



To: The Berlin-Boylston Regional School Committee

From: Carol L. Costello, Superintendent of Schools

Date: December 12, 2023

Re: Superintendent's Report to the School Committee

School Resource Officer Forum

School Committee Chair, Meagan Grill and I met on Friday, December 8th to finalize the date of the community forum related to the potential hiring of a School Resource Officer for Tahanto Regional Middle/High School and Boylston Elementary School. The date of Monday, January 22nd from 5:00pm - 7:00pm has been confirmed with Boylston Police Chief John Annunziata. The event will be held in the Tahanto auditorium. It is my intention to begin to publicize the event in my newsletter and the school newsletters as well as our district and town websites, beginning this week and continuing through the January weeks leading up to the event.

Safety & Security of Buildings in our District

With increasing safety alerts to school districts throughout the Commonwealth, and the ongoing tragedies taking place throughout our nation, I feel it is imperative to re-visit the following: Policy ECA - Building and Grounds Security (last updated 2-6-2018); Policy KF - Community Use of School Facilities (1-11-2022); the facilities usage permission form; as well as protocols and practices currently in place in the Berlin-Boylston Regional School District and to set reasonable expectations for securing our schools during after-school hours, including weekends, and vacations.

Our numerous discussions, brought forward through the topic re: the use of Berlin Memorial School by the Town Recreation Department, have garnered additional questions and concerns that lead our School Committee Chair and I to see value in organizing an ad-hoc committee dedicated to addressing concerns of how to balance security while maximizing student opportunities for participation and use of the gyms in all three schools during these periods of time outside of the school day and weeks when school is not in session. The purpose of that committee would be in an advisory capacity to the Policy Subcommittee and School Committee at large, for the sole purpose of creating common expectations across our three schools.

I would like to entertain the idea of reaching out to members of our town recreation committees, Athletic Director, Facilities Manager, Finance Director and members of the School Committee to further discuss these issues and to develop a resolution that is reasonable to all parties while maintaining the safety and security of our students, families, staff and buildings at each school.

Therefore, I would request School Committee guidance in moving forward with this topic and begin initiating these discussions.

Community Outreach and Coordination of School Committee/Superintendent Attendance at Town Committee and Department Meetings Related to the Budget

This month, I will be working with organizations within our two towns as well as our schools and school organizations to set up Coffee Chats for the upcoming months. These include: the Berlin and Boylston Libraries, the Senior Centers, 19 Carter and any other groups interested in hosting these events. Coffee Chats will take place during morning, afternoon, and evening dates in each town.

In addition, I would like to work collaboratively with the School Committee to identify public meetings through the town finance departments, and selectboards and determine who will attend these meetings from our District. Once meeting schedules are posted and set, it will be helpful to maintain a calendar with the names of those from our district who will be attending. I recommend that we work with the Executive Assistant to the Superintendent to set that calendar by early January.