

**BERLIN-BOYLSTON REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
STUDENT SUCCESS AND TECHNOLOGY SUBCOMMITTEE**



Berlin-Boylston Regional School District  
215 Main Street, Boylston, MA  
December 8, 2023, 11:45am  
Superintendent's Office

*This meeting may be recorded, and your image or voice may be broadcast.*

Present: Ms. Carol Costello; Ms. Nicole Bilotta; Mrs. Jessica Degliaberti; Mrs. Lisa Mair

- I. Call to Order - Meeting called to order by Mrs. Jessica Degliaberti at 11:55am
  
- II. MASS/MASC Conference Overview -The subcommittee reviewed the sessions they attended and the highlights/takeaways. Mrs. Degliaberti recapped the Getting Started with DEI: One District Pathway to Learning and Decision Making (Chelmsford School Committee's Journey) session. The takeaway was that the smaller group feels comfortable with the bigger group and that bigger group feels comfortable with the smaller group. Chelmsford had their curriculum posted on their website for more awareness of what is happening in the classroom

Ms. Carol Costello - noted her appreciation that Mrs. Degliaberti and Mrs. Lisa Mair attended the conference. Ms. Costello attended the Unique Challenges of Regional Schools session, which discussed similarities and differences of issues regional versus non-regional districts face.

Mrs. Mair attended the session called Navigating Polarizing Issues. She explained polarizing issues are tough on teachers because they may not always have the knowledge on the topic or know if they will be supported. Teachers are required to teach multiple perspectives on events in Massachusetts. The session gave suggestions for districts such as having coffee or office hours, community forums or community conversations monthly, having visibility and being proactive rather than reactive. Ms. Costello will be setting up Coffee chats in the future. The session noted the idea that "the kids are watching".

Mrs. Degliaberti also recapped the Interest Based Bargaining in Challenging Times session. The session discussed separating people from problems and focusing on interests not positions.

*The listing of items are 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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The next session was Building Bridges for Equity in Polarizing Times that spoke to what makes a good leader and the skills in bridging differences. East Hampton got rid of their SRO and have a social worker employed by the police department instead.

Mrs. Degliaberti was most excited about the Blackstone Valley Collaborative course in enhanced learning - BVEXCEL works with American Student Assistance and is a collaborative with twelve schools. It explores education pathways and how schools can use each other's resources. It uses DESE teachers with after school hours or on the weekends, that can count as an elective for high school. Areas include CNA, welding, manufacturing, game design, carpentry, etc. It helps the student get experience in a career option without a major commitment. She was also made aware of JobCore, which could be something to see if guidance counselors are aware of.

The next session was Promoting Equity Through Social and Emotional Skills, which broke down the important skills and the equity that all students belong. BBRSD has social emotional curriculum in place.

A panel called: Supporting Culturally Responsive Social Studies with Investigating History for Grades 5-7 was attended. It looked at different groups, key vocabulary, and their backgrounds.

The Legal Issues session discussed free speech, laws, and parental rights.

The Transformative Relationships: best practices in long term planning for equity and strategic planning session explained why people can react so quickly to certain things and about not tokenizing people. It also spoke to the realization of how you are framing your questions.

Ms. Costello explained that BBRSD has a District Improvement Plan, but not a Strategic Plan. This ties into the Portrait of a Graduate work and would be important to create.

Ms. Mair spoke about the Your Strategic Plan at the Forefront session and that they emphasized communicating what the school is doing, making progress on and having transparency. They noted that the website is a good tool for transparency.

The subcommittee spoke about the handbook and how they hope to make improvements going forward.

There should also be clear policies on who controls electronic communication (Facebook, etc.)

How to deal with AI in the classroom- more read at home and writing in school

Mrs. Degliaberti and Mrs. Mair also attended the Culturally Responsive Social Studies session. It focused on assessing the perspective of the source of information, biases etc.

The subcommittee discussed the items they would present at the open meeting.

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- I. Future Agenda Items:
  - a. Handbooks down road and legally what is required.
  - b. Website
  - c. District improvement plan video

Meeting was adjourned at 1:53pm

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