



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

BERLIN-BOYLSTON REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Thursday, June 6, 2024, 11:00am

Zoom

REVISED

Zoom Link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87231667416>

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; Mr. Bill Whitehead, BBEA Union President;

- I. **Call to Order** - Mrs. Meagan Grill called the meeting to order at 11:02am
- II. **Public Comments** – Mr. Bill Whitehead spoke about the MOU side letter request pertaining to the appendix in the contract. Some language was not carried over from the previous contract. Requesting to have a side letter to note those items.

He also commented to voters in the town as President of the teacher’s union and as a Tahanto teacher. June 15th is the state law when the district has to legally notify by reduction in force. People have been notified, programs and positions have been cut. If they want it restored they need to come out to vote on June 17th. Ratios at Tahanto have to be maintained. The budget decisions and cuts affect all three schools. Mrs. Meagan Grill and Mrs. Lori Hart thanked Mr. Whitehead for helping clarify things and speaking for the teachers.

- III. **Consent Agenda** – Motion to approve made by Mrs. Julie Lee and seconded by Mrs. Lori Hart 6,0, Roll call vote: Mrs. Lori Hart, Mrs. Julie Lee, Mr. Michael Totman, Mrs. Lisa Mair, Mrs. Jessica Degliaberti, and Mrs. Meagan Grill – All Aye, motion passes.
 - **Payable Warrants**

IV. Reports

- **Chair's Report- Mrs. Meagan Grill** – Mrs. Hart shared that nomination paperwork can be picked up from the town clerks or from her. There are two spots for Berlin and one spot for Boylston which are one-year terms. She noted that people do not need to pull from both towns. By July 23rd 50 certified signatures are due. People can do both towns or just one town. Nominee names will go on the ballot in November for position they are running for.

Mrs. Grill announced that on June 17th Berlin town members need to vote for the school committee budget. On Monday June 10th, there will be a joint meeting with Berlin Finance Committee and the Selectboard to partner together to do what is best for the community. The report that the district is working will be released. Included are the potential cuts if the budget does not pass. A line item budget is attached to the memo. If there are any specific questions they can be emailed to Mrs. Grill. There was a Finance Committee meeting last night that the School Committee did not know about. Mrs. Grill got an email from Mr. Scott Shultz with their requests. She received a meeting summary from Ms. Kyle Burns from LINK.

- **Subcommittee Updates-**
 - **Student Success and Technology Subcommittee- Mrs. Jessica Degliaberti** – The committee met on May 31st. They discussed the Boylston Master Plan Implementation Committee and what items related to the schools in the document. Ms. Mair went to a webinar on green schools and different grant resources. They also discussed the website and more work to come in the summer. The committee felt that technology in schools needs to be talked about more. Mr. Totman noted it is also on the radar for policy subcommittee. Ms. Mair has been doing formatting changes for the Tahanto handbook and is meeting with Ms. Lisa Sequeira next week to get approval.
 - **Budget and Facilities Subcommittee- Mrs. Meagan Grill** – no formal meeting held
 - **Superintendent Evaluation Subcommittee- Mrs. Lori-Anne Hart** – Mrs. Hart shared that evaluations were moved to the next meeting on June 18th. All have completed their evaluations for superintendent
 - **Policy Subcommittee- Mr. Michael Totman** – one up for vote.
- **Superintendent's Report - Ms. Carol Costello**
 - Paraprofessional - Official Union – Mrs. Carol Costello explained BBRSD received notice from the Department of Labor and they are waiting to hear on negotiation timelines. Right now, is status quo with old agreement.
 - Reduction in Force Recommendation – Ms. Costello has spoken to everyone who would be affected by rifs. They were difficult conversations and she is hopeful for the vote on June 17th. Official letters will be sent out to those being cut.
 - AVC Report (for informational purposes only) – The report shows tuition services and transportation quotes.
 - Honor Retirees Ms. Costello noted the staff retiring and thanked them for their service to the schools. Ms. Deb Draper in Physical Education for 41 years, Mrs. Jane Mutti in World Language and Spanish for 17 years and Ms. Betsy Trudeau in OT for 22 years.

The Parent Forum is being held on Wednesday June 12th.

- Presentation of Statutory Budget - *Mr. Michael Wood* – Mr. Wood explained the statutory budget is only necessary if the vote is no. They will have the opportunity to revisit the May 7th budget or start from scratch. The difference is under state law the assessments for both towns will be computed with a state formula. If the vote fails on June 17th, it goes back to school committee. They do not need to discuss further at this time.

The committee originally planned to schedule a district wide town meeting. Now they are working with the town of Berlin. They cannot hold one on June 18th due to timelines.

V. Business Items

- Approval to adopt the town assessment using the statutory method – **Vote – Did not need to have vote**
- Approval of amending the current FY24 school committee meeting calendar – **Vote** – In the last meeting they scheduled a meeting at 7:30am on June 18th. Now they would like to move the meeting to 5pm to get to some of the business originally planned for May 28th. At this point, they cannot make the July 1st timeline. If it doesn't pass the budget will go to 1/12th budget due to not enough days for required timeline. In 1/12th budget the rified positions are still in limbo. The committee is waiting to see what happens and then will make the plans. – **vote – A motion was made to amend the current fy24 school committee calendar to change the June 18th regular meeting start time from 7:30am on zoom to 5:00pm in-person by Mrs. Lisa Mair and seconded by Mrs. Jessica Degliaberti, Roll call vote: Mr. Michael Totman, Mrs. Julie Lee, Mrs. Jessica Degliaberti, Mrs. Lori Hart, Mrs. Lisa Mair, and Mrs. Meagan Grill – all aye, 6-0, motion passes.**
- Approval of the date for a new district-wide meeting – **Vote – skipped**
- Approval of an alternative meeting notice posting location - Open Meeting Law – **Vote** – Currently the BBRSD district has not adopted their website as the official location for the agenda. District clerk will need to post on websites and on boards how to find the agendas. A written notice will be filed with the AG as well. This eliminate the two towns from being required to post. **Motion to adopt the district website as the committee's official posting method made by Mr. Michael Totman and seconded by Mrs. Julie Lee, roll call vote: Mrs. Julie Lee, Mr. Michael Totman, Mrs. Jessica Degliaberti, Mrs. Lori Hart, Mrs. Lisa Mair and Mrs. Meagan Grill – all aye, 6-0, motion passes.**
- Approval of delegating counsel and authorizing school committee chair to respond to open meeting law complaint filed by Ms. Peg Stone – **Vote – alleges that BBRSD violated open meeting law. The committee and staff are now clear on that requirement. 6-0 No objections, approval passes.**
- **Marion Hoffman Scholarship - Mrs. Julie Lee** – **Vote** – The scholarship is given every year to one fifth grade student from each class at BMS who is an avid reader and volunteers like Ms. Hoffman. She recommended \$50. **Motion to accept \$50 recommended made by, Mrs. Julie Lee and seconded by Mrs. Lori Hart. Roll call vote: Mrs. Julie Lee, Mr. Michael Totman, Mrs. Jessica Degliaberti, Mrs. Lori Hart, Mrs. Lisa Mair, and Mrs. Meagan Grill – all aye, 6-0, motion passes**

- **MOU Request from BBEA - Mr. Bill Whitehead – Vote – Motion made to approve the MOU request from the BBRA as written made by Mrs. Jessica Degliaberti and seconded by Mrs. Lisa Mair, Roll call vote: Mrs. Julie Lee, Mr. Michael Totman, Mrs. Jessica Degliaberti, Mrs. Lori Hart, Mrs. Lisa Mair and Mrs. Meagan Grill – all aye, 6-0, motion passes.**
- **Policy ILD - Student Submission to Educational Surveys and Research – Vote – Mrs. Degliaberti** noted there was no discussion about the ILD first read and asked if the highlighted points were reviewed by council. They were not. Mrs. Degliaberti had concerns if it violates some amendments pointed out the portions of the proposed text that concerned her. Mr. Totman explained every change is intended to inform parents before it is sent out, not to deny it from happening. Mrs. Lisa Sequeira noted it would impact 8th grade and juniors projects and limit ability to gather information from students. She has never seen policies like this.

It was brought up that parents do not read emails and having to opt in could be an issue if emails are not read. Mrs. Lee agreed with Mrs. Degliaberti on the issue on opting in. She noted that corrective action was taken. Mrs. Hart explained only the 8 areas listed in ILD need parents to be informed. It would not impact all areas. Ms. Sequeira noted surveys going out in the future would be sent with protective measures. Strike the first paragraph edits, strike first two yellow amendments. Ms. Costello informed the committee that out of 39 districts 15 came back with response allowing opt outs in variety of ways. **Mrs. Jessica Degliaberti made a motion to table vote for further discussion and revision to June 18, seconded by Mrs. Julie Lee.** Mike noted he doesn't know why schools ask about sexual behavior and attitudes. He wants parents to have that information beforehand. He said there is a communication issue so he rather have opt in. Mrs. Hart noted to think of all sides involved. Intent is not to divide to but respect all people involved. They felt it was important to put in those edits to respect the parents if they felt it was not part of their values. This would not apply to 18-year old's. Someone to reach out to council about the additions about the ILD policy and give parents option. **Roll call, Mr. Michael Totman – nay, Mrs. Jessica Degliaberti – aye, Mrs. Lisa Mair – aye, Mrs. Julie Lee – aye, Mrs. Lori Hart – aye, Mrs. Meagan Grill – aye, 5-1, motion passes.**

Meeting adjourned at 12:31pm. Roll call: Mrs. Julie Lee, Mrs. Jessica Degliaberti, Mr. Michael Totman, Mrs. Lisa Mair, Mrs. Lori Hart, and Mrs. Meagan Grill - all aye.

VI. Upcoming Meeting

- June 18, 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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