Gmail

Michael Totman <mtotman@bbrsd.org>

Sykes departure

3 messages

abby mathews <abmking@gmail.com> Thu, Apr 3, 2025 at 12:58 PM
To: Meagan Grill <mgrill@bbrsd.org>, Lori-Anne Hart <lhart@bbrsd.org>, Julie Lee <jlee@bbrsd.org>, jdeglialberti@bbrsd.org, lmair@bbrsd.org, Michael Totman <mtotman@bbrsd.org>, "emancini@bbrsd.org" <emancini@bbrsd.org>, "aganem@bbrsd.org" <aganem@bbrsd.org>, csykes@bbrsd.org

To School Committee,

As a parent of BES students, I'm so sorry to hear that Principal Sykes is leaving us. She brought an authentic and strong voice of leadership to the school. She was attentive and responsive to students and parents, and each of my interactions with her left me feeling happy to have my children in her school.

I'm even more sorry to hear rumors that part of her reason for leaving has to do with unsavory interactions with our school board. I know rumors can be rampant in our small town, but if this is even in part true, I hope the school committee can spend time and attention on reviewing the behavior and language it uses in their dealings with our school staff.

In a time of school budget uncertainty, when the tradition of public education seems to be under threat, our community needs stability and dedicated educators in our schools, and the recent pattern of turnover in principals and superintendents is worrisome.Our small school will now have four separate principals in the time that my kids have attended— something is wrong.

I expect transparency and attention to this issue from our school board, and I hope that Principal Sykes will leave a detailed exit interview to help us understand how to stop this revolving door pattern of our school principals.

Abigail Mathews

Michael Totman <mtotman@bbrsd.org> Thu, Apr 3, 2025 at 12:59 PM
To: abmking@gmail.com

Thank you for your email. I'm currently away from the office and focusing on various projects but will be sure to respond when I return. thank you.

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Michael Totman, Chair
Berlin Boylston Regional School Committee
508.386.5000

Michael Totman <mtotman@bbrsd.org> Thu, Apr 3, 2025 at 1:44 PM
To: abby mathews <abmking@gmail.com>
Cc: Meagan Grill <mgrill@bbrsd.org>, Lori-Anne Hart <lhart@bbrsd.org>, Julie Lee <jlee@bbrsd.org>, jdeglialberti@bbrsd.org, lmair@bbrsd.org, "emancini@bbrsd.org" <emancini@bbrsd.org>, "aganem@bbrsd.org" <aganem@bbrsd.org>, csykes@bbrsd.org

Thank you for your concern. I believe I can speak for the committee that we are also emotional how Mrs. Sykes is leaving, but respect her decision as it seems to be based on personal reasons for her. This is a personnel matter so we won't be able to comment much more on that.

Mrs. Sykes decision to take a new opportunity may be tough for our district, but it is her decision and we wish her all the best.

She will remain the principal through the end of the year and more information will be coming soon. Please appreciate that these are personnel, and human, issues and things may take time as all involved get together.

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