

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

BERLIN-BOYLSTON REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES

Tuesday, June 6, 2023

6:30 p.m.

Tahanto Regional Middle High School
1001 Main Street, Boylston, MA 01505
Multi-Purpose Room

Attendance:

Administration: Ms. Carol Costello, Superintendent of Schools; Mrs. Nancy Konisky, Director of Finance; Mrs. Janell Fitzpatrick, Director of Pupil Personnel Services; Ms. Sally Stukuls, Interim-Principal of Tahanto MS/HS; Ms. Kara Ford, Interim Asst Principal of Tahanto MS/HS; Mr. John Campbell, Principal of Berlin Memorial School; Mrs. Dawn-Marie Ayles, Interim Principal of Boylston Elementary School

School Committee: Mr. Michael Totman, Chair; Mrs. Meagan Grill, Vice Chair; Mrs. Lori-Anne Hart, District Clerk; Mrs. Lisa Mair, Mrs. Jessica Degliaberti, Mrs. Julie Lee

(Minutes Taken by Lori-Anne Hart, District Clerk)

I. Call to Order: 6:31pm

II. Pledge of Allegiance

III. Public Comments:

- Mrs. Kyle Burns, Berlin, expressed gratitude for past year, requested presence at Summer Reading Workshop, shared information regarding vote on BMS playground equipment.
- Mr. Totman moved vote from Business Item Number 5 to now:
Mrs. Lee made a motion to approve the LINK's Playground Donation from the Fun Run. Mrs. Degliaberti seconded.

Vote: 6-0. Motion Passes.

[Playground Improvement Letter-BBRSD School Committee.pdf](#)

IV. Communications:

Three students, Addison Lee, Coralie Shea and Connor Shea, presented on their experience at Nature's Classroom.

V. Consent Agenda: Struck from agenda due to missing May 3rd minutes from Mrs, Lisa Courchaine, who switched positions. **Moved to August Agenda**

VI. Reports

- Caroline MacKenzie, who graduated from Tahanto 2 days prior, thanked the committee

for her role as the student representative on the Board. She shared a student desire for that position to have voting rights at next year's meetings.

1) Chair's Report - *Mr. Michael Totman*

- SRO Discussion
 - [SRO Request](#)
 - The purpose is not to decide role/responsibilities but whether district wants to pursue SRO's. "No" vote means no future discussion; "Yes" vote means additional meetings to discuss details.
 - This was brought to the school committee's attention when a Boylston Select Board member commented on a town social media page that SRO's were not considered due to the committee's lack of a formal request to the towns.
 - A formal request was drafted and presented at the meeting.
 - Discussion follows regarding policy and laws (saved for future meetings), how Officer Goody in Berlin is currently used/viewed per MOU, explanation of officers' roles—they would not be there for enforcement but for community & relationship building as well as safety, explanation that if SRO's are pursued the chiefs would meet with administration to craft the role according to Berlin & Boylston's specific needs and wants.
 - Chair reminds committee that SRO's are big financial commitment, that the community has asked for them, that their role would be positive, that both Police Departments have been very helpful and collaborative at our drills and in our 2022-23 emergency situations.
- Technology Update - *Mr. Paul Mara*
 - [Technology Report School Committee June 06 2023.pdf](#)
 - Forms should be online in the fall; training has been delayed due to ongoing hiring of administrators who will need to know how to utilize the technology.
 - Mr. Mara plans to craft his yearly goals around this initiative as well as others.
 - Design of new website will take 11-14 weeks. District-wide calendar will be included, and the School Committee will contribute/help determine what goes on the web site.
 - Student Representative, Ms. Caroline MacKenzie, suggests the assistance of technology interns from Tahanto. Mr. Mara states he used to run a classroom designed around students as technology leaders.
- Ms. Nancy Filgate from the Boylston Historical Society shares a publication that was released in May, completed with extensive research done by past and present Tahanto students.
 - Leah Withers, class of '22, is present and her name is displayed on the bottom of the publication.
 - The idea for the research that turned into a book stemmed from a chance meeting of Ms. Filgate and Ms. Costello at the Boylston Deli. Mr. Pacheco helped to find student researchers from his AP History class.

- Published this year, the book has 485 pages and over 3,000 footnotes, many cited to original source documents.
- Book Presentation will be on Tuesday, June 20, at 6:30pm at the Boylston Historical Society (7 Central Street). Books will be available for purchase and RSVP's are appreciated.

2) Principals Reports

- TAH Cell Phone Survey Results - Kara Ford shares results from slides below [Cell Phone Use Inquiry \(1\).pptx](#)
 - Forty out of 60+ staff completed the survey and they could complete it with or without email identification.
 - Ms. MacKenzie expressed displeasure with the idea of a cell phone ban, she felt the students would feel slighted and upset. She requested that the schools work with technology rather than against it.
 - School committee members explained it wasn't a punishment and discussed why a cell phone ban was being considered: distractions, lower test scores, mental health reasons, less sociability, likelihood of incoming ban via DESE, grant options for piloting, etc.
 - Mr. Totman agreed with Ms. MacKenzie's statement that "technology is keeps coming, you should work with it rather than banning it." He expressed a desire to see etiquette classes for students, pointing out that part of the issue was the school not following its own policy on classroom use.
- TAH Middle & High School Presentation by Ms. Stukuls
[June 2023 End of Year Report for School Committee June 6th, 2023](#)
 - Additional information not in report: There were 8 Assabet openings for Berlin students, 5 applied, one declined and the other 4 accepted. A total of 4 students will be leaving Tahanto for Assabet next year.
 - Ms. MacKenzie suggested we find more opportunities for students *outside* of the school itself, that colleges aren't just looking for school clubs and sports but on community opportunities and engagement.
- BMS Elementary School Presentation by Mr. Campbell
[Berlin school committee report 6 2 23.docx](#)
 - Additional information not in report: Thank you to Mrs. Kyle Burns who revitalized LINK at BMS, making them a very active part of the school.

Mr. Totman calls for a recess due to the length of the meeting: 8:24pm

Called back to order: 8:32pm

- BES Elementary School by Mrs. Dawn-Marie Ayles
[BES School Committee Report 6 2 23.pdf](#)
 - Rather than addressing the specifics in the provided report, Mrs. Ayles presented a [report card](#) for the staff at Boylston Elementary School. Some

staff were present, and Mrs. Ayles left the meeting with them immediately after her presentation.

3) Acting Superintendent of Schools by Ms. Carol Costello

[BBRSD School Committee Mtg 6-6-23 - Superintendent's Report.docx](#)

- Donations from Crest were given to the BES PTO for a cell site review, which will be conducted on June 20th. This is a 4–6-hour assessment.
- Kindergarten Numbers at Boylston 2023-2024 - discussion re: projection
 - Three classes were projected with a number that has now risen to 63.
 - The paraprofessionals that the school committee advocated for will be of great help but the overall number will be watched. The committee is being told about rising numbers now so there are no surprises in August. If the number continues to rise, we may need to meet over the summer to problem-solve.
 - There are 26 kindergarteners at BMS, spread amongst 2 classrooms.
 - Ms. Costello met with Central Massachusetts Planning Commission who will help us with long-range planning due to the rising population.

4) Director of Pupil Personnel by Mrs. Jannel Fitzpatrick

Mrs. Fitzpatrick explained requests for added positions listed below as well as explanation for the need:

[PPS: FSP and Float Nurse](#)

- Mrs. Fitzpatrick advocated to keep our float nurse for 2 days a week due to the district's significant needs (feeding tubes, insulin, field trips). The district can also retain our current floating nurse who has been consistent for 2 years and is familiar with the students, protocols, and the schools.

[PPS: Bridges Teacher for Berlin](#)

- There will be three new students in kindergarten next year who will benefit from this program. The establishment of a substantially separate program for severe needs at BMS will help to keep students in district—in their towns, with their friends—while offering considerable savings.

[BRYT Academic Coordinator Job Description \(1\).docx](#)

- This program has been in the district since early 2022, approval is needed for the job description of the the academic coordinator.

5) Director of Finance and Operations by Ms. Nancy Konisky

[Financial Aspect Floating Nurse and FSP](#)

- The cost of this professional will be covered by increasing allocation from circuit breaker. Additionally, funds from out of district positions as well as extra funding from the state will cover this deficit.

[Memo from Director of Finance \(2\).pdf](#)

- The district will receive reimbursement for BMS's elevator repair.
- BES building assessment has been completed with results expected by the end of the summer.
- Boy Scouts are building a shed for BES.
- Surplus items from Central Office are up for approval.

- The district is going to buy paper in bulk for first time due to vast savings/storage availability

[Elementary Health Teacher - Job Description.docx](#)

- This position will be .6 at BES and .4 at BMS

[School Library Media Specialist - Job Description.pdf](#)

- Eliminate/Combine Librarian position with a multimedia specialist.
- The above supports our District Improvement Plan, will aid in project-based learning, will offer professional development/training to teachers, and will be beneficial to students for the technology world they will be entering.
- Elimination of Librarian position allows for hiring of Health Teacher, also part of our District Improvement Plan.
- Ms. Costello addresses Student Representative, Ms. MacKenzie's, request for students to be heard regarding voting & technology, noting she would like to start a student group where their voices can be heard.
- Mrs. Konisky explains the Bryt Program is a stipend position and will be covered via position movements (retirements and new hires).
- Mrs. Degliaberti is worried about taking money from accounts like Circuit Breaker, which are diminishing faster than being replenished, and the unpredictable needs that might occur as the school year progresses.
- Mrs. Konisky explains that despite the big asks, we will only be taking approximately \$77,000 from those accounts, with the rest being covered, leaving an additional \$200,000 for the rest of the year.

VII. Business Items

1. Policy KCDA - First Read
[DRAFT JUNE 2023 KCDA - COMMUNITY FUND RAISING FOR SCHOOL](#)
2. Job Description - Auditorium Manager - First Read
[Auditorium Manager \(updated 6-2-23\).docx](#)
3. **Mrs. Hart made a motion to accept the SRO Request. Mrs. Lee Seconded. Vote 6-0. Motion PASSES.**
4. **Mrs. Grill made a motion to accept revised Policy EBCFA. Mrs. Lee Seconded. Vote 5-0, 1 Abstention. Motion PASSES.**
[DRAFT JUNE 2023 EBCFA - FACE COVERINGS](#)
5. **Mrs. Grill made a motion for the Approval of FY23 Budget Reclasses. Mrs. Lee Seconded. Vote 6-0. Motion PASSES.**
[FY23 Budget Transfer as of 05-31-2023.xlsx](#)

- 6. Mrs. Hart made a motion for the Annual approval of Student Activity Accounts. Mrs. Degliaberti Seconded.**
Vote 6-0. Motion PASSES.
[FY23 Student Activity Accounts for Approval](#)
- 7. Mrs. Degliaberti made a motion to approve the edited school calendar as presented by Ms. Costello. Mrs. Grill Seconded.**
Vote: 6-0. Motion PASSES
- 8. Mrs. Hart made a motion to approve the 2023-24 School Committee Calendar. Mrs. Lee Seconded.**
Discussion follows, regarding change from 6:30pm meeting time to 5pm.
Vote 5-1. Motion PASSES
[Calendar 23-24 \(6-6-23final\) v4.docx](#)
- 9. Mrs. Hart made a motion to accept the Berlin Scholarship Award Recipients. Mrs. Grill Seconded.**
Vote 6-0. Motion PASSES.
[Berlin-Boylston School Committee 2023 award recipients.docx](#)
- 10. Mrs. Grill made a motion to approve the Marion Hoffman Scholarship Award Recipients. Mrs. Hart Seconded.**
Vote: 6-0. Motion PASSES.
- 11. Mrs. Hart made a motion to accept the [Coppypaperbid.pdf](#) bid. Mrs. Lee Seconded.**
Vote 6-0. Motion PASSES.
- 12. Mrs. Hart made a motion to accept the [Central Office Surplus](#) funds. Mrs. Lee Seconded.**
Vote 6-0. Motion PASSES.
- 13. Mrs. Hart made a motion to approve the Assabet Valley Collaborative rates. Mrs. Lee Seconded.**
Vote 6-0, Motion PASSES.
[FY24 AVC Proposed rates revised 04.28.23.pdf](#)
- 14. Mrs. Degliaberti made a motion to approve the approve Health Teacher Job Description. Mrs. Lee Seconded.**
Vote 6-0. Motion PASSES.
[Elementary Health Teacher - Job Description.docx](#)
- 15. Mrs. Hart made a motion to approve the Health Teacher Position. Mrs. Grill Seconded.**
Vote 6-0. Motion PASSES.

16. Mrs. Hart made a motion to approve the Floating nurse for 2 days a week. Mrs. Lee Seconded.

Vote 6-0. Motion PASSES.

17. Mrs. Hart made a motion to approve the Family Success Partnership Program. Mrs. Lee Seconded.

Vote 6-0. Motion PASSES.

18. Mrs. Hart made a motion to approve the Bridges Teacher at Berlin Memorial School. Mrs. Lee Seconded.

Vote 6-0. Motion PASSES.

19. Mrs. Hart made a motion to approve the stipend and job description for the BRYT Program Academic Coordinator. Mrs. Lee Seconded.

Vote 6-0. Motion PASSES.

VIII. Discussion - 2023 - 2024 Priorities

- Open Discussion: Committee agrees to table this discussion until our Administrative Retreat in July with Mr. Anthony Bent.

IX. To enter executive session to discuss negotiations with collective bargaining units (BBEA) and not to return to open session—**NOT NEEDED**

X. Upcoming Meeting Dates

- August 22nd

XI. Adjournment:

Mrs. Hart made a motion to adjourn. Mrs. Lee Seconded.

Vote 6-0. Motion PASSES.

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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