



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 13, 2024, 12:00pm

Zoom

Zoom Link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86551925386>

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;

Administration: Ms. Carol Costello, Superintendent; Ms. Nicole Bilotta, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent; Mr. Paul Mara, Technology Coordinator; Mr. Michael Wood, Interim Director of Finance & Operations;

I. Call to Order - Mrs. Meagan Grill called the meeting to order at 12:03pm

II. Public Comments - None

III. Reports

- FY25 Budget Update Discussion – Mrs. Meagan Grill, Ms. Carol Costello and Mr. Michael Wood took back what the town of Berlin has commented on and made a strong effort to meet them closer where they need to be. Mr. Wood noted school administration looked through their budgets again. The town of Berlin wants to raise their taxation to about \$225K and asked BBRSD if that amount could be met. Mr. Wood went through the E&D, positions, stipends, and benefits that could go towards the cuts. Mrs. Grill felt school choice cash could be used instead of Tahanto stipends. Next year BBRSD will take a closer look at tightening the stipends up. Mrs. Hart expressed concerns of using accounts that could be depleted. Mr. Wood explained they could go around three more budget cycles. At some point the funds would be gone.

Last year BMS paras were added and this year there is the potential to cut them. Mrs. Lee did not approve and it would not be equitable across the schools. They were asked about covering at least one para from school choice. Cash applied needs to be done in compliance with the regional agreement. If circuit breaker is all used now, there would be none to use for next year. Mrs. Hart rather cut come somewhere else, than the K paras. The idea of potentially cutting middle school

sports was discussed and they could run through volunteering. There could be the option to be on JV or varsity sports. Mrs. Lee felt it would disrupt the culture of the middle school and felt it would be detrimental to the middle schoolers. \$26k of stipends would need to be cut.

Mrs. Grill explained the school committee is not tied to cutting \$225K. She spoke with Mr. Scott Shultz and he would not endorse it even if cut. Mr. Totman explained the admin team knows what can work and cannot work for the district and the school committee should not be as concerned with the line items, but rather do they cut \$225K or not. Ms. Costello would prefer to use school choice. Mrs. Lisa Sequeira knew there are stipends that could be used because they do not have those sports. She felt comfortable finding \$26k that would not impact major sports. Anything running in the last few years could continue to run. She has good idea of what clubs are and are not running.

There could be savings in Special Education runs that would be able to be moved within Tahanto's lines. There will be shifts between now and when school doors open due to the nature of the school system. Over the summer, the runs will be worked out and finalized. Mrs. Jannel Fitzpatrick explained they project the number of runs needed based on what they expect the needs to be and update it as each budget iteration is made, but can fluctuate. If there are surplus finds they can be applied anywhere in the budget. They are done with budget transfers. When they come back in August, they will have a better understanding of how many runs they will have. Then they could reinstate the para position at a later time.

It was mentioned that some towns provide ways to lower taxes by volunteering. Mrs. Degliaberti felt they could highlight volunteer opportunities.

Public comment made – It was felt that it would be disservice to remove K paras. Mr. Totman wanted to vote to lower the budget by \$225k and then Ms. Costello decides where cuts would be made. It would be a priority to reinstate those positions.

IV. Business Items

- Budget Vote (If needed) Votes were on the Berlin assessment and Tahanto assessment. Capital assessments stay the same
 - Motion made to lower the BMS operating assessment from \$5,177,184 to \$5,064,959.72 – not seconded, motion dies
 - Motion to lowers BMS operating budget \$5,177,184 to \$5,064,959.72 made by Mrs. Jessica Degliaberti, and seconded by Mrs. Lisa Mair, roll call vote: Mrs. Lori Hart, Mrs. Lisa Mair, Mrs. Jessica Degliaberti, Mr. Michael Totman, Mrs. Julie Lee and Mrs. Meagan Grill – All Aye, 6-0 motion passes.
 - Motion to lower the Tahanto Regional Middle/High School operating budget from \$12,138,972 to \$12,091,970.36 made by Mrs. Lisa Mair and seconded by Mrs. Jessica Degliaberti. Roll call vote: Mrs. Julie Lee, Mrs. Jessica Degliaberti, Mr. Michael Totman, Mrs. Lori Hart, and Mrs. Meagan Grill – All Aye, motion passes.
 - Vote on assessment – A motion to lower the Berlin Memorial School operating assessment from \$4,508,106 to \$4,330,107.64 made by Mrs. Jessica Degliaberti and seconded by Mrs. Julie Lee. Roll call vote: Mrs. Julie Lee, Mrs. Jessica Degliaberti, Mr. Michael Totman, Mrs. Lori Hart, and Mrs. Meagan Grill – All Aye, motion passes.

○ Tahanto Middle/High School Operating Assessment vote moved to Monday June 17th at 6:00pm.

- Meeting adjourned – at 1:15pm Roll Call: Mrs. Lori Hart, Mrs. Jessica Degliaberti, Mr. Michael Totman, Mrs. Julie Lee and Mrs. Meagan Grill – All Aye, meeting adjourned.

V. Upcoming Meeting

- June 18, 2024

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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