



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, October 8, 2024, 5:00 pm

Tahanto Regional Middle/High School

Multi Purpose Room

Stream link <https://www.youtube.com/@bbrsdlive2893/streams>

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 Deglialberti

Administration: Mr. Albert G. Ganem Jr., Interim Superintendent; Mr. Daniel Ayala, Facilities Manager; Ms. Nicole Bilotta, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent; Mr. John Campbell, Berlin Memorial Principal; Mr. Daniel Deedy Interim Director of Finance and Operations; 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;

I. Call to Order - Mrs. Meagan Grill called the meeting to order at 5:02pm

II. Pledge of Allegiance

III. Public Comments -none

IV. Communications - none

V. Consent Agenda

A motion was made to approve the consent agenda by Mrs. Lori Hart and seconded by Mrs. Jessica Deglialberti. Warrants were discussed. Mr Totman asked for confirmation that TMS was not paid in those warrants. Mrs. Grill confirmed they were not. Mr. Dan Deedy explained how we would like to proceed with the warrants. **A motion was made to table the warrant topic until later in the meeting by Mrs. Jessica Deglialberti and seconded by Mr. Michael Totman, 5-0 vote, tabled**

A motion to approve the open meeting minutes was made by Mrs. Lori Hart and Mrs. Jessica Deglialberti, 5-0 vote ,motion passes

- June 17, 2024 Open Meeting Minutes

- June 18, 2024 Open Meeting Minutes
- September 10, 2024 Open Meeting Minutes
- Warrant

VI. Executive Session: A motion to enter into executive session was made by Mrs. Lori Hart and Mr. Michael Totman, vote 5-0 - Executive session entered at 5:10pm

- Executive Session pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 30A, Section 21(a), Purpose (3), to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares - Paraprofessionals

A motion to enter back into open session made by Mrs. Lori Hart and seconded by Mrs. Julie Lee, Roll call - Mrs. Jessica Deglilberti, Mrs. Julie Lee, Mr. Michael Totman, Mrs. Meagan Grill - all aye, Entered into open session at 5:29pm

VII. Reports

- Chair's Report – *Mrs. Meagan Grill* - Mrs. Grill explained they need to start thinking about hiring a full time superintendent, because Mr. Albert Ganem is a retired superintendent. Mrs. Grill asked Mrs. Hart to be the chair of the Superintendent Hiring Committee. A group of people will make up the committee. The position will be posted and Mrs. Hart will review resumes. There will be a first round of interviews with the committee. A grading system will be done with the candidates. Finalists will move on and a public vote will be made.

A motion to appoint Mrs. Lori-Anne Hart as the chair was made by Mr. Michael Totman and seconded by Mrs. Julie Lee. Discussion: Mrs. Lee asked if two people should be chairs to split work. Mr. Ganem explained MASC asked for one point person and they can help with the search. Mr. Totman and Mrs. Deglilberti expressed interest. Mrs. Hart will be the point person. Mr. Totman asked if the committee could have an executive session about what they want for a superintendent contract going forward, which would help with the search. **Motion vote - 5-0 motion passes.**

A motion to add Mrs. Deglialberti and Mr. Michael Totman as two members to the Superintendent Search subcommittee made by Mrs. Lori Hart and seconded by Mrs. Jessica Deglialberti, vote- 5-0 motion passes.

Work is being done with Mr. Deedy to clean up the central office. Mrs. Grill is receiving updates and thanked Mr. Deedy and Mr. Ganem for their work and that they are moving in the right direction.

- Superintendent of Schools Report - *Mr. Albert Ganem* - Mr. Ganem told the group that MCAS data across the state does not look as good as they hoped and student performance went down. Administration is starting to look at the data and will present it on November 12.

On September 12th a safety event took place. Mr. Ganem thanked the schools and the emergency response teams. He noted areas of places where improvements can be made. They will do a deep dive in the executive session. Mr. Rob Pezzella is a safety liaison who will help put procedures and processes in place. Since the event, the DA has come in and done presentations to middle

and high school students. There will be a zoom community forum with the DA that will be rolled out.

Mr. Ganem has been working with Mrs. Sally Stukuls on education and on consistency in evaluation systems. There is a mentorship program taking place with first year teachers and there will be some mentors with administration, as well. Ms. Lisa Houlihan will be working with Ms. Lisa Sequeira.

Mr. Ganem clarified that the poor MCAS results were for the state, not just the district. Each year the test has different questions. Ms. Sequeira noted that the ballot question is on whether MCAS should be a graduation requirement. The state will continue to use it as a metric of accountability. It will always exist in some way. There is money tied to issuing the exam. Overall, it is just one data point at one point in time.

- Business Office Update - *Mr. Daniel Deedy* - Mr. Deedy explained Policy DGA and that one member will sign payroll and the payable warrants presented by the School Business Administrator. The copies are provided at the next the school committee meeting. Mr. Deedy had them in the back of the room.

Mr. Deedy asked for a vote to approve the warrants

First Voucher 1001 - September 11, 2024 with a value of \$164,620.61 - payments across general fund, circuit breaker, school lunch and fed grants - **A motion to approve the value of the warrant made by Mrs. Lori Hart and seconded by Mr. Michael Totman**- discussion - There were a number of unpaid invoices in that warrant. Mr. Deedy is still working on FY24. There were issues with how courses were encumbered. He explained how the committee will be able to view the warrants going forward.

Second Voucher 10002 - September 25, 2024 with a value of \$266,670.07 - payments across general fund, circuit breaker, athletics, the After School Program, and several Federal grants.

Third Voucher 1003 - September 22, 2024 with a value of \$1,038,796.18 - pay health insurance MIIA is extending 60 day window to get applications in

Mr. Deedy has been holding Interviews for the AP/AR position this week. Ms. Patti Spongberg will be working full time on October 28 for the payroll position. E&D is still on target to be filed at the end of November/beginning of December. The figure reported for the FY24 general fund is incorrect at \$ 25 million with a variance of about \$2 million plus dollars. He self-reported to DOR and made DESE aware of the issue. They requested to be kept in the loop. They have a phone call with DESE on Thursday.

He believes this is an opportunity to develop and implement best practices. On a quarterly basis open POs should be reviewed. He will create a financial calendar in terms of goals. May 1st is when purchasing should probably be shut down. The FY26 budget is around the corner and Mr. Deedy will have a proposed calendar schedule.

Mrs. Deglialberti thanked Mr. Deedy for his work and suggestions on how to move forward. Berlin needs something for capital by Oct 31st. Mr. Totman inquired how long did the bills go back to. Invoices go back to mid June of 2024. Mr. Deedy reviewed vendors who were affected.

Motion to approve 10001 as presented by administration with a value of \$164,620.61, Mrs. Lori Hart, Mrs. Julie Lee, 4-1 vote, motion passes

Motion to approve warrant 10002 presented by administration with a value of \$266,670.07 Mrs. Lori Hart, Mrs. Julie Lee, 4-1 vote, motion passes

Motion to approve warrant 1003 as presented by administration with a value of \$1,038,796.18 Mrs. Lori Hart, Mrs. Julie Lee, 4-1 vote, motion passes

- Administrator Reports (*5 mins each*)
 - BES Principal - *Ms. Cinthia Sykes* - Ms. Sykes highlighted how students are being screened/benchmarked. She worked with Mr. Joseph Flournoy and met with parents and answered questions about what is going on with the students. They are having another meeting coming up.
 - BMS Principal - *Mr. John Campbell* - Mr. Campbell highlighted all-school meetings that occur once a month and that BMS is focusing on attendance with students. Mr. Totman brought up the lack of consistency with full weeks of school. Mr. Ganem noted parents and teachers will be surveyed about their feelings and plans to get two years of calendars prepared.
 - Director of Pupil Personnel Services - *Mrs. Jannel Fitzpatrick* - Mrs. Fitzpatrick summarized the preschool review report, She let them know the five guided questions that were used to determine the report. They are in favor of the recommendation of restructuring preschool leadership and including a half time preschool coordinator. In general there are fiscal considerations. If everything gets addressed there is the idea of moving the preschool from Tahanto to BMS. She shared the improvements they are planning to make this year and welcomed the committee members to meet with her to go over it.

Mrs. Hart wanted to know if the high school students who get certificates would be able to continue to do that if the preschool moved. It is something BBRSD will be looking into. Mr. Ganem explained pathways will also be looked into in the next strategic plan. Moving is a multi-year plan to be discussed.

- Director of Curriculum and Grants, Grades 6-12 – *Ms. Sally Stukuls*- Ms. Stukuls updated the group about allocations from ESE reports. She has heard from PACE and they are offering BBRSD another grant. The Wellness Committee met and they are finalizing a presentation to bring around. A STEAM committee is also being formed. STEAM is science, tech, math, arts and promoting multidisciplinary activities.
- Any business unforeseen by the chair within 48 hours of the meeting

VIII. Business Items -

- Approval of Addendum to Interim Superintendent of Schools Contract - **Vote** - Mr. Ganem proposed an addendum to his contract to help with his travel. Rather than tracking mileage and adding administrative work there would be a stipend. **A motion to approve the addendum to the Interim Superintendent's contract, which would add a \$4,000 travel stipend, rather than having to keep track was made by Mrs. Lori Hart and seconded by Mrs. Jessica Deglialberti. Amount corrected to \$4, 010.18 4-0-1 vote, Mrs. Julie Lee abstained, motion passes**
- Approval of Paraprofessional Union Contract - **Vote** - **A motion was made to approve the contract as reviewed for the paraprofessionals made by Mrs. Lori Hart and seconded by Mr. Michael Totman- Roll call: Mr. Michael Totman, Mrs. Lori Hart Mrs. Julie Lee, Mrs. Meagan Grill - aye, Mrs. Jessica Deglialberti - abstain, 4-0-1 vote, motion passes.** Mr. Ganem will speak with the paras and thanked the subcommittee for their hard work.
- Approval of Boylston Education Collaborative to sell beer at Pumpkinfest - **Vote** - Mrs. Grill explained BEC has been approved a liquor license if the school committee approves. The alcohol has been donated by Breens in Worcester. It will be raising money for enrichment, teacher grants, and school programming. **Motion to approve the Boylston Education Collaborative to sell beer at pumpkinfest made by Mrs. Lori Hart and seconded by Mrs. Jessica Deglialberti -** They have an insurance policy for the event and police and fire sign off. There is a three beer maximum. They also have a TIPS certified bartender and people are not allowed in the building. The event is to be held on October 27th from 1-4pm. **Vote - 5-0 - All in favor, motion passes.**
- Establish a formal Superintendent Search Committee - **Vote to Appoint Chair** - noted earlier in meeting

A motion to enter into executive session not return pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 30A, Section 21(a), Purpose (4), to discuss the deployment of security personnel or devices, or strategies with respect thereto was made by Mrs. Lori Hart and seconded by Mrs. Jessica Deglialberti, Roll Call- Mrs. Jessica Deglialberti Mrs. Julie Lee, Mrs. Lori Hart, Mrs. Meagan Grill, Mr. Michael Totman - all aye, 5-0 vote. Mrs. Grill thanked Mrs. Lee for her service to the school committee.

Entered into executive session at 6:49pm

IX. Executive Session II

- Executive Session pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 30A, Section 21(a), Purpose (4), to discuss the deployment of security personnel or devices, or strategies with respect thereto.

X. Upcoming Meeting

- November, 12, 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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