, the Superintendent recommends that the School Committee approves participation in the free and reduced price lunch program for the 2023-2024 school year. Participation in the program enables Berkley School Department to receive food commodities from the state. This is an annual approval. It was moved by Ms. Solomon, seconded by Mr. Ricardo and VOTED to approve direct certification for free and reduced- price lunch program.

**Vote: UNANIMOUS**

**AGENDA ITEM #10e: Policy #4180**

It was moved by Mr. Ricardo, seconded by Mr. Fagan and VOTED to approve the Rollover up to 5 Days to be used by the end of July of that same calendar year for our full year hourly employees.

**Vote: UNANIMOUS**

**AGENDA ITEM #11: Superintendent Personnel Report**

**AGENDA ITEM #11a: Appointments and Transfers**

None

**AGENDA ITEM #11b: Resignations / Retirements**

Kaylee Danaher – BCS Discovery Zone Teacher is leaving to move back to CT with her family. Superintendent Ryan wishes her well and thanks her for the service provided to our students.

**AGENDA ITEM #12: Executive Session Roll Call vote**

At 7:18pm Executive Session is recommended 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 return to Open Session 8:00pm

Roll Call Vote

**VOTE: UNANIMOUS**

**AGENDA ITEM #13: ADJOURNMENT**

Respectfully submitted,  
Melissa F. Coelho