***A Mission Statement: To support and challenge all students to achieve personal and academic excellence in a student-centered environment.***

**BERLIN-BOYLSTON REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

Tuesday, June 17, 2024, 6:00 pm

Berlin Memorial School

Stream link https://www.youtube.com/@bbrsdlive2893/streams

***This meeting may be recorded, and your image or voice may be broadcast.***

***Present:*** School Committee: Mrs. Meagan Grill, Chair; Mrs. Julie Lee, Vice Chair; Mrs. Lori-Anne Hart, District Clerk; Mr. Michael Totman; Mrs. Jessica Deglialberti

Administration**:** Ms. Carol Costello, Superintendent; Mr. John Campbell, Berlin Memorial Principal; Ms. Jannel Fitzpatrick, Director of Pupil Personnel Services; Ms. Renee Legendre; Tahanto Assistant Principal; Mr. Paul Mara, Technology Coordinator; Ms. Lisa Sequeira, Tahanto Middle/High School Principal; Ms. Sally Stukuls, Director of Curriculum and Grants 6-12; Ms. Cinthia Sykes, Boylston Elementary Principal; Mr. Michael Wood, Interim Director of Finance & Operations;

Also present: Attorney Corey Higgins from Mirick, O'Connell, Ms. Kristen Ruben, Members of the Berlin Finance Committee

**I. Call to Order –** Mrs. Grill called the meeting to order at 6:06pm

**II. Pledge of Allegiance**

**III. Public Comments – none**

**IV. Business Items**

- Budget discussion and changes if necessary –A handout was given to all Finance Committee members with the adjusted numbers for BBRSD. At the previous meeting they were working on lowering the Tahanto assessment and budget. Mr. Michael Wood noted there were miscalculations on that day that have been corrected with information due to Chapter 70 and 71. Mrs. Grill explained four motions were going to be made. One was for the BMS budget. The second was for the BMS operating assessment. The third was for the Tahanto budget and the fourth one was for the Tahanto operating assessment for Berlin.

**A motion was made to approve the Berlin operating budget to $4,969,869.86 made by Mrs. Jessica Deglialberti and seconded by Mrs. Lori Hart, all in favor, 5-0, motion passes**

**A motion was made to approve to BMS operating assessment to $4,306,066.93 Mrs. Lori Hart and seconded by Mrs. Julie Lee, all in favor, 5-0, motion passes.**

**A motion was made to adjust the Tahanto operating budget to $12,116,011.70 made by Mrs. Lori Hart and seconded by Mrs. Julie Lee, all in favor, 5-0, motion passes.**

**A motion to approve the Tahanto operating assessment to $3,529,597.74 made by Mrs. Lori Hart and seconded by Mrs. Julie Lee. An amendment was made for Berlin's portion of the Tahanto operating assessment as $3,529,597.74 by Mrs. Jessica Deglialberti and seconded 5-0, motion passes.**

A motion was made to adjourn and then decided not to adjourn.

The total assessment for BMS and Tahanto minus the debt was $8,295.599 Mrs. Lori Hart sent the numbers via email to Berlin Finance Committee. The number was reduced by $225,000, which was rounded. The school committee and the Berlin Finance Committee discussed what the proper amount that needed to be reduced was. Mrs. Grill explained it was $225,000 because for the Chapter 70 and 71 were originally too high. They had to be lowered in the current assessment calculation. Mrs. Grill stated that she would ask the moderator if she can explain this to town meeting attendees.

The BMS gym met capacity and they discussed options for the individuals waiting.

Mr. Scott Shultz asked if they could look at circuit breaker funds since it was higher than expected and school choice numbers? Mr. Michael Wood noted the audit was correct. They added $90,000 into the budget from school choice at BMS. They discussed options about what else could be used. Ms. Mary Porter inquired if the school committee would be willing to put $500,000.00 into it or not? She asked the School Committee to show good will by offering to come to the town meeting with something to offer.

Mrs. Grill explained BBRSD already put $90,000 of the $225,000 which was school choice money, a chunk came from E & D and the rest are in cuts for BMS. At Tahanto, there are less cuts, but almost $500,000.00 in E & D in fy24 they had $600,000.00 in expenses total budget. Mr. Michael Totman noted they want to be responsible with the funds for years to come.

The group agreed they needed to figure out a number so that the people could vote. $116,000 of free cash (taking funds from Highland Commons and cuts in the police department) was discussed by Berlin Finance Committee and Mr. Shultz asked if the rest of the committee agreed. Ms. Porter was unsure. Mr. Cliff Laporte noted he wanted to support the schools.

The whole group discussed how they needed to get a number since they were past 6:30pm and did not want to vote to get shut down.

Second to lower assessment by $150,000 – 2 for, 2 against, 1 abstain
Roll call: Mr. Michael Totman - Aye, Mrs. Julie Lee- Aye, Mrs. Lori Hart - Nay, Mrs. Jessica Deglialberti - Aye, and Mrs. Meagan Grill - Nay
(Does not pass but Fin comm thought it did so they go in to start the meeting.)

The School Committee decides to keep meeting open rather than adjourning

They decide to revote $4,155,277.00

Mrs. Grill asked for a motion to adjust to $4,155,277.00

A motion was made and seconded to adjust the Berlin Memorial assessment

Mr. Julie Lee – Aye, Mrs. Jessica Deglialberti – Aye, Mrs. Lori Hart – Nay, Mrs. Megan Grill – Nay, Mr. Michael Totman - Aye

Still doesn't pass - Must have a 2/3 majority to pass

Discussion ensues and the committee decides to take the vote one last time. This time all members vote aye and it passes, (Berlin Memorial Assessment is adjusted to $4,155,277.00). They send that info by email to the Finance Committee and the meeting is able to take place. The townspeople vote.

The committee adjourned at the conclusion of the town meeting. Motion made and was passed.

## V. Upcoming Meeting

- September, 10, 2024 Regular Meeting

*The listing of items is those reasonably anticipated by the Chair which may be discussed at the meeting. Not all items listed may, in fact, be discussed and other items not listed may also be brought up for discussion to the extent permitted by law.*

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