Berlin-Boylston Regional School District
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Date: December 10, 2025
From: Aaron Osborne, Director of Finance & Operations
To: The Berlin-Boylston Regional School Committee
Re: Public Records Requests

As you may be aware, given a number of emails sent to you requesting information for this purpose, we have had a large number of fairly complex and lengthy public records requests this year. Some of these requests have suggested a lack of transparency from the district; a message we have heard through other channels as well and continue making efforts to address within the bounds of the law. We are by all means mindful of our obligation to fulfill these requests as well as the transparency concerns raised. We also note that among the requests we received included requests for a log of public records requests and open meeting law claims; we have no such actual logs and the steps outlined below would satisfy that request.

Therefore, we would suggest that the district document all such requests and concerns in the applicable sections of our website as follows:

1. The original request or concern,
2. Any exchanges with the requestor related to the request/concern,
3. All responsive documents to the request, including reasons for any items denied, and
4. The total time and cost of the request to the district and any amounts charged to the requestor in accordance with law.

All of these items are, by nature, public records and would be subject to separate public records requests. Thus, it would make sense to make these available should such an interest occur. Additionally, most public records requests indicate they are making their request in the public interest; this would surely fulfill that interest.

Given the above (these are all public documents), we do not believe that enacting these practices would necessitate the approval of the school committee. Nonetheless, we felt it made sense to ask the School Committee to be part of our efforts towards being more transparent in our activities through a vote to support this endeavor.

Recommendation: That the Berlin-Boylston Regional School Committee votes to affirm adding all public records requests and open meeting law claims, including pertinent communications, responsive documents, and associated costs to the district website, retroactive to July 1, 2025.

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