Gmail **Michael Totman <mtotman@bbrsd.org>**

BES

3 messages

Caitlin Rizzardi <caitlin.rizzardi@gmail.com> Thu, Apr 3, 2025 at 9:48 AM
To: Michael Totman <mtotman@bbrsd.org>, Meagan Grill <mgrill@bbrsd.org>, Lori-Anne Hart <lhart@bbrsd.org>, jdeglialberti@bbrsd.org, lmair@bbrsd.org, emancini@bbrsd.org, aganem@bbrsd.org

Good morning,
I just wanted to reach out about Mrs. Sykes' announcement yesterday.

As a parent for 10 years and an educator for 18 years, I am very concerned about the high rate of turnover over the past several years at BES. As a parent, my oldest, who will be in fifth grade next year, will have had four principals in her time in elementary school. This creates a sense of uncertainty on many levels and erodes the community.

Educationally, there is research that shows high principal turnover is associated with lower student achievement, school improvement efforts, and staff morale and retention.

I know some of the staff disagrees with Mr. Ganem's assertion that BBRSD is a good district that needs to become a great district. I am in full support of that statement as there is a lot of room for improvement. I'm extremely concerned that now we are going back to square one.

We need to figure out why administration is not staying at BES and address these root causes. I suggest running an honest and transparent exit interview with Mrs. Sykes, being clear with the staff and community as to next steps, and having a new principal search committee formed as soon as possible including BES teachers and parents.

I would volunteer for that committee in a heartbeat.

Thanks so much,
Caitlin Rizzardi

Michael Totman <mtotman@bbrsd.org> Thu, Apr 3, 2025 at 9:48 AM
To: caitlin.rizzardi@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> Sun, Apr 6, 2025 at 7:28 PM
To: Caitlin Rizzardi <caitlin.rizzardi@gmail.com>
Cc: Meagan Grill <mgrill@bbrsd.org>, Lori-Anne Hart <lhart@bbrsd.org>, jdeglialberti@bbrsd.org, lmair@bbrsd.org, emancini@bbrsd.org, aganem@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.
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