



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

BERLIN-BOYLSTON REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Monday, July 22, 2024, 5:00 pm

Zoom

Zoom Link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87834125466>

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, Interim Director of Finance & Operations;

- I. **Call to Order** – Mrs. Meagan Grill called the meeting to order at 5:02pm.
- II. **Public Comments** – A public comment made by Ms. Beth Mancini of Berlin asking to reconsider Tahanto school choice seats and that incoming students do participate in sports and after school activities. She was interested to know how many students needed services when then they entered Tahanto that did not need them in elementary school. She also noted the sending district is reimbursed. Mr. Totman clarified his sports comment was that students may or may not participate and there is no way to for BBRSD to recruit.

Mr. and Mrs. Eddy Hickey, parents from Boylston inquired about moving out of the district and if their child could remain in BBRSD. Ms. Sykes explained she would like to see the child continue if some of the school choice spots opened up. Mrs. Costello and Mrs. Sykes will be in touch with the family.

- III. **Communications** – Mrs. Grill received two separate emails from parents that have older children and want their younger children going into 7th grade. There is preference to staff or teachers for school choice in BBRSD policy. Mrs. Hart also received a communication about concerns about school choice and explained that current students have slots each year, it is just a matter of adding new slots.

IV. Consent Agenda - Motion to approve the consent agenda made by Mrs. Lori Hart and seconded by Mrs. Jessica Degliaberti, Roll call – Mrs. Jessica Degliaberti, Mrs. Lori Hart, Mr. Michael Totman, Mrs. Julie Lee and Mrs. Meagan Grill: all aye, motion passes.

1. May 7, 2024 Open Meeting Minutes

V. Reports

1. School Choice - Final discussion for 2024-2025 School Year - *Mrs. Julie Lee* – Mrs. Sykes reviewed the numbers she provided for school choice. They are not necessarily what she wants, but what is available in July. She would like 20 students and under in a class to keep it more manageable for the teachers. She would like a K slot and one or two slots for 2nd grade. The K and one 2nd grade slot would be for current staff. The district will look into clearer language for when someone currently lives in the town but may potentially moves out of district. BBRSD is reimbursed incrementally from the town they come from. There is a rate from the state that is set and paid to the district.

Mr. Campbell explained his numbers for school choice. Berlin classrooms are smaller and room is adequate up to 17 students in the room. In the past, the elementary school numbers were compared to see what the total for the grades would be going into Tahanto. They wanted under 85 students and this year all except for 4th grade go over that amount. Mr. Totman shared reservations about adding to elementary except for staff with many grades already over the ideal capacity.

Mrs. Lisa Sequeira shared her numbers for school choice, which did not change much from the last meeting it was discussed at. The school was built for a 570-person capacity, equating to about 81 students per grade. Proposed numbers were 6th grade 5 slots, 9th grade 10 slots, and 10th grade 4 slots. BBRSD will look into who pays for a student who goes to Assabet that is school choice. They believe BBRSD may be responsible. Mr. Michael Wood noted it would come from the town for current residents. Exit interview data has been collected starting this year to see why students choose to leave. The best fit for each grade level should have max 86 students due to the classroom capacity. Adding more kids because there is empty space could take away from the current students. There are currently 25 homes for sale in the district and open spaces in the apartments that could bring in more students. There were concerns for adding additional slots just for the sake of space and because of the budget situation that happened this year. Other members felt they should accept more slots.

Mr. Totman mentioned there was a policy that numbers should be in by May 1st and if it can be done in the future and if not, they would change the policy.

2. Update from Elementary Principals on child care for half days during the 2024-2025 school year
The group met earlier that day to discuss options. A productive meeting was held and with agreed support from the town from recreation departments. They talked about charging families to pay the counselors working it and one would be held in each town. A facilities use policy would be done for insurance reasons. There would be training for the counselors and anticipate it would probably be similar numbers to the students who participate in the before/after school care, which would run its normal hours after. The cost would be similar to the after-school program and keeping the programs the same in each school. A survey and sign up will go out that lead to the rec departments and will have cut offs so they know the number they are working with. The first session is not until November. Mr. Totman expressed concerns about holding the

PD half days. Mrs. Lee explained that the school committee wanted improvements so more PD days were added. The recreation departments from each town have agreed to help.

A motion was made to enter into Executive session and not reconvene at 7:05pm motion from Mrs. Lori Hart, seconded by Mrs. Lisa Mair, roll call: Mrs. Jessica Degliaberti, Mrs. Julie Lee, Mrs. Lisa Mair, Mr. Michael Totman, Mrs. Lori Hart, Mrs. Meagan Grill – all aye

Motion to adjourn open session Mrs. Lori Hart, seconded by Mrs. Lisa Mair, roll call: Mrs. Jessica Degliaberti, Mrs., Julie Lee, Mrs. Lisa Mair, Mrs. Lori Hart, Mr. Michael Totman, Mrs. Meagan Grill – all aye – Adjourned at 7:05pm.

3. Any other business not anticipated by the chair within 48 hours of the meeting

VI. Enter into Executive Session and not return to Open Session:

Executive Session pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 30A, Section 21(a), Purpose (7), to comply with or act under the authority of the Public Records Law to review the executive session minutes of the Committee's May 7, 2024 meeting for possible release.

VII. Business Items

- School Choice (If needed) – **Vote**

A motion was made for one kindergarten spot at BES for employee student, by Mr. Michael Totman and seconded by Mrs. Lori Hart. Mrs. Julie Lee wanted to have a discussion. A motion was made to amend the motion to add 2 spots in second grade by Mrs. Jessica Degliaberti and seconded by Mrs. Julie Lee. Roll call Mrs. Jessica Degliaberti - aye, Mrs. Julie Lee - aye, Mrs. Lisa Mair – nay, Mr. Michael Totman – nay, Mrs. Lori Hart – nay, Mrs. Meagan Grill – nay, 2-4 amendment does not pass. Original motion on table roll call Mrs. Jessica Degliaberti – aye, Mrs. Julie Lee - abstain, Mrs. Lisa Mair – aye, Mr. Michael Totman – aye, Mrs. Meagan Grill – aye, 5-0-1, motion passes.

For BMS a motion was made by Mrs. Julie Lee to add five slots, seconded by Mrs. Jessica Degliaberti. 3 to grade 1, - Mrs. Jessica Degliaberti - aye Mrs. Julie Lee – aye, Mrs. Lisa Mair - nay, Mr. Michael Totman - nay, Mrs. Lori Hart - nay, Mrs. Meagan Grill- nay. Motion does not pass.

For Tahanto Motion made by Mrs. Julie Lee to add five to 6th, three to 8th, ten to 9th, four to 10th – 22 spots, seconded by Mrs. Jessica Degliaberti. Roll call: Mrs. Jessica Degliaberti – aye, Mrs. Julie Lee - aye, Mrs. Lisa Mair -nay, Mr. Michael Totman – nay, Mrs. Meagan Grill – nay, 2-4, motion does not pass.

- Tahanto Regional Middle/High School Handbook - **First Read**

VIII. Upcoming Meeting

- August, 27, 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.

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.