

# BERLIN-BOYLSTON REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE

## Open Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, February 7, 2023

6:30 p.m.

ZOOM MEETING

Approved March 7, 2023

*IN ATTENDANCE: Michael Totman, Chair; Meagan Grill, Vice Chair; Lori-Anne Hart, District Clerk; Jessica Degliaberti; Julie Lee; Carol Costello, Acting-Superintendent; Nancy Konisky, Director of Finance; Daniel Ayala, Director of Facilities; Janell Fitzpatrick, Director of Pupil Personnel; Paul Mara, Director of Technology; John Campbell, BMS Principal; Dawn-Marie Ayles, BES Principal; Sally Stukuls, Interim Principal Tahanto; Kara Ford, Interim-Assistant Principal, Tahanto*

*(Open Meeting Minutes taken by Lori-Anne Hart, District Clerk)*

### **I. Call to Order: 6:33pm**

### **II. Pledge of Allegiance**

### **III. Public Comments**

None (*Mr. Totman waits a few minutes in case people are just logging on*)

### **IV. Communications**

A. Mrs. Grill shares that she & Ms. Costello attended the BES Student Council & PTO meeting where a parent asked what the policy was on Apple & Vtech devices.

1. Mr. Totman suggests looking to MASC for direction and requested it be added to the next policy meeting for review.

### **V. REPORTS**

*Mr. Totman states change in agenda order, with Superintendent's Report moved out of order to accommodate the presence of both the Berlin & Boylston Police Departments*

#### **D. Superintendent's Report-*Ms. Carol Costello***

##### **(1) Crisis Team "Shelter in Place" Debrief &**

##### **(2) Improving Communication Capabilities at Tahanto**

- a. Mr. Totman asks for members'/others' confidentiality due to possible investigation as well as out of respect for those involved, states purpose of discussion is to review what happened at the schools, the district & towns' reaction to it, and what can be done in the future.
- b. Ms. Costello introduces police chiefs from both towns, fire chief from Boylston, and resource officer from Berlin, who were invited to discuss procedures during the shelter in place and the 2 meetings that followed (first was debrief next day, second was semi-annual meeting on 2/2 with heads of DPW present to help with planning).
- c. Crisis Team concern was lack of communication/inability of cellular connection & radios at Tahanto.
- d. John Annunziata, Police Chief of Boylston:
  - i. Communication is limiting at both schools but especially at Tahanto.

- ii. Town has taken some steps to better it, but radios work off a Repeater; several years prior, one was installed at Tahanto for more coverage but isn't completely effective, it also only works on Mobile Radios/not cellular coverage. At the last crisis meeting, Boylston DPW Superintendent Steven Mero said Verizon will be placing antennas on telephone poles along Rte 70 which should help with cell phone reception; we won't know the impact until up and functioning.
- Mrs. Degliaberti asks timeline, Chief says approximately a few months.
  - Ms. Costello states she met with the Light Department, the 5G antennae will start at Tahanto and run down Route 70, 5-6 feet apart. For now, it will just link to Verizon but hoping will include other providers in future. This will help with exterior cell reception but not interior.
  - Chief Annunziata notes drills have showed that they can link cells to the Wi-Fi inside but it is unreliable and connection is lost once building is exited. Hoping Verizon can help outside but not sure if will help inside or not.
- iii. Ms. Costello asks Mr. Mara to speak to another option: RSRF, a nationwide company that specializes in providing solid cell signal in building. They are carrier agnostic. They do on a full on-site survey so that coverage is near 100%. Estimate is based on floor plans/history/structure and is \$170,00 with additional cost (30-40k) for running wires to selected electrical and internet to drops. They don't leave until Internet is assured at all sites.
- iv. Joe Flannagan, Fire Chief, interjects that building code states need for bi-directional antennae within large buildings to support the UHF radio frequencies for emergency services (separate from cellular). None at school, can't connect portable radios to dispatch within Tahanto unless FD vehicle equipped with Repeater is parked outside. Police have no radio signals in school. Hoping new system will help—much less than \$200,000.
- Ms. Costello asks if new system will help with that, Mr. Flannagan says no, that building should have had them installed at build but they were cut from the budget at last minute.
  - Ms. Costello suggests next step is to figure out how to get antenna on building; Chief Flannagan, "Absolutely, but that will have nothing to do with your cell service."
- v. Ms. Costello notes importance of cell service, stating that parents parked in pick-up line surrounding Tahanto could not get the messages regarding the lockdown.
- vi. Mrs. Degliaberti asks if Verizon add-on to poles would be considered "out of network" for those with other carriers. No one is sure, light department is seeking that information.
- vii. Mrs. Lee asks for clarity, she sees *two* issues: no cell reception and lack of radio transmission within Tahanto; Mr. Flannagan confirms. Mrs. Lee asks if they are being pursued separately or in conjunction. States safety aspect (radios) should take precedence. Chief Annunziata states equally important.

- viii. Mrs. Grill reiterates that issue with Repeater is cost (200k) into budget but that we could also get it quickly if we had the funds; Mr. Mara confirms would be 1-2 months, dependent upon their investigation of building needs via on-site survey.
- ix. Ms. Costello says cannot do it solely with School budget, would need financial assistance of towns/grants. States the need is imperative despite this issues existing for years.
- x. Mrs. Degliaberti asks cost of bidirectional antenna, Chief Flannagan estimates \$20,000.
- xi. Officer Goody of Berlin addresses School Committee regarding “I love police and fire” signs along the roads, suggesting that the School Committee support the new tower on Stiles for public safety of students and staff. States that both departments constantly talk but that Boylston needs to upgrade to provide safety, noting that Berlin is doing major, costly upgrade to infrastructure and reiterating that Boylston School Committee should be supporting Boylston’s new tower.
- xii. Mr. Totman explains that the School Committee supports public safety but can only accept what the towns offer us in funding. States that we did well in the lockdown but that we have learned a lot and will make positive changes as a result. Chief Annunziata praises Acting-Superintendent Costello as well as the schools in how well they implemented all that they had practiced in prior drills.
- xiii. Mr. Totman thanks and releases the police departments.
- xiv. Officer Goody praises the first responders as well as school staff for their efforts. Mr. Totman says that since 2019, we have gone from 2 towns to One District and that our shelter in place showed we are a community and truly one district.
- xv. Ms. Costello agreed and said that they will continue to work together to improve and problem-solve.

### **(3) Possible Summer Retreat**

- i. Ms. Costello suggests that since we are such a new group, we could gather for a retreat day to discuss perspectives, goals, & getting to know one another.
  - Dr. Anthony Bent, retired Superintendent of Shrewsbury Schools, would lead the retreat. He would also meet with each member prior to the retreat.
  - There is also a retreat for the new Admin Team.
- iv. The interview committees have been formed and that the first one handled the position of Curriculum Director 6-12, which was done internally. Sally Stukuls, current Tahanto Interim Principal, was selected. She will begin her new role on July 1<sup>st</sup>.

*\*\*Before proceeding with the meeting, Mr. Totman asks Mr. Mara there are delayed **PUBLIC COMMENT** or questions, Mr. Mara notes that someone asked why School Committee meeting was via Zoom rather than in-person when students’ nighttime activities weren’t canceled.*

*Mr. Totman addresses Selectman Jamie Underwood, who asked the question in the Zoom chat. He explains that due to weather concerns, we received a request from a panel member that our meeting be held remotely. The length of the meeting as determined by a full agenda and followed by executive session would mean the committee would likely still be in session when the expected precipitation was*

*scheduled to begin.*

*Mr. Totman also points out that our meetings are rarely attended by the public but that we currently have 15 community members tuning in remotely, which is encouraging. He also said we often get complaints from the public regarding sound/visual/availability of the live stream and Zoom temporarily fixes the issue. That said, he agrees in-person is preferred by the committee as well.*

**VI. Consent Agenda-Vote**

**Mr. Totman asks for a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented; Mrs. Lee makes a motion to approve. Mrs. Grill seconds.**

**Roll Call vote:**

**Meagan Grill: Aye**

**Julie Lee: Aye**

**Lori-Anne Hart: Aye**

**Jessica Deglialberti: Aye**

**Michael Totman: Aye**

**Vote 5-0. Motion PASSES.**

**VII. Reports (Continued)**

*Mr. Totman notes that this is next on agenda but being delayed as there are people present at meeting to speak.*

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

- Laurence Holyaok: She has 3 children at BMS and supports the Nature’s Classroom field trip on which the committee is voting. It will be 4 days/3 nights where children will leave the classroom for a hands-on science experience. It will also be the first time that students from both towns unite prior to attending school together the following year at Tahanto. This will help with friendships/bonds.
- Mr. Totman reminds Committee that vote will be during Business portion & the reason a vote is required is due to the overnight portion of the field trip.
- Student School Committee Representative Caroline MacKenzie speaks to the importance of the trip re: One District. She adds that she came from outside of the district into grade 6, that there was “almost a rivalry” between the two towns/they didn’t intermingle. Her class (2023) attended NC at the end of \*sixth\* grade, and she shares that the relaxed atmosphere lent itself to bonding “as a class and not just two elementary schools coming together.” She also appreciated the hands-on lessons that made the information she learned memorable; that NC is more than just a bonding experience. She feels it was very school-centered.
- Mr. Totman addresses the rivalry/bonding issue that Nature’s Classroom helped to resolve, adding that the committee typically supports events that further our goal of One District.

**A. Student Report-Miss Caroline MacKenzie**

1. Focus has been on mid-terms
2. Many drives (clothes, animal shelters) both schoolwide and by grade
3. Excitement for Exhibitions, which started this week. Seniors present and other grades attend.
4. Musical is progressing; the owner of Jazziaaks is working with them on choreography.
5. HS Student Council held low attendance dance with 9<sup>th</sup> grade having the most students present. There was a bake sale, dancing, and karaoke.

- a. Ms MacKenzie notes that the kids most affected by Covid in high school were

least likely to attend. She feels the “isolated culture mindset” that resulted from Covid mitigation measures directly impacted community/school spirit and that the issue is on the StuCo radar.

- b. Mrs. Lee thinks that comment should be further explored, sharing that Ms. Costello spoke to the PTO about clubs being moved to afterschool/pushing sports back so the social environment can be fostered.
- c. Ms. MacKenzie agrees that kids aren’t social anymore, that when given free time to talk after a test it is still silent; that this is a big change from pre-Covid. She feels that the “social, community aspect” needs to be brought back via activities.
- d. Ms. MacKenzie states that as a senior, her class has never had a full normal year due to Covid, with measures being imposed in the middle of their 9<sup>th</sup> grade year. She feels they still have a “freshman mentality” where they are afraid of being pushed into the real world, socially unprepared; that Covid paused who they were, stifling growth. She has spoken to middle schoolers who said they still felt very much like the person they were before Covid started.
- e. Mr. Totman agrees with Mrs. Lee, reminding everyone that the district plan and subsequent budget the district/Committee has been presenting supports the claims of Ms. MacKenzie: the busses for afterschool activities, additional staff, more courses, Portrait of a Graduate, additional Behavioral Therapist and Special Education Coordinator, all the positions for which we are being asked “why?”. Mr. Totman notes that we need it to undo the damage that Covid interventions did to our students.

## **B. Chair’s Report–*Mr. Michael Totman***

1. The committee received a letter of resignation from Mr. Robert Holmes, effective January 20, 2023.
  - a. Interested candidates should send resume & letter of interest to the committee by March 1<sup>st</sup>
  - b. Interviews will be conducted at the March 7<sup>th</sup> meeting. Everyone except for Mrs. Degliaberti went through the same process of appointment prior to the election.
  - c. Candidates should write brief answers to the community-generated questions asked of those who ran for election.
  - d. Candidates must be registered voters, 18 or older, who reside in the town of Berlin.
  - e. Ms. Costello will advertise the vacancy in her newsletter, will notify town clerks, and that committee will share it on Facebook.

## **C. Subcommittee Reports**

### **1. Budget, Facilities, and Safety – *Mrs. Meagan Grill***

- a. Ms. Costello and Mrs. Konisky are working tirelessly on budget, attending & presenting at multiple town meetings with many more to attend/giving up their weeknights to present. A parent at a PTO meeting said to both, “Thank you for caring about our kids.”
- b. Hearing positive reviews from parents on District Improvement Plan and Budget
- c. Cell phone Service already discussed.
- d. Mrs. Lee & Mrs. Grill heard presentation from Lauren Staples, Director of

Food Services, who was seeking raises for her staff.

- i. Mrs. Konisky will address this during her report.
  - ii. Mrs. Grill shared that our cafeteria workers are making less than surrounding communities. She volunteered to help out the cafeteria one day when they were short-staffed and said the staff work really hard. She supports giving them more money.
  - iii. Mrs. Lee agrees, sharing that her son makes more per hour at Market Basket than some of our cafeteria workers make, which makes retention of staff difficult.
- e. Meeting again on Friday

## **2. Student Success and Technology – *Mr. Michael Totman***

- i. Met with Ms. Costello, Mr. Mara, and Selectwoman Chris Keefe.
  - a. Discussed the cell phones, internet, safety/repeaters.
  - b. Another company purchased district's web site host, we will be transitioning over to new system in the spring. This will allow for online forms with electronic signatures.
  - c. Discussed how going to promote budget to towns and parents. Selectwoman Keefe offered helpful promotional suggestions for sharing the budget & Ms. Costello was already working on implementing them.
  - d. Print campaign was discussed and Mr. Totman felt that speaking directly to people was most important.

## **3. Policy, Personnel, Negotiations, and School Committee Effectiveness – *Mrs. Lori-Anne Hart***

- i. At next Policy meeting, the subcommittee will be reviewing policy AC & JIC with intent to present at the next SC meeting.

## **4. Superintendent Evaluation – *Mrs. Lori-Anne Hart***

- i. Did not meet, more information at next meeting
- ii. Mrs. Degliaberti asks about where she can speak to the issue of the roof, Mr. Totman indicates that Mrs. Konisky will address it in her report.

## **E. Director of Finance and Operations - *Mrs. Nancy Konisky***

### **1. Food Service /Salary increase**

- i. Staff pay was benchmarked against neighboring towns with hourly discrepancy of \$1.50-\$3.50. Food Service is run through its own revolving account so rates can't be increased dramatically but the need to increase remains.
  - a. Mrs. Konisky suggests a 50 cent increase to all positions with a bonus to staff hired prior to '22-23 schoolyear.
  - b. Explained the employees have gone above and beyond since Covid due to significant increase in demand due to USDA free breakfasts and lunches as well as being short-staffed.
  - c. It has been very difficult to fill empty positions.

- d. Increase would take effect next payroll (beginning Monday 2/6) and would cost an additional \$2,801.62 for the remainder of the school year.
- e. Mrs. Konisky suggests a \$500 bonus for full-day (6 hours) employees and pro-rated bonus for those who work less, which would amount to \$4,070 spread amongst 9 employees. The increased rates and bonus would leave \$8,000 in the lunch revolving account at the end of this fiscal year. Forecasted out for next year, given same number of employees and forecasting inflation, is a need of \$7500, which would break even given the \$8,000 excess.
- f. Mrs. Degliaberti asks if there is a 3 year plan in place, Mrs. Konisky explains it's impossible given unknown future of USDA-funded free meals, which significantly increased food demand/volume.
- g. Mr. Totman asks about status of Paraprofessional raises, Mrs. Konisky explains she benchmarked those wages to same towns she used for food service jobs. She shared a table at the subcommittee meeting, showing Paras are above average compared to below-average cafeteria staff. Cafeteria staff currently have a bigger need.
- h. Mr. Totman asks if we need a committee vote or if this is Superintendent Costello's domain, Mrs. Konisky indicates it needs to be voted upon. Mrs. Grill asks if we are voting at this meeting, Mr. Totman indicates it was not on the agenda, discussion of protocol ensues resulting in a motion:
- i. **Mrs. Grill makes a motion to give a 50 cent an hour raise to all food staff personnel effective February 6, 2023 and to give a \$500 bonus to those food staff personnel that worked for our district prior to June 30, 2022, and prorated on their hours worked as of June 30, 2022. Mrs. Degliaberti seconds the motion.**

Discussion: Mrs. Lee made a motion to amend Mrs. Grill's motion to add a \$500 raise for employees hired prior to June 30, 2022 *that are currently still employed by the district*. Mrs. Grill seconds the motion. No Discussion.

**Roll Call Vote:**

**Meagan Grill: Aye**

**Jessica Degliaberti: Aye**

**Julie Lee: Aye**

**Lori-Anne Hart: Aye**

**Michael Totman: Aye**

**Vote 5-0. Motion PASSES.**

- j. Roll Call Vote on motion (with amendment included) to give a 50 cent an hour raise to all food staff personnel effective February 6, 2023 and to give a \$500 bonus to those food staff personnel that worked for our district prior to June 30, 2022 and that are currently still employed by the district.**

**Meagan Grill: Aye**

**Jessica Degliaberti: Aye**

**Julie Lee: Aye**

**Lori-Anne Hart: Aye**

**Michael Totman: Aye**

**Vote 5-0. Motion PASSES.**

**2. Budget update**

**i. Transportation**

- a. Driver for Berlin Bus 3 obtained their CDL license and started last week. He was unable to work this week but should be back next week.
- b. All routes now have a designated driver, however if someone is out the buses still need to double up.
- c. Mr. Totman notes “Framingham Public Schools” on the side of his daughter’s but, noting the “Where’s My Kid” app won’t work when a different bus is used.
- d. Mr. Totman asks if we are still holding back payment for invoices.
  - i. Mrs. Konisky states that NRT has not been paid since December.
    - She received December and January invoices with a slight discount but her daily record of buses that are doubled or late did not match their reduction.
    - She reapproached them with her changes (example: if buses are doubled that equates to one bus not two), followed up 3 times, and they have not gotten back to her yet so their payment is still being held.

**ii. BES Roof**

- a. This was discussed at the Boylston selectboard meeting.
- b. A Finance Committee member was present and stated it might be due to “the structural damage or relating to the structure.”



- Mrs. Degliaberti sought out a prior interim principal and prior central office secretary who corroborated the persistent roof/gym problem.
- c. Mrs. Konisky spoke to Mr. Ayala, our Facilities Manager, a for fiscally responsible solution.
  - The two suggested taking the roof replacement off this year's fiscal plan, instead using the BES *assessment* to help us determine what our next steps should be.
  - The results of the assessment, which hasn't yet been conducted, are months away; this means we will be voting on the budget prior to receipt of report indicating more precise budgetary needs.
  - They suggest the district dedicate \$10,000 to roof repairs for next year so as to get us through until next year's capital plan.
- d. Mrs. Grill asks the plan if we determine it's a structural issue. Mr. Ayala explains the company doing the assessment gives recommendations, adding that if it is structural we will need to involve the town. The bids for the assessment were sent out, the lowest bid was chosen, and they are moving forward with that company, whose availability is in the spring.
- e. Mr. Totman notes that past fault is irrelevant, that it must be rectified. He reminds the committee of the pictures Mrs. Grill took of filled rain buckets in the gym that the children had to dodge, stating it's unacceptable and a true safety issue (slipping, falling, potential mold issues that likely exist in the ceiling).
- f. Mrs. Degliaberti asks about difference of patching vs. replacing, Mr. Ayala says it is the cost. Mrs. Grill thinks this is why we need the facilities study to be done.

## **F. Director of Finance and Operations and Facilities Director**

*~Mrs. Nancy Konisky & Mr. Daniel Ayala*

### **1. Discussion regarding using School Choice Funds to install hardwired CO detectors in the boiler rooms and Radon Tests conducted in all 3 schools.**

- a. The committee received an email from a parent regarding radon test history.
  - Mrs. Konisky and Mr. Ayala searched records but found no documentation.
  - While radon testing is not required by law it *is* recommended so they sought a quote for testing. Each school would cost an

estimated \$1500 to assess with Tahanto likely costing more due to square footage. They are bringing it forward to the committee for guidance.

- Mrs. Degliaberti supports it because it is a long term safety issue.
  - Mrs. Konisky explains they would need to take the funds from school choice to finance it as it is an unforeseen expense/wasn't budgeted.
  - Mrs. Grill asks if it was just for testing alone, adding that every house at Compass Point (neighborhood next door to BES) has a radon system installed. What do we do if the test comes back positive? Mr. Ayala states we would be required to fix it. Mrs. Grill agrees.
  - Mrs. Degliaberti asks turnaround time for radon; Mr. Ayala is not sure but expects a definitive quote using building plans tomorrow and can ask.
  - Mr. Totman asks whose jurisdiction this falls under, Mr. Ayala indicates the Department of Health. Mr. Totman suggests asking what records they might have while seeking their guidance; states we are already spending a lot of money and suggests it's financially imprudent to do something without guidance from experts.
- b. Mr. Ayala explains carbon monoxide tester issue was addressed when the boilers were inspected, with new ones already installed.
- Mrs. Konisky adds they anticipated a costly fix but at the regional crisis meeting, Superintendent Fred Cummings of the Berlin Highway Department offered a more financially frugal solution.
  - Mr. Totman uses this example to support waiting on the radon testing until we speak to the Board of Health, also pointing out One District.
- c. Mrs. Grill asks if this should be an agenda item for our next meeting, Mrs. Degliaberti asks if a subcommittee can address it so we get to it quicker? Mr. Totman said he knew someone in Berlin that he would reach out to, and he would discuss his findings with Mrs. Degliaberti at their next Student Success Meeting.
1. There is a Berlin FinCom meeting at 7:30 tomorrow where they will be presenting their fiscal year 2023 budget. Mr. Totman and Mrs. Grill will attend.

**G. Presentation: Aimsweb Mid-Winter Benchmarking Assessment Results**  
*~ John Campbell, BMS Principal*

1. AimsWeb is conducted three times a year, midyear testing was just completed. Testing is used to look “reasonably quickly at student progress”. It is not all-inclusive but it does indicate where weaknesses are, with the challenge to dig deeper. Students whose test scores indicate need then work with tutors to catch up to grade level expectations. “The district has seen great success with this.”
  - a. Early Literacy/Reading graph is presented showing percentage of students that are at or above the goal of being in the 60<sup>th</sup> Percentile, nationally.
  - b. The district looks at Achievement and growth with expected progress at 50<sup>th</sup> percentile (new slide with graph presented). Above shows faster improvement, and both elementary schools are above that.
  - c. Early Numeracy/Math graph is presented and both schools show 2/3 of students in the desired “above 60%.” Like Literacy, younger students seemed to struggle more than older ones. Graph for Growth Percentile in Math shows same above 60%
  - d. Schools use the results from testing to determine interventions. In Berlin, 36 students were identified for Fall Literacy Tier 2 Interventions; sixteen of them (44%) have graduated from the intervention program. In Math, 41 were identified and 19 of them (46%) graduated. The issue they had was remediated but those students will continue to be monitored.
  - e. In Boylston, 56 students were identified for Fall Tier 2 Literacy Interventions, 14 of them (25%) graduated from the service mid-year. In Math, 43 students were identified for Tier 2 Interventions, and mid-year 21 of them (49%) graduated.
  - f. Mr. Totman asks if these are just fall to mid-year numbers, Mr. Campbell surmises we have a lot of time left for more to graduate by year’s end. He also notes that those who stay in the program long term might indicate they need more specialized services, so the Aimsweb is an indicator for that, too.
  - g. Oral Reading Fluency is the ability to read accurately, quickly, and with expression. This particular testing helps identify dyslexia very early.
    - i. Oral Reading Longitudinal graph is presented for grade 3, showing the percentage of students who fall beneath the 25<sup>th</sup> percentile. It shows how the students at both schools have fared since kindergarten. The goal is to have this number under 10%. The graph shows progress in both schools.
    - ii. Grade Five Oral Fluency graph is presented. Mr. Campbell calls attention to big bump at BMS, where those falling below the 25<sup>th</sup> percentile went from 12% to 25%. He stated that this was when the kids returned from Covid, showing learning loss.

- iii. Mrs. Degliaberti appreciates the reports that were sent home, thought they were direct and easy to understand.
- iv. Mr. Totman asks at what point the 10% is aimed for, Mr. Campbell says that's always the goal and feels we get closest to it around grade 3. He also notes that while our district is really good at advancing good readers, we need to train teachers on how to be more effective for struggling readers.
- v. Mr. Totman asks what Mr. Campbell needs from the the school committee, from the towns, for the schools to make the 10% a reality.
- vi. Mr. Campbell explains that the Balanced literacy movement failed the kids—the idea was if you give students books at their level, they will learn to read. Most teachers were trained during that movement and they need to be re-trained, so his need is more time for/more professional development.
- vii. Mrs. Ayles, Principal of BES, adds that teachers are asked to differentiate within their classrooms. She notes that when all professional development is in one part of the year, it's hard to address these needs when they discover they need training mid-year. Mr. Totman says that calendar discussions for next year are coming soon so the reminder is timely.
- viii. Mrs. Costello says she wants to talk about the calendar at the next meeting; she has spoken to many educators and union personnel and they are all on the same page about what they want. This relates to the budget.
- ix. Mr. Campbell reminds everyone that it is a 4-year project.

### VIII. Business Items

*Mr. Totman explains that Policies IJOA (field trips) and JJH (overnights) are why the school committee is voting on these field trips.*

1. **Mrs. Degliaberti make a motion to approve the NYC Field Trip with Mr. Minihan's class on March 29, 2023, Mrs. Lee seconds it.**

Discussion: Mr. Totman says there was paperwork in the drive explaining the trips.

**Roll Call Vote:**

**Meagan Grill: Aye**  
**Jessica Degliaberti: Aye**  
**Lori-Anne Hart: Aye**  
**Julie Lee: Aye**  
**Michael Totman: Aye**

**Vote 5-0. Motion PASSES.**

2. **Mrs. Grill makes a motion to table the vote on the installation hard wired CO detectors in the boiler rooms (~\$1,000 per school), and Radon Tests (~\$1,500 per school) conducted in all 3 schools. Mrs. Hart seconds it.**

**Roll Call Vote:**

**Meagan Grill: Aye**  
**Jessica Degliaberti: Nay**  
**Julie Lee: Aye**

**Lori-Anne Hart: Aye**  
**Michael Totman: Aye**

**Vote 4-1. Motion to table the vote PASSES.**

*Mr. Totman explains that this vote does not mean we aren't in favor of it, but that as we'd discussed earlier in the meeting, we wanted to seek more information before proceeding.*

- 3. Mrs. Lee makes a motion to approve the Nature's Classroom Field Trip. Mrs. Degliaberti seconds it.**

**Roll Call Vote:**

**Meagan Grill: Aye**  
**Jessica Degliaberti: Aye**  
**Julie Lee: Aye**  
**Lori-Anne Hart: Aye**  
**Michael Totman: Aye**

**Vote 5-0. Motion PASSES.**

- 4. Mrs. Grill makes a motion to accept a donation of \$250 from the Class of 2023 and a \$250 donation towards the GO Buckets for ALICE – Tahanto. Mrs. Hart seconds it.**

*Discussion: Mrs. Degliaberti asks if it was ALICE training. Mrs. Stukuls explains that these are buckets similar to those at Home Depot, which are filled with supplies in case someone was locked down in a room for a long period of time. Mr. Totman asks if we know who the donor was and with no answer, states they must want to be anonymous.*

**Roll Call Vote:**

**Meagan Grill: Aye**  
**Jessica Degliaberti: Aye**  
**Julie Lee: Aye**  
**Lori-Anne Hart: Aye**  
**Michael Totman: Aye**

**Vote 5-0. PASSES.**

- 5. Mrs. Grill makes a motion to approve the Lead Nurse Job Description. Mrs. Degliaberti seconds it.**

*Discussion: Mrs. Grill asks if we have a full-time nurse starting at BES. Mrs. Fitzpatrick affirms we have a new nurse and nurse leader, Lisa Lamoureux, who began yesterday. Mrs. Degliaberti asks if this was a separate position. Mrs. Fitzpatrick explains the Nurse Leader Position was a list of additional responsibilities for one of our existing nurses, that the BES nurse currently has the position. Mrs. Degliaberti asks if it was always the BES nurse and Mrs. Fitzpatrick states that it sometimes changes due to skillset, interest, and availability. Mrs. Grill reiterates that it was not for a new hire but a title for a current hire. Mrs. Fitzpatrick explains that we have always had this position but that there was never a written job description of responsibilities in place so they created one and that is what we are approving. Mrs. Degliaberti asks if there was a stipend for this extra responsibility, Mrs. Fitzpatrick affirms. Mrs. Grill asks if we were now fully staffed with nurses and Mrs. Fitzpatrick affirms that as well.*

**Roll Call Vote:**

**Meagan Grill: Aye**

**Jessica Degliaberti: Aye**  
**Julie Lee: Aye**  
**Lori-Anne Hart: Aye**  
**Michael Totman: Aye**

**Vote 5-0. Motion PASSES.**

*Mrs. Fitzpatrick thanks the committee, Mr. Totman adds that it is good to have documentation in place.*

6. Mr. Totman explains that we were not voting on the Harassment Policy per Mrs. Hart's update during the Policy Subcommittee Report of it being sent back for further review.

7. **Mrs. Grill makes a motion to approve Policy: JFBB - School Choice, Mrs. Hart seconds it.**

*Discussion: Mrs. Degliaberti wants to make sure we are approving the correct version of the policy due to the wrong policy being in the drive last time. Mrs. Hart explains that the incorrect policy stated we had to vote on whether or not to have school choice each year whereas this one states we vote on school choice based on availability. Mrs. Degliaberti asks if this means we don't vote every May 1<sup>st</sup> on School Choice and Mr. Totman explains that we still vote to approve the principal & superintendent recommendations but that the difference is that one policy states you always consider it while the other states you don't consider it unless there are extenuating circumstances. Mrs. Hart agrees. Mr. Totman explains that the MASC changed some language in the policy and that was what we were voting on—that we still use the same protocol/have school choice in place.*

**Roll Call Vote:**

**Meagan Grill: Aye**  
**Jessica Degliaberti: Aye**  
**Julie Lee: Aye**  
**Lori-Anne Hart: Aye**  
**Michael Totman: Aye**

**Vote 5-0, Motion PASSES.**

**IX. Future Agenda Item Proposals**

- Mrs. Degliaberti wants Radon to be put on Subcommittee Agenda, Mrs. Grill agrees as does Mrs. Lee.
- Mrs. Lee asks if we can review cell phone use by students at Tahanto. Mr. Totman suggests to Mrs. Hart that it be added to our next policy agenda along with the additional devices discussed earlier in the meeting. Mrs. Degliaberti reminds the committee of what Miss MacKenzie spoke about during her student report, that students weren't interacting with one another, and wonders if this was due to the distraction of the phones; Mrs. Lee states there is a lot of research that supports exactly that issue.
- Mrs. Grill tells Mrs. Lee that she added a discussion about Yonder to their subcommittee meeting on Friday regarding pricing, etc.
- Mr. Totman states that if there is anyone on the call who is not a committee member who wants us to add something to the agenda should reach out to Mrs. Costello.

IX. **Executive Session**

1. Mrs. Hart makes a motion to enter Executive Session to discuss contract matters with non-union personnel, Carol Costello, and not to return to Open Session. Mrs. Lee seconds it.

**Roll Call Vote:**

**Meagan Grill: Aye**  
**Jessica Degliaberti: Aye**  
**Julie Lee: Aye**  
**Lori-Anne Hart: Aye**  
**Michael Totman: Aye**

**Vote 5-0, Motion PASSES.**

X. **Upcoming Meeting Dates**

- February 28, 2023 (Budget Hearing)
- March 7, 2023
- March 21, 2023 if needed