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, November 12, 2024, 5:00 pm
Tahanto Regional Middle/High School
Multi Purpose Room
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. Lisa Mair; Mrs. Jessica Deglialberti

Administration: Mr. Albert G. Ganem Jr., Interim Superintendent; Mr. Dan Ayala, Facilities Director; Ms. Nicole Bilotta, Executive Assistant to the 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; Mr. Aaron Osborne, Director of Finance and Operations; Ms. Lisa Sequeira, Tahanto Middle/High School Principal; Ms. SallyStukuls, Director of Curriculum and Grants 6-12; Ms. Cinthia Sykes, Boylston Elementary Principal;

Also present: Members of the public

I. **Call to Order -** Mrs. Grill called the meeting to order 5:05pm

II. **Pledge of Allegiance**

III. **Public Comments -** Mrs. Grill welcomed Mrs. Beth Mancini to the School Committee. Mrs. Jessica Deglialberti congratulated Mrs. Lori Hart and Mrs. Lisa Mair on their reelection.

Ms. Christine Medeiros from Boylston gave a public comment- She noted Boylston does not get to participate in the lottery for the Assabet Valley Collaborative. They are pretty much at capacity and primary town admissions were the only ones taken last year. Shrewsbury and Leicester are starting their own vocational programing. She was attending the meeting to listen to their talk about vocational education.

IV. **Communications** Mrs. Grill received several emails about vocational schools for Boylston students Mrs. Deglialberti attended the MASC conference where they distributed the Dignity Index that that students can use to talk to each other. BES was congratulated on the approval of their roof project funding.

V. **Consent Agenda motion to approve made by Mrs. Lori Hart and seconded by Mrs. Jessica Deglialberti, all in favor vote - 6-0, motion passes.**

- October 10, 2024 Open Meeting Minutes
- Warrants Payable

VI. **BDA - School Committee Organizational Meeting** Mrs. Deglialberti spoke about appointing an MASS/MASC delegate that votes on behalf of the school committee on resolutions at the conferences. Mrs. Hart spoke about how BBRSD had done it previously. The plan is to vote next fall before the conference.

- School Committee Chair and Vice Chair Election **- Vote**
    - **Mr. Ganem asked for nominations for chair of BBRSD school committee, motion to**
      Mrs. Jessica Deglialberti nominated herself and seconded by Mrs. Lori Hart.
      Mrs. Meagan Grill nominated Mr. Michael Totman and seconded by Mrs. Lisa Mair
        - **i. Roll call vote**
            - **a. Mrs. Lisa Mair - Michael Totman**
            - **b. Mr. Michael Totman - Michael Totman**
            - **c. Mrs. Meagan Grill - Michael Totman**
            - **d. Mrs. Lori Hart - Michael Totman**
            - **e. Mrs. Jessica Deglialberti - Jessica Deglialberti**
            - **f. Beth Mancini - Jessica Deglialberti**
        - **ii. 4-2 vote, Mr. Michael Totman voted in as the chair.**
    - **Vice chair nominations were made.**
      Mrs. Lori Hart nominated Mrs. Meagan Grill and seconded by Mrs. Lisa Mair.
      Mrs. Jessica Deglialberti nominated herself and seconded by Mrs. Lori Hart.
        - **i. Roll call vote**
            - **a. Mrs. Lisa Mair - Meagan Grill**
            - **b. Mr. Michael Totman - Meagan Grill**
            - **c. Mrs. Meagan Grill - Meagan Grill**
            - **d. Mrs. Lori Hart - Meagan Grill**
            - **e. Mrs. Jessica Deglialberti - Jessica Deglialberti**
            - **f. Beth Mancini - Jessica Deglialberti**
        - **ii. 4-2 vote, Mrs. Meagan Grill voted in as the vice chair.**

- Appointment of Subcommittees - The annual report has descriptions about the subcommittees. The committee will wait until the December meeting to decide which committee they would like to be on. Mr. Totman asked Mrs. Grill to replace him on the superintendent search committee.

VII. **Reports**

- Student Rep- *Mr. Matthew Dowd* - Mr. Dowd shared some of the events at the school which included orientation, homecoming, and the Haunted Hallway. The Haunted Hallway raised a good amount of money for the student council. A Thanksgiving Food Drive will be held. There is a Student mentoring Club where they meet to tutor, help with homework or study for a test

with any middle or high school student. They are trying to think of ways to move it to the elementary schools, as well. Mr. Down noted that students love the new lunches and the breakfast. This year is a growing year for sports teams as many athletics graduated.The Central Mass Championship was won by girls soccer. The football team is close to going to the superbowl. He also highlighted that BBRSD has phenomenal staff and teachers. The Student Council is working on school spirit and getting students involved in the community. Mr. Dowd also wants to work on bullet point highlights of the school committee meetings to inform students.

- Chair's Report
    - Vocational education options for Boylston - Mrs. Grill noted how Berlin students have a direct line to Assabet and Boylston students do not. State law changed because of equity reasons for towns paying into it. Berlin pays into the collaborative where Boylston does not pay. The committee feels its not fair. Mrs. Grill asked for the district to look into it. Mr. Ganem is meeting with Ms. Laruren Gonzalez about the Assabet collaborative with Mr. Greg Piccariello. He wants to be able to give the students choices and determine what kind of pathways can be created at the schools. Mr. Ganem asked for for this to be a reoccurring agenda item. Mrs. Deglialberti noted Jobcore was at the conference and Mass Academy. Which could be options for BBRSD students.
    - FY25 Calendar - People have reached out about half-days during the year. The intention was to help increase PD for teachers. Mrs. Grill spoke with Mr. Ganem and they are not able to change throughout the year due to logistics. First meeting for next year's calendar is Thursday. A survey will go out for feedback.

- Business Office Update - *Mr. Aaron Osborne* - Mr. Osborne has been going through and prioritizing items. He wants to make sure payroll is operating and commended Mrs. Patti Spongberg on her work to get it right. He is working to close out the FY24 school year. Accounts receivable was added to Infinite Visions software, which was not previously set up. BBRSD now has an Accounts Receivable/Accounts Payable Coordinator, Mr. Arnold Cerezo. They are working on the FY25 budget and proforma FY26 budget. He noted the work Mr. Dan Deedy did for the district.
    - Berlin and Boylston Assessment - **Vote** (If Needed) - He would like to put a budget together and needs the school committee to tell him what direction to go in. They can go with the higher assessment amount or go with the lower assessment amount and would need to adjust the budget.

      Minutes before the town meeting, numbers were agreed on and the motion on the floor was higher than the number they agreed to. Mrs. Grill spoke with DESE on this topic. Based on the decision of the committee, Mr. Osborne will be able to plan ahead. BBRSD is within their authority to vote the higher number. Berlin initiated the talks with DESE. DESE is to send them everything in writing for a clean understanding of everything. If the committee did vote for the lower budget number it would not be considered a failure. The committee would like the letter from DESE for clarification.

      Mr. Totman would like to honor the number he agreed on with the Berlin Fincomm and Selectboard. Boylston is paying their assessment now according to the higher number and BBRSD has been operating with the higher number, as of now. The first thing to look at

is if there are funds to fill the gaps versus having cuts anywhere. Mr. Osborne noted the amount that would be cut from each school. He would like to look into the revenues to see if they could fill the gap for the higher number and report back at the December 10 meeting. Mr. Totman asked to operate with the lower number. Mrs Grill noted not taking Boylston funds to fill the Berlin gaps and it would be great to find it elsewhere. Mr. Ganem made it clear they will not be reducing staffing.

Five minutes break at 6:16pm

Meeting resumed at 6:24pm

- Superintendent's Report - *Mr. Albert G. Ganem Jr.* - Mr. Ganem noted he went to the MASS/MASC conference with Mrs. Deglilberti and will share information about it in an upcoming meeting. The focus of the meeting will be MCAS. The curriculum directors will be presenting the data.

- MCAS Update - Mr. John Campbell & Ms. Sally Stukuls - Mrs. Stukuls presented the Tahanto Math MCAS data, which included graphs, scatter plots, and comparisons to the state. Mr. John Campbell presented the Elementary Math MCAS data with graphs, charts, scatterplots and comparisons to the state, as well. Ms. Stukuls and Mr. Campbell also presented the ELA MCAS data for the district. Lastly, they presented the STE results and comparisons. Mr. Ganem noted there are things BBRSD is doing really well and areas of concern.

  BBRSD is looking at other like districts and seeing how they did compared to them. They are taking the time to look at where they are going to concentrate their efforts going forward. They will come back later on with areas where they want to act on. Mrs. Grill noted she wanted to know if the difference is because of equity between the schools or is it maybe just the students. Mr. Ganem noted having more instructional coaches going forward. Mr Campbell explained that there are many variables that affect those results. They will be looking at how BBRSD curriculum aligns with the MA standards. BBRSD will be looking further into the 7th grade results to see what work needs to be done to move them forward and is also looking at factors that impact student performance. The jumps from elementary and middle school is a big adjustment. Mr. Ganem wants to do the work on the strategic plan. This is the last year of the three year plan and a new one will need to be created. Mr. Campbell noted the items need to be strategically realistic on what can be done. Mr. Ganem noted schools should be looking into where the kids are getting into for college. Ms. Sequerira shared that she presented that information to the committee in June. Mrs. Deglialberti recommended seeing if students were getting scholarships, as well.

- Any business unforeseen by the chair within 48 hours of the meeting

VIII. <u>Business Items - Both MOUs are signed by the chiefs</u>

- Approval of Berlin MOU **- Vote - A motion to approve the Mou with the Berlin Police Department was made by Mrs. Lori Hart and seconded by Mrs. Meagan Grill, All in Favor, 6-0 Vote, motion passes**

- Approval of Boylston MOU **- Vote A motion to approve the MOU with the Boylston Police Department made byMrs. Lori Hart and seconded by Mrs. Meagan Grill, All in Favor, 6-0 Vote, motion passes**

IX. **<u>Executive Session:</u>** Motion to enter Executive Session pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 30A, Section 21(a), Purpose (3), to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining (Berlin-Boylston Educators Association (BBEA)) and litigation (Konisky vs. BBRSD) if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining and litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares and not be returning to open session made by Mrs. Lori Hart, and seconded by Mrs. Lisa Mair, Roll Call - Mrs. Beth Mancini, Mrs. Jessica Deglialberti, Mrs. Meagan Grill, Mrs. Lori Hart, Mrs. Lisa Mair, Mr. Michael Totman - All Aye, Executive Session Entered at 7:03pm.

X. **<u>Upcoming Meeting</u>**

- December 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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