



BERLIN-BOYLSTON REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Budget, Facilities, and Safety Subcommittee
Berlin-Boylston Regional School District Offices | 215 Main Street, Boylston, MA
Friday January 5th, 2024 | 10:30AM

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

I. **Call to Order** - Mrs. Grill called the meeting to order 10:50am

II. **Continuing Business**

A. FY 25 Budget Status Update- What else is needed to complete preliminary budget- Ms. Nancy Konisky updated the subcommittee that the budget is loaded in the system. Other updates included that the Safety Resource Officer (SRO) is budgeted for, if needed, there are a lot of moveable pieces with out of district tuitions that could change unfavorably, and the full-time adjustment counselor for BES will be needed next year.

III. **New Business**

B. Review and discuss FY24 Budget to Actuals in preparation for Jan 9th SC Meeting Ms. Konisky reviewed the FY24 documents district wide and by school. She noted that there were increased van pool rates and several former employees are collecting unemployment, and an unexpected mentor cost that puts those areas over budget. There are different line items that are able to make up for the district overages. The athletic fields are at a max on the line item and Ms. Konisky is watching it closely. There was extra money in athletic coaching due to there being no field hockey coach in the fall and only one coach needed for cheerleading.

Overall Ms. Konisky feels BBRSD is in a good position with at around 34% district wide. Due to the movement with the out of district tuitions at BMS the forecasted projection for the circuit breaker is \$345k as of 1/5/2024. It is more favorable at this point in time. The budget transfers are to be voted on a quarterly basis. Ms. Carol Costello mentioned adding a little more detail into those areas, so that it understood why those things happened. BBRSD pays full amount of unemployment since it is a regional school district, whereas public school districts do not. At the meeting Ms. Konisky will give a summary of the reason for the line items.

The subcommittee discussed how the electricity providers differ from Berlin and Boylston. Ms. Carol Costello will call Ms. Kristen Rubin about the electricity

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.

The Berlin-Boylston Regional Public Schools do not discriminate on the basis of age, race, color, national origin, ancestry, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, religion, creed, disability, veteran status, genetic information, homelessness or any other class protected by state or federal law.



agreement. There has also been a benefits savings, due to employee elections. Spending with legal is at 50% and Ms. Konisky is monitoring.

C. Five Year Finance Plan

Ms. Konisky met with IT and facilities. She reviewed the capital items for each school for the upcoming 5 years with the subcommittee.

Massachusetts School Building Authority has a letter of intent open in January, with two ways you can apply. On January 12th the SOI system will open for Superintendents. Their repair program deadline (partial or full replacement of roof and doors) is March 1st and core program is April 12th. Ms. Konisky will follow up with Mr. Dan Ayala on the age of the BMS roof. Overall, it could be a timely process. The Berlin building is 24 years old, so the roof may qualify. The subcommittee will look into actual year of the roof and the building to confirm and Ms. Costello will also reach out to Ms. Eloise Salls.

The only thing added is Boylston is a fence if the new preschool program goes to BES. The subcommittee will clarify which playground the fence would go on. Mr. Ayala adjusted rates for the bathroom updates down. At BES there is no heat in the kitchen itself. Mr. Ayala is reaching out to vendors to look at the scope of work. They could leave blank line in capital budget for this. BBRSD Central Office just learned of issue with the heating. There are also water issues in the stage area for BES and in storage closets.

For Tahanto Capital there is field aeration on the lacrosse fields. Ms. Lee suggested soil samples should be taken to assess what actions are actually needed for the fields. The schools can put forth a bid in November for city CPA (Community Preservation Act) funds. Ms. Lee explained how CPA funds work. Ms. Costello will find out more about the process from the board chair. Mrs. Lee explained it will cost 27K to maintain fields at BMS, which is about 9.2 acres or so. A quote is needed for getting the TAH field regraded and redone. Mrs. Lee knows a person who could come out to give a quote and has photos she can share that she will send to Mr. Ayala of the issues the fields current have.

The committee discussed that they need to look into what capital items the town should be taking care of instead of the school district. The town typically covers capital expenses over \$5K. Once lease agreements with the towns are figured out the committee is hopeful there will be more clarity.

Mrs. Grill discussed all of the items that are needed for repair in the next few years for BES and wanted to know what is the long-term goal for the district. The issue is does the district repair the building or make plan for a new one. She proposed another subcommittee with town representative since a decision would impact residents. Ms. Costello suggested setting up meeting with the towns to get their input. The subcommittee discussed that decisions need to be made about the buildings in both

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.

The Berlin-Boylston Regional Public Schools do not discriminate on the basis of age, race, color, national origin, ancestry, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, religion, creed, disability, veteran status, genetic information, homelessness or any other class protected by state or federal law.



towns in long term. Ms. Costello suggested a task force between the two towns to determine what happens with the buildings. Mrs. Grill and Ms. Costello will talk to individuals in the towns to get a feel of how to proceed.

IV. Comments / Future Agenda Items

A. Future subcommittee meeting date - The committee scheduled February 15th for their next meeting at 10:30am.

V. Adjournment - Mrs. Grill adjourned the meeting at 11:54am.

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.

The Berlin-Boylston Regional Public Schools do not discriminate on the basis of age, race, color, national origin, ancestry, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, religion, creed, disability, veteran status, genetic information, homelessness or any other class protected by state or federal law.