



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, May 28, 5:00pm
Tahanto Regional Middle/High School
Zoom - **Revised**

Zoom Link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87578223905>

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

School Committee: Mrs. Meagan Grill, Chair; Mrs. Julie Lee, Vice Chair; Mrs. Lori-Anne Hart, District Clerk; Mr. Michael Totman; Mrs. Jessica Degliaberti; 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; Mr. Paul Mara, Technology Coordinator; Ms. Lisa Sequeira, Tahanto Middle/High School Principal; Ms. Cinthia Sykes, Boylston Elementary Principal; Mr. Michael Wood, Director of Finance & Operations;

I. **Call to Order** – Mrs. Meagan Grill called the meeting to order at 5:03pm

II. **Pledge of Allegiance**

III. **Public Comments** -

Ms. Jaime Muldoon, parent of a child at BMS asked the committee to reconsider school choice. She would like clarification on the costs of a school choice student. She noted other towns who also have school choice.

Ms. Beth Mancini, parent of a child from Berlin, asked the school committee to reconsider school choice votes at Tahanto. She noted there are mixed ideas from parents, but thinks no school choice slots is unreasonable. Students leave for other schools and not all of those spots are maintained

IV. **Consent Agenda** - Motion to approve made by Mrs. Lori Hart and seconded by Mrs. Julie Lee, Roll call: Mrs. Lori Hart, Mrs. Lisa Mair, Mr. Michael Totman, Mrs. Jessica Degliaberti, Mrs. Julie Lee, and Mrs. Meagan Grill – All Aye, motion passes

- Payable Warrants

V. Reports

- School Choice Follow-Up Discussion- *Mrs. Julie Lee* – Mrs. Grill reviewed the previous vote on school choice. The motion from the May 7th meeting that was tabled until May 28th to hear from Mrs. Lisa Sequeira was reopened. Ms. Sequeira recommend five slots for incoming 6th grade, with a possible total of students for that class to 80 students. She is not recommended any being added at 7-12 grades, at this point until they receive enrollment information and information from parents to unenroll students from TAH. Students stay enrolled in the school until the school is told otherwise. Without knowing the budget, she is concerned about increased enrollment. She would not like to have a large number of students and not being able to have the staff. Tahanto has not run into issues with dual enrollment. Students can unenroll up to the day before school. If a student chooses to go elsewhere they can change their mind and stay in the district up until then. Mrs. Lee noted historically eight to nine students have dropped. Next year there are 89 incoming 9th grade students. BBRSD has to be aware of how many staff are available to support those students. 80 kids in a class is a good number. Each class holds 24 in every class. It is not really possible to do 24 per class based on how rotating scheduling works. There are challenges with maxing out space and meeting requirements.

Mr. Totman noted that the school may get athletes and arts students or they may not. Usually \$5k is exceeded if more services are needed. Committee members noted hearing from parents with views on both sides. Mrs. Hart noted that each year they discuss school choice, but this year they are in a budget crunch. She favors school choice and to make sure all students get the best education possible. With the situation BBRSD is in everything is being stretched. Mrs. Degliaberti felt if the numbers dip in the future below 80 maybe it could be revisited.

Tahanto Middle School will be very full with the next school year. There are lots of variables this particular year and may not be the best year to allow more. Current school choice students will remain in BBRSD for next year. All 76 slots will create revenue. They will just not get new revenue if spots are not added. Mrs. Carol Costello noted an average of 13 students were lost, but there were lower enrollment in the grades. Now there are larger numbers. For staff many teach different courses and scheduling can get tricky. Taking more students on also means funding them with the materials they need and additionally other services. Ms. Costello suggested tabling until late summer or into the beginning of the school year. BBRSD does not pay school choice when students go to private schools. She will look into the exact amount per student paid for Assabet.

DESE needs to be notified if BBRSD is doing school choice by June 1st, and they are. BBRSD is not killing school choice altogether. Mrs. Degliaberti felt 9th grade is a wildcard at this point and wise to table them until later. If the budget does not pass, more seats would probably open, but students also might not come with what would need to be cut. The committee discussed that the 5k today doesn't go as far as it used to and they won't know the true costs for the new students. Sports and teachers could get cut if budget does not pass. There is a cost of time and resources to the students currently in the schools, as well. Mrs. Mair agreed that this year there a lot of unknowns.

On June 17th if the budget passes there does not need to be another meeting. Current recommendation to add five spots to incoming 6th grade. **Mrs. Julie Lee requested an amendment to striking zero and inserting 32 spots, 10 slots for 6th, five slots for 8th, thirteen slots for 9th, four slots for 10th. Seconded by Mrs. Degliaberti.** The committee did not feel comfortable with those numbers. **She wants to amend motion final time to strike numbers to five for incoming 6th grade alone based on Lisa's recommendations. No second. Motion died. Roll call vote: Mrs. Lori Hart – Nay, Mrs. Lisa Mair – Nay, Mrs. Jessica Degliaberti – Nay, Mrs. Julie Lee – Aye, Mr. Michael Totman – Nay, Mrs. Meagan Grill – Nay, 5-1, original motion does not pass.**

There are zero new school choice slots for this upcoming year and they will revisit in August.

VI. Business Items

- Approval of Moses Tyler Reed Scholarship – **Vote** – Every year the scholarship is given to Berlin residents There were 15 applicants, which is higher than in the past. Students apply while in college as long as they meet the criteria. The money will go to all 15 applicants and there are different tiers to the amounts they receive. **Motion to approve the \$20,892 Moses Tyler Reed Scholarships made by Mrs. Julie Lee, and seconded by Mr. Michael Totman, Roll call vote: Mrs., Lori Hart, Mrs. Lisa Mair, Mrs. Jessica Degliaberti, Mrs. Julie Lee, Mr. Michael Totman, Mrs. Meagan Grill – All Aye, 6-0, motion passes.**
- School Committee Calendar 2024-2025 – **Vote - Motion to approve the FY25 calendar made by Mrs. Lori Hart seconded by Mrs. Lisa Mair.** Mr. Totman wanted to add the budget vote in late February to help with the towns. February 11th initial budget presentation, February 25th budget hearing with a vote. It was moved out this year from MARS recommendation because of the circuit breaker money. **A motion to amend the calendar to move the budget vote on February 25th and regular meeting on February 11th made by Mr. Michael Totman and seconded by Mrs. Lori Hart. Roll call vote: Mrs. Lori Hart, Mrs. Lisa Mair, Mrs. Jessica Degliaberti, Mrs. Julie Lee, Mr. Michael Totman, Mrs. Meagan Grill – All aye, 6-0, motion passes.**
- **Approval to schedule School Committee budget reconsideration meeting date and Regional Town Meeting date if needed – Vote** – BBRSD would potentially schedule joint town meeting now to get the budget passed as quickly as possible so that teachers on notice do not go out and find new positions. The morning of June 18th the school committee would have a meeting at 7:30am on zoom and then a joint town meeting forum for that night at Tahanto at 6:30pm. It is legal for BBRSD to do this, at this time. This meeting would be contingent only on the failure of the budget.

Mrs. Grill made a motion to add a school committee meeting on June 18th at 7:30am on zoom contingent only on the reconsidered budget seconded by Mr. Michael Totman. Roll call vote: Mrs. Jessica Degliaberti, Mrs. Lori Hart, Mrs. Lisa Mair, Mr. Michael Totman, Mrs. Meagan Grill, 6-0, Motion passes

Motion to schedule a joint town meeting contingent only on the failure of the Berlin town budget at 6:30pm made by Mr. Michael Totman and seconded by Mrs. Jessica Degliaberti,

Roll call vote: Mrs. Lori Hart, Mrs. Lisa Mair, Mrs. Jessica Degliaberti, Mrs. Julie Lee, Mr. Michael Totman, Mrs. Meagan Grill – All Aye , 6-0, motion passes.

Motion to adjourn the meeting made by Mrs. Julie Lee and seconded by Mrs. Lisa Mair. Roll call vote: Mrs. Lori Hart, Mrs. Lisa Mair, Mrs. Jessica Degliaberti, Mrs. Julie Lee, Mr. Michael Totman, Mrs. Meagan Grill – All Aye , 6-0, meeting adjourned at 6:37pm

VII. Upcoming Meeting

- June 4, 2024 Regular Meeting

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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