



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

**BERLIN-BOYLSTON REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

Tuesday, October 10, 2023, 5:00pm  
Tahanto Regional Middle/High School  
Multipurpose Room

Stream link <https://www.youtube.com/@bbrsdlive2893/streams>

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

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

Administration: Ms. Carol Costello, Superintendent; Ms. Nicole Bilotta, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent; Mr. John Campbell, Berlin Memorial Principal; Ms. Jannel Fitzpatrick, Director of Pupil Personnel Services; Ms. Nancy Konisky, Director of Finance & Operations; Mr. Paul Mara, Technology Coordinator; Ms. Lisa Sequeira, Tahanto Middle/High School Principal; Ms. Sally Stukuls, Director of Curriculum and Grants, Grades 6-12; Ms. Cinthia Sykes, Boylston Elementary Principal.

Also Present: Boylston Elementary and Tahanto Students

**I. Call to Order** - Meeting called to order at 5:00pm

**II. Pledge of Allegiance**

**III. Public Comments** -None

**IV. Communications** - None

**V. Consent Agenda** - Motion to approve made by Mrs. Julie Hart and seconded by Mrs. Meagan Grill, 6-0 vote, motion passed

1. Payroll and Payable Warrants
2. September 6, 2023 Policy Subcommittee Meeting Amended Minutes - ***Vote***
3. September 21, 2023 Policy Subcommittee Meeting Minutes - ***Vote***
4. September 26, 2023 Open Meeting Minutes - ***Vote***

## **VI. Reports**

1. Chair's Report - *Mr. Michael Totman - 5 minutes*
  - a. SRO's in schools – Mr. Michael Totman informed the group that he will be attending a Boylston Select Meeting coming later this month. He will attend with Mrs. Meagan Grill, Mrs. Jessica Degliaberti from the school committee and with Superintendent, Ms. Carol Costello. Ms. Costello spoke with Chief John Annunziati and he feels one SRO would be enough for both schools. The position would be funded through the police department since the department has other uses for SROs. The SRO would not act as a security guard, but be used for community relation building. The position is not to enforce law or any kind of punishment.
  
2. Tahanto Student Council Representative – Ms. Emerson Walsh - 5 minutes – Ms. Lisa Sequeira introduced Student Council President, Ms. Emerson Walsh. Ms. Walsh gave an overview of the activities going on with the high school students and noted that the school received a Blue Ribbon award. The award is only given to 351 schools nationwide. They are hoping to have upcoming events/fundraisers for charities and a blood drive.
  
3. Sub Committee Updates
  - a. Budget & Facilities Subcommittee - *Mrs. Meagan Grill - 5 minutes* – The budget that Ms. Nancy Konisky will present at the meeting was reviewed.
  - b. *Student Success and Technology Subcommittee - Mrs. Jessica Degliaberti* – No meeting was held
  - c. *Superintendent Evaluation Subcommittee - Mrs. Lori Hart* – The subcommittee met on Friday. They are going over the SMART tool, which aligns well with Ms. Costello's goals and helps the process run smoothly.
  - d. *Policy Subcommittee – Mrs. Lori Hart*- The subcommittee will meet before the next school committee meeting.
  
4. Superintendent of Schools Report - *Ms. Carol Costello - 5 minutes*

Ms. Costello noted that there have been great outcomes from the school tours, which has helped get items fixed already. The Berlin Fire Chief will add three additional AEDs into the school. The plan next year is to have the fire chiefs at the building review tours. Ms. Costello proposed creating an ad hoc committee for curriculum. The committee will discuss the best way to go forward.
  
5. Director of Finance and Operations-*Ms. Nancy Konisky - 10 minutes*

- a. Preliminary Review of FY25 Above Level Expenses, General Budget and Capital - Ms. Konisky and Ms. Costello met with all administrators to go over the preliminary budget. Eleven personal positions are proposed to be added in, with an overall 10% increase (5.25 above level 4.75 general budget). Last year was an 18% increase request. A bus is being added to Berlin due to the time children are spending on the bus to remain within an hour.  
Capital – Ms. Konisky reviewed capital items for each of the schools. BMS total is estimated at \$1,385,732; BES – at \$1,425,250; TAH – \$3,336,982 The school track is in worse disrepair than the athletic fields. The fields will be aerated first, before other measures are taken. Mrs. Grill would like to figure out a plan going forward for the BES roof.
- b. Closing of FY23 Budget – Ms. Konisky reviewed two spreadsheets with starting and ending figures. There is nothing significant. She also reviewed budget percentages and final dollar totals. There was a savings in nursing and transportation. BBRSD closed close to how the budget was opened. In previous years landscaping and transportation funds were taken out from revolving athletic funds. They will both be built into the budget and will be fine on that line item.

5. Director of Pupil Personnel Services - Ms. Jannel Fitzpatrick - 5 minutes

- a. *Unique Learning System* - Curriculum Resource for Special Education  
Ms. Jannel Fitzpatrick explained the Tiered Focused Monitoring (TFM) DESE Toolkit document, which replaces the Coordinated Program Review (DESE compliance tool). The 2<sup>nd</sup> year there is onsite monitoring and interviews. The total cost is \$1,500 per year and slightly higher to start.  
*Instructional resources for special education* – They are often looking for resources for small groups or individually. IEP for students are developed by teams familiar with those students. Often needs for new materials are on an ongoing basis. A system is needed for Tahanto for specialized instruction. The learning system has been trialed for several weeks and reviewed by the curriculum director. Providing materials otherwise not available at this time.

The Federal government is looking into response time and how satisfactory complaints are addressed for the commonwealth.

- b. State of the State of the Preschool  
Integrated preschool (2 classes) three session run. It is a formalized preschool study to look at different areas. There is a contract with Accept Collaborative to do a review in January. They will look at the program, interview staff, look at data from prior years and provide a report in March for implementation the following year. There are six identified questions that will be the basis for the report.

6. Presentations: *60 minutes*

- Proposed Elementary Student Activity Clubs (BES) - *Ms. Cinthia Sykes, (Students -Naylan Gomes and Brice Leary) - 5 minutes* - BES fourth grade students informed the committee about the Comic Book Club, which 25 fourth and fifth grade students have signed up for this year. Ms. Sykes would like to use undesignated funds (from photo rebates) to fund the club. Any other money would be used for existing clubs at BES.

Ms. Sykes spoke about the Kindness club and how it has run for nine years for fourth and fifth grade. She would like to have funding to bring the club further along and not have to ask the community to fund their materials. Sixty students signed up this year for the club, which focuses on promoting leaders. Currently volunteer teachers help run the club.

- Nurse Leader - Med Delegation - Epipens - *Ms. Lisa Lamoureux -5 minutes*  
Ms. Lamoureux explained epinephrine medication delegation and how it trains teachers to administer the medication and look for signs and symptoms. If the nurse is not available another staff member can assist or help on field trips. It could also help with the after-school program. The hope is to have one type of training for all three schools. Ms. Costello spoke to the work Ms. Lamoureux has been doing to streamline things throughout the schools.  
Idea to come up with a plan to get CPR certified. All coaches are certified. AED near courts and one near gazebo at BMS
- MIAA Update - *Ms. Lisa Sequeira - 10 minutes*  
Ms. Sequeira explained how MIAA classes work with eligibility. TAH does seven block courses, with most students taking six major classes. Students must pass all courses but one. Ms. Sequeira explained how athletics sometimes are the thing that can help get students through school and keep them coming back. Minimal students had failures that participated in athletics for the past several years. BBRSD is more stringent than the MIAA rules.
- Financial Literacy Requirements (DESE) - *Ms. Lisa Sequeira - 5 minutes*  
There was a task force that determined 45% across of Massachusetts students had no education around financial literacy. The task force looked at what was happening. An act was enacted into law in 2019, charged with offering students financial literacy tools. BBRSD looked at the curriculum and outlined pathways that by the time students graduate all students would have some coursework as identified required coursework for financial history. Today's juniors will need to have had the coursework to graduate.

- Cursive Writing - *Mr. John Campbell & Ms. Cinthia Sykes - 5 minutes* – The principals and Ms. Costello talked about how to align the curriculum across the schools. The teacher who was teaching cursive wanted to challenge the students and decided to teach cursive
- Diversity/Equity/Inclusion & the Curriculum Process - *Ms. Sally Stukuls & Ms. Lisa Sequeira - 10 minutes* – Three Tahanto students and Ms. Stukuls presented the purpose of DEI in curriculum review in Massachusetts Public School. Material is reviewed to make sure it represents our students objectively and accurately, and portrays a wide array of beliefs, cultures, family structures, equitable gender representation, race and socio- economic status. One of the jobs of educators is to identify material that students can connect with, that needs to be within the context and lens our students understand. The department heads and curriculum director review the material. BBRSD looks at subgroups and how they can help bridge the gap. Massachusetts standards are different from other states. Mr. Totman expressed concerns about how much time could be spent on reviewing items. A BBRSD student noted the importance of representation to her in the materials.
- MCAS (Elementary) & Accountability Report - *Mr. John Campbell & Ms. Cinthia Sykes - 20 minutes* – Mr. John Campbell and Ms. Cinthia Sykes presented the MCAS data. They noted that MCAS does not measure the worth of children, teachers or the schools and the exam does not match up well with other states. There were big steps up in ELA for both elementary schools. MCAS doesn't fit all students. BBRSD is working on vocabulary and how to effectively teach it. They have looked at the data to see what BBRSD is missing and in what direction it is trending. BBRSD wants all kids to be 60% and above. Third grade is the level where reading struggles. It was noted that they have to look at how literacy impacts mathematics and how it impacts the questions. Overall, the curriculum themes within the two elementary schools are the same, stories, and expectations. Mr. Campbell explained they need half a day every month for teachers to come together to discuss curriculum. From year to year the idea would be to have the same number of classes per grade.

## VII. Business Items

- Med Delegation: Epipens – **Vote - Mrs. Lee made the motion, and Mrs. Degliaberti seconded, 6-0, motion passed**
- Undesignated Funds (BES) Club Approval – **Vote - Mrs. Mair made the motion and Mrs. Degliaberti seconded, 6-0 vote, motion passed**

- Approval of *Unique Learning System (SPED)* – **Vote - Mrs. Lee made the motion and Mrs. Hart seconded, 6-0 vote, motion passed**
- BES Surplus – **Vote - Mrs. Lee made the motion and Mrs. Grill seconded, 6-0, motion passed. The items are open to townspeople to come get surplus items.**

VIII. **Future Agenda Item Proposals** - 5 minutes

AIMsweb at midyear

Tahanto MCAS

Handbook

2<sup>nd</sup> half of med delegation

Counseling department to speak

Meeting adjourned at 7:32pm

IX. **Upcoming Meeting Dates**

- Tuesday, November 14, 2023 at 5:00pm in person

*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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