

## BERLIN-BOYLSTON REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE



Tuesday, November 15, 2022

6:30 p.m.

Tahanto Regional Middle/High School Multi-Purpose Room

1001 Main Street, Boylston, MA 01505

**Present:** Lori-Anne Hart, Chair; Meagan Grill, Vice Chair; Michael Totman; Julie Lee; Jessica Degliaberti; Jeffrey Zanghi, Superintendent of Schools; Carol Costello, Assistant Superintendent; Nancy Konisky, Director of Finance; Jannel Fitzpatrick, Director of Pupil Personnel; Paul Mara, Technology Coordinator; Sally Stukuls, Principal, Tahanto; Kara Ford, Assistant Principal, Tahanto; John Campbell, Principal, Berlin Memorial School; Dawn-Marie Ayles, Principal, Boylston Elementary School; Daniel Ayala, Facilities Director.

**Absent:** Robert Holmes

- I. The meeting was called to order at 6:33 p.m.
- II. **School Committee Reorganization**
  - A. Mrs. Lee gave a description of the responsibilities of the Chair.
  - B. **Mr. Totman nominated himself as BBRSD School Committee Chair. Mrs. Lee seconded the nomination. Mrs. Hart made a comment in favor of the nomination of Mr. Totman. Vote 3-1-1. Mrs. Grill dissented. Mrs. Degliaberti abstained. Motion Passes.**
  - C. **Mrs. Grill was nominated as BBRSD School Committee Vice Chair. Mrs. Lee seconded. Vote 5-0. Motion Passes.**
  - D. **Mrs. Hart was nominated as BBRSD School Committee District Clerk. Mrs. Lee seconded. Vote 5-0. Motion Passes.**
  - E. Mrs. Grill was appointed as Assistant Treasurer.
- III. **Public Comments**
  - Adam Wilbur of 77 Coderre Road, Boylston made a public comment. He thanked Mrs. Hart for her work as chair. He also commented on the BBRSD Three-Year Plan as well as the change of legal representation.
- IV. **Communications**

- Mr. Holmes received a communication from Mrs. Kyle Burns and noted, through Mrs. Hart that he is working on the request.

V. **Consent Agenda-Vote**

Mrs. Hart made a motion to approve A, C, D, and E of the consent agenda. Mrs. Grill seconded. Vote 4-0. Mrs. DegliAlberti abstained.

- A. Payroll and Payable Warrants
- B. October 6, 2022, Budget, Facilities, and Safety Subcommittee Minutes-***not submitted***
- C. October 7, 2022 Policy and School Committee Effectiveness Subcommittee Minutes
- D. October 11, 2022, Open Meeting Minutes
- E. October 17, 2022 Student Success and Technology Subcommittee Minutes
- F. October 20, 2022, Budget, Facilities, and Safety Subcommittee Minutes-***not submitted***
- G. November 7, 2022 Student Success and Technology Subcommittee Minutes

VI. **Reports**

- A. School Committee Chair's Report
  - a. Mrs. Hart introduced Caroline MacKenzie as the first student representative the Committee has had in two years.
- B. Tahanto Student Body Update - *Caroline MacKenzie*
  - a. Caroline introduced herself and thanked the Committee for the opportunity to be the Tahanto Student Representative.
- C. Subcommittee Reports
  - a. Budget, Facilities, and Safety – Meagan Grill**
    - i. This subcommittee met twice since the last committee-at-large meeting.
    - ii. The subcommittee reviewed the level service and above-level service budget requests and staff benchmarking.
    - iii. The cell phone reception at Tahanto was also discussed with the subcommittee, who would follow up with the Town of Boylston.
  - b. Student Success and Technology – Michael Totman**
    - i. The subcommittee met and discussed the BBRSD Three-Year Plan.
  - c. Policy and School Committee – Lori-Anne Hart**
    - i. The policy subcommittee met in early October.
    - ii. Several policies were reviewed and the changes are color-coded in the drive.
    - iii. The subcommittee will also be working on School Committee goals.
    - iv. There is a policy up for a vote tonight-JICBF-Bullying Prevention.
  - d. Personnel, Negotiations, and Superintendent Evaluation**

- i. This committee did not meet.

**D. Director of Finance and Operations - *Nancy Konisky and Daniel Ayala***

a. School Bus Update

- i. Mrs. Konisky explained that the bus driver shortage is a nationwide issue.
- ii. One new permanent driver has been hired and will be in place by January 2 and one driver who has been out on leave will be returning during the new year.
- iii. Mrs. Konisky has inquired about the Here Comes the Bus application. She is in touch with the app company but they have had some service issues.

b. BES Facilities Study & Special Town Meeting Warrant

- i. Mrs. Konisky updated the Committee on the Boylston Elementary School Facilities Assessment bid.
  - 1. Mrs. Konisky informed the Committee she was awarded a grant of \$10,000 to put towards the facility assessment.
  - 2. Mrs. Konisky and the Committee discussed the next steps.
  - 3. Mr. Ayala has also brought in a contractor to discuss roof repairs and replacement costs. They are actively working to fix links.

**E. Superintendent of Schools and BBRSD Leadership Team - *Jeffrey Zanghi***

1. District Improvement Plan

- a. Mr. Zanghi presented the introduction to BBRSD Three-Year Plan noting that the plan is a heavy investment in personnel.

- i. Ms. Costello began her review of the plan which outlines the needs of all of our students, creating an engaging learning environment.
- ii. There are 4 major parts of the improvement plan:

1. **Personnel**

- a. Mrs. Ayles noted they want to add a kindergarten teacher and kindergarten aides to assist the young learners in an engaging learning environment.
- b. Adding teachers will allow current staff to remain in one grade level and become experts in that grade rather than moving back and forth depending on enrollments, a school adjustment counselor would be added to BMS, Paraprofessionals will be added to cover IEP's and

adding a health teacher at the elementary level.

- c. Ms. Stukuls requested additional teachers to lower class sizes.
- d. Mrs. Fitzpatrick requested a full time ELL teacher, a position which is shared right now as the number of ELL students has doubled in the past few years as well as an additional Special Education teacher.
- e. Ms. Ford noted the need for a full-time Athletic Director. Currently, he works part-time while also teaching 3 sections of mathematics.
- f. Ms. Stukuls noted the hiring of an additional Assistant Principal-one for the middle school and one for the high school. Mr. Zanghi referred to the research that is in Google drive.
- g. Mrs. Fitzpatrick noted the need to keep the float nurse for the safety and well-being of our students and add a second BCBA and Occupational Therapist.
- h. Mr. Mara requests an additional full-time technology staff member to have one in each building, as three staff members are covering four buildings and over 4,000 devices.

2. **Teaching and Learning**

- a. Elementary student reading and writing skills will be reviewed and updated, Mr. Campbell reported.
- b. Middle School social-emotional curriculum will be purchased. Mr. Greg Picariello is working with Ms. Costello to select an appropriate curriculum.

- c. Ms. Lisa Sequeira and Ms. Costello have been looking at bringing environmental coursework to Tahanto High School.
- d. Ms. Costello has been reviewing current and potential biases while allowing students to expand their knowledge base and allow them to become well-rounded global citizens.
- e. New and updated professional development are being explored.
- f. Providing additional support for students and after-school enrichment programs, in cooperation with parent-teacher organizations.
- g. Financial literacy programs for K-5 as well as the Middle/High School are being explored, in partnership with Clinton Savings Bank.
- h. Bringing world language to the elementary level will be explored.
- i. A shadowing and internship program plan is in the works for high school students.
- j. Reworking the lunch menus to include vegetarian, gluten-free, and allergy-sensitive meals with more variety are being considered.
- k. An expansion and program study is underway for the preschool program.

### **3. Technology**

- a. The goal is to advance technology in our schools for the safety, functionality, and effectiveness of all systems while adding, maintaining, and replacing hardware and software platforms so all students have access to the necessary devices.

- b. Ms. Ford and Ms. Stukuls described the technology that students can use to advance the science curriculum.
- c. Mr. Mara noted that all students will be issued a device and networking and infrastructure will be improved to support the use of technology and make it more efficient.

**4. IV. Finance**

- a. Mrs. Konisky and Mr. Ayala reviewed the plan with emphasis on facility assessment plans and capital improvement plans.
- b. Mrs. Konisky also discussed replacing the security system and air conditioning systems.
- c. She also noted that the district is looking to reduce the use of school choice funds at BES as well as increase the contribution to the Special Education reserve fund for unanticipated special education needs.
- d. Mrs. Konisky broke down the financial impact of the Three-Year Plan and presented it to the Committee
- e. Mrs. Konisky answered questions about the financial impact of the plan from Committee members.

**VII. Business Items**

- A. Mrs. Hart made a motion to terminate the existing contract with Dupere Law Offices. Mrs. Lee seconded. Vote 5-0. Motion passes.**
- B. Mrs. Grill made a motion to appoint Mirick O’Connell, Attorneys at Law as District Counsel. Mrs. Hart seconded. Vote 5-0. Motion passes.**
- C. Mrs. Grill made a motion to approve Changes to Policy [JICFB-Bullying Prevention](#). Mrs. Hart seconded. Vote 5-0. Motion passes.**

- D. Mrs. Lee made a motion to accept a Donation in the Amount of \$2,850 from the Calocci Family to be used for expenses/activities for the Class of 2027. Mrs. Degliaberti seconded. Vote 5-0. Motion passes.
- E. Mrs. Grill made a motion to accept a Donation of VEX Robotics Equipment from Ellie Lin to the Tahanto Engineering Department for their use. Mrs. Degliaberti seconded. Vote 5-0. Motion passes.
- F. Mrs. Hart Made a motion to approve the Creation of a Chess Club, Game Group, & Auto Club at Tahanto Regional Middle/High School. Mrs. Lee seconded. Ben Lavallee, a Tahanto student spoke on behalf of the Auto Club. Vote 5-0. Motion passes.
- G. Mrs. Degliaberti made a motion to approve an additional Stipend to the Junior National Honor Society. Mrs. Hart seconded. Vote 5-0. Motion passes.
- H. Mrs. Grill made a motion to approve an additional Stipend to Tahanto Student Council. Mrs. Hart seconded. Vote 5-0. Motion passes.
- I. Mrs. Degliaberti made a motion to accept a donation in the amount of \$11,496.25 from the Boylston Elementary School PTO to purchase additional instructional audio systems through Lightspeed. Mrs. Grill seconded. Vote 5-0. Motion passes.
- J. Policy [JIC: Student Discipline](#)-First Read
- K. Policy [JICA: Student Dress](#)-First Read
- L. Policy [AC: Non-Discrimination including Harassment & Retaliation](#)-First Read
- M. Policy [GBA: Equal Employment Opportunity](#)-First Read
- N. Policy [GCF: Professional Staff Hiring](#)-First Read
- O. Policy [JB: Equal Educational Opportunities](#)-First Read
- P. Policy [JFBB: School Choice](#)-First Read

## VII. Executive Session

- Mrs. Hart made a motion to enter into Executive Session to conduct negotiations with nonunion personnel (Superintendent Zanghi) and return to open session. Mrs. Lee seconded. Roll call: Mrs. Hart, yes. Mrs. Lee, yes. Mrs. Grill, yes. Mrs. Degliaberti, yes, Mr. Totman yes. Vote 5-0. Motion passes. The Committee entered Executive Session at 8:43 p.m.

## VIII. Return to open session

- A. Mr. Totman called open session back to order at 9:19 p.m.
- a. It was determined that no votes or further action was necessary by the Committee at this time.
  - b. Mrs. Grill made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mrs. Lee seconded. Vote 5-0. Motion passes. Meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

