



To: The Berlin-Boylston Regional School Committee

From: Carol L. Costello, Superintendent of Schools

Date: October 10, 2023

Re: Superintendent's Report to the School Committee

1. School Resource Officer for Boylston

On November 6 , 2023, members of the Berlin-Boylston School Committee and I will be meeting with the Town of Boylston and Police Chief John A. Annunziata to discuss the need for a School Resource Officer at Tahanto Regional Middle/High School and Boylston Elementary School. Chief Annunziata and I are recommending the creation of one position to be shared across both schools and that would be funded through the Boylston Police Department budget. Our reasoning revolves around the mission and purpose of the position as described in the 2022 School Resource Officer Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that was signed, however, not executed at that time.

According to the MOU, the mission of the School Resource Officer “is to facilitate relationship-building such that students, faculty, staff and community members see the SRO as contributing to a positive school climate.” The School Resource Officer’s purpose would be, first and foremost, to promote school safety in a manner that is non-threatening and fosters a partnership between the officer, administrators, students, families and the community. This role is not intended to serve as a security guard, however, should a threat occur in or around the building during the time the officer is present, that officer would act according to their duties.

The Police Chief, in conjunction with the Superintendent, would create a rotating schedule between buildings so that their presence is maximized daily and weekly. During all times that school is not in session, the School Resource Officer would be available to serve as a regular officer in the Boylston Police Department.

2. Curriculum Review Process Moving Forward

In response to our discussion at the previous School Committee meeting, I would respectfully request that we establish an ad hoc committee to develop a timeline, procedures, protocols and a criteria for the School Committee review of curriculum and curriculum materials. Going forward, these measures will assist us in meeting the expectations of the Committee so that our school staff and administrators may move forward with the curriculum review process and selection of materials in a timely manner.

3. Department of Conservation and Recreation Site Visit to Tahanto

On Tuesday, September 26, 2023, Bernadette DeBlander, Wachusett Planner for the Department of Conservation and Recreation participated in a site visit at Tahanto Regional Middle/High School per my request. We were joined by Principal Lisa Sequeira and Facilities Manager Daniel Ayala. The site visit was intended to learn more about the history of the building and its relationship to the DCR watershed area, and to gather more knowledge to inform possible solutions for repairing and/or replacing some of the athletic fields as well as the possible expansion of parking on the grounds.

We are awaiting a follow-up report from DCR regarding the expansion of parking (paved or unpaved) on the front left side of the property as well as materials that may/may not be used to improve the condition of the varsity ballfield as well as other fields located on the property. If it is feasible to add parking, we will need to budget for the cost of doing so into our capital plan for either the FY25 or FY26 school year.

2. Updates on Tour of Schools

Since our joint tour of the schools with the Berlin-Boylston School Committee and members of the town boards and committees, and the identification of several areas in need of repair, Facilities Manager Daniel Ayala has reported that the following work has been completed:

At Tahanto Regional Middle/High School, we have received a quote for the shot clock and that is currently in the hands of the Athletic Director.. The ice machine has been repaired. Sewage lines have been snaked and cleared out in two different areas. Ongoing maintenance of these lines has been built into the preliminary FY25 budget. Paper towels have been removed from student bathrooms and the hand dryers have been reactivated.

At Boylston Elementary School, work will be done over the holidays to remove the rug and live outlets and replace the area with floor tiles. The tire swing was repaired, a metal stake has been removed near the playground area, and hanging branches have been cleared to make visible existing signage.

3. Portrait of a Graduate

To date, we currently have three parents from Boylston, two parents from Tahanto, two teachers from Boylston, two teachers from Berlin, one parent from Berlin and our administrative team who have volunteered to serve on the Portrait of a Graduate Committee. I am hoping to get an additional parent representative from Berlin and a school committee member representative by Friday, October 13th to round out our group. If anyone is interested, please contact me at my email address: ccostello@bbrsd.org.