



BERLIN-BOYLSTON REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Budget, Facilities, and Safety Subcommittee

Berlin-Boylston Regional School District Offices | 215 Main Street, Boylston, MA

Friday November 3rd, 2023 | 10:30AM

Present: Ms. Carol Costello, Ms. Nicole Bilotta, Ms. Meagan Grill, Ms. Nancy Konisky and Mrs. Julie Lee

I. Call to Order – Meeting called to order at 10:37am

II. Continuing Business

A. Review of District Improvement Plan items included in FY 25 budget. –

Ms. Nancy Konisky reviewed the items for the FY25 budget that have been adjusted. This included the two floating paras being removed, which dropped the benefit total amount. They are keeping on the .40 adjustment counselor and Antivirus software was added at 10K for total IT request at 75K.

The subcommittee talked about beginning prioritize items that could be cut if needed to. Ms. Konisky sat with BBRSD administration again to look at the budget and they reviewed the district improvement plan to help make decisions. She has a revised budget calendar timeline she can present at the next School Committee meeting. She is also attending an upcoming Finance Committee meeting in early December.

Most items on the budget are positions. Supplies may be the only wiggle room. One idea is that teachers could put out a wish list that parents could contribute to if they wanted. BBRSD may not need the bus if there is a small kindergarten class, but the issue is the actual miles the buses are driving. Most buses are at an hour and legally BBRSD must stay within that hour. Mrs. Meagan Grill rather cut bus versus a needed position. Mrs. Julie Lee would like to hold for now with what they have and revisit later.

Mrs. Grill would like to see the repairs on the buildings and athletic fields happen. Mr. Dan Ayala sent a formal letter to SCR about the fields. BBRSD cannot use the baseball field area to pave for parking. The only way to improve parking is to build a parking garage. Mrs. Lee suggested giving an update in one of Carol's newsletters.

B. Debrief on town forum- considerations. – The subcommittee talked about an ad hoc committee for facilities for both towns that would be a way to do broad planning for the towns, buildings, trails, etc. In the short term, BBRSD is the doing necessary fixes to Boylston elementary. There is a plan to follow-up at the Boylston Finance

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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Committee meeting about a plan going forward for BBRSD schools on December 13. There is potential to set up another town forum meeting.

For bussing, any student who resides within two miles or less schools do not have to provide transportation. K-6 students who live beyond two miles are eligible for free transportation and grades 7-12 can be charged. The committee discussed how charging in Berlin could solve bus issue cost. Having sidewalks could also help, but may not be a possibility do to the current road structure.

Ms. Konisky also noted that pre-negotiation meetings are going on and she has adjusted from 195k to 300k after meeting with all groups. The subcommittee agreed they should push the vote on the budget to the first meeting in March on the 12th.

III. **New Business – Action Items** – The plan is to go to Finance Committee meetings and plan to meet before December school committee meeting.

IV. **Comments / Future Agenda Items**

A. Future subcommittee meeting dates – Dec 8, 2023 at 10:30am.

V. **Adjournment** - Mrs. Grill adjourned the meeting at 11:17am

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