

**2024 School Committee Election  
Voter FAQs**

**1. When was the last School Committee election?**

The last school committee election was in November 2022. November 5, 2024 will have 3 open seats; two in Berlin and one in Boylston.

**2. What business is likely to come before the committee over the next four years?**

- a. The district and school committee developed a District Improvement Plan for the years 2023-2028. That policy document set the vision and direction for the district and continues to guide the formation of annual goals and budgetary decisions. Work on the next DIP will begin prior to 2028.
- b. The current superintendent's contract will expire in 2026. The superintendent is the only employee hired and evaluated by the school committee.
- c. The current contract with the Berlin-Boylston Education Association expires in 2025, and is likely to be replaced with a new contract which will then expire in 2028. The contract defines agreed upon working conditions and salary / compensation and benefits for the district's full time and regular part-time professional staff, including teachers, counselors, librarians, and nurses. Personnel expenditures account for the largest portion of the district's budget.

**3. Who votes in the election?**

Registered voters in Berlin and Boylston may vote in the November 2024 election.

**4. What will the ballot look like?**

On the ballot, there will be a space for candidates from each town, something like this:

Regional School District - Berlin (Vote for 2) - 4 year term  
Candidate 1  
Candidate 2  
Candidate 3

Regional School District - Boylston (Vote for 1) - 4 year term  
Candidate 4  
Candidate 5

## **Candidate FAQs**

### **1. What is the role of school committee members?**

- a. The school committee has oversight of and responsibility for the school system, sets the direction in which the system must go, and establishes criteria to determine if its goals and policies are being met.
- b. The school committee hires and evaluates the Superintendent, votes to approve the school budget, has input on the District Improvement Plan (5 years), and writes and sets policy.
- c. Serves as a link between the community and the school district by bringing the communities' concerns to the district and advocating for the district in the community.

### **2. How, when, and where do I collect signatures for my nomination papers?**

- a. Candidates will be able to take out nomination papers from the District Clerk, or the town clerks in Boylston and/or Berlin beginning on June 6, 2024.
- b. Candidates must return those nomination papers to the Town Clerk(s) in Boylston and/or Berlin by July 23, 2024.
- c. Potential candidates can collect signatures from registered voters in either town in order to appear on the ballot.
- d. If potential candidates choose to collect signatures from both towns, they must collect signatures from each town on separate nomination papers so they can be certified by each Town Clerk. Signatures collected from Boylston residents must be certified by the Boylston Town Clerk, and signatures collected from Berlin residents must be certified by the Berlin Town Clerk.

### **3. How much time do members typically spend working on School Committee business?**

Members of the School Committee participate in full meetings of the committee, may be appointed to serve on subcommittees, and conduct correspondence from time to time in between meetings.

Full meetings are typically held on the second Tuesday of each month. The final Tuesday of each month is held for potential second meetings if needed.

Subcommittee meetings are held as needed, in between regular committee meetings. Members are usually on 1-2 subcommittees.

Members are encouraged to attend town meetings (select board, Finance Committee, PTO, LINK, SEPAC, etc).

### **4. Do School Committee members receive compensation for their roles in town government, as some other elected officials do?**

No, this is a volunteer position.

**5. Who is eligible to run for a seat in the election?**

- a. Candidates must meet the following requirements:
  - i. Must be at least 18 years old
  - ii. Must be registered to vote in the State of Massachusetts
  - iii. Must meet the residency and signature requirements. Candidates for the Boylston vacancies must be residents of Boylston. Candidates for the Berlin seats must be residents of Berlin.

**6. What seats are open and what is the term of office?**

- One Boylston Vacancy for a four (4) year term (2024 - 2028)
- Two Berlin Vacancies for a four (4) year term (2024 - 2028)