Memorandum

To: Berlin-Boylston Regional School Committee
From: Carol L. Costello, Superintendent of Schools
Date: April 9, 2024
Re: Report to School Committee

A Commitment to Mental Health from an excerpt from the Superintendent's Newsletter dated April 1, 2024

Last week's unexpected passing of one of our high school students was a harsh reminder of the vulnerability of our teen population as they face the pressures of societal demands, social media posts, and peer influences. So much rests on the shoulders of these young people not yet fully prepared to cope with the twists and turns of life and its many challenges.

We are fortunate to have amazing resources at our fingertips including school and adjustment counselors, psychologists, teachers and even outside service providers, who stepped forward immediately when called upon to comfort and support students and staff members in the early days of shock and disbelief and throughout the week. We can never let our guard down, however, and assume that "all is well. We must find a way to understand and support our young people through increased training and raised awareness of mental health topics. That is our commitment for the 2024-2025 school year.

Berlin Lease Agreement

Our attorney representing Mirick-O'Connell, Mr. Spencer Holland, Berlin Town Administrator Kristen Rubin and their attorney, Ms. Heather White, and me to clarify terms and revise language. What you have in front of you this evening are the changes that were last made and the final document that was acceptable to both parties. Please note the language around "use of facilities," which both parties find acceptable. I am asking for a vote this evening from the School Committee to accept the terms of the lease. It will go forward to the Berlin Board of Selectmen on Monday, April 22nd, for a final vote.

Preparation for Town Meetings

I did speak to the budget at the Tahanto PTO meeting on Wednesday, March 13th directly after the budget hearing/School Committee vote, and reviewed those above level and capital items still retained in the budget as well as the reason for keeping them in. I will be attending the Berlin L.I.N.K. meeting postponed to this Thursday, April 13th to discuss the budget requests as well. Meagan may be able to join me.

April 23, 2024 School Committee Meeting – Do we want to have this meeting in preparation for possible questions on the floor at the Town Meetings?

Feedback on Celebrations and Showcases of Learning - As a follow-up to the March 20th events taking place in each of our buildings. our principals have gathered numbers of attendees and feedback from their schools. I will be meeting with the BBEA after the vacation break as well, to receive feedback from the Association in terms of planning for next year.