



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, June 18, 2024 5:00pm
Tahanto Regional Middle/High School
Multipurpose Room
Revised 6/18/2024 at 11:15am

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

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

Present: School Committee: Mrs. Meagan Grill, Chair; Mrs. Julie Lee, Vice Chair; Mr. Michael Totman; Mrs. Jessica Deglialberti;

Administration: Ms. Carol Costello, Superintendent; Mr. Dan Ayala, Facilities Manager; 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. Sally Stukuls, Director of Curriculum and Grants, Grades 9-12; 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 5:07pm
- II. **Pledge of Allegiance**
- III. **Public Comments** – Mr. Peter Doherty – English ELA Teacher TAH expressed his concerns with proposed policy ILD proposed by BBRSD Policy Subcommittee and noted it was potentially seen as discriminatory and have negative effects on the frameworks. He will be attending an MASC meeting in August.
- IV. **Communications** – Mr. Totman apologized to Mrs. Grill and Mrs. Deglialberti for his comments towards them in previous meetings.
- V. **Consent Agenda** - Motion made to pass the consent agenda made by Mrs. Julie Lee and seconded by Mrs. Jessica Deglialberti, 4-0, motion passes

- Payable Warrants

VI. Reports

- Chair's Report - *Mrs. Meagan Grill* – Mrs. Grill shared that budget passed in Berlin last night 225k was cut and they added 150k cash to be applied from school choose, circuit breaker or E&D. They met in the middle with the town for 375k total and the tax level will be raised slightly.
- Auditor's Proposal - *Mr. Michael McShea & Mr. Jim Low* – Mr. Michael McShea & Mr. Jim Low from. Marcum introduced themselves and explained proposed services for internal controls for BBRSD. The nature of the services includes support through budgeting process, identifying gaps in the process, and gaps in controls. Phase two they would get individuals together to see where they think issues could be and create a report prepared based on that. It could include where to spend time and energy, where to hire, where to cut back, those types of decisions.

Phase one over time can become a training manual and helps when bringing someone in. Risk assessment looks at if there is there a common root cause that is causing problems downstream. Mrs. Grill felt that BBRSD could benefit from having someone come in and streamline the process. There has been lots of turnover in the Director of Finance department over the years. They can go to the different town finance committees and learn how they work. They would provide BBRSD remediation on how to fix issues.

The timeline is 3-6 weeks for phase one. They do not need to be done concurrently and can be done months down the line. If they moved forward it would be something they could have for next year for the budget. Mrs. Grill felt the budget process is where most criticism has come from. Mrs. Carol Costello felt it would be a benefit to school committee and to consider it over the summer. It could be a potential cost sharing with the towns and helpful for all areas. Many of the boards are volunteers and to have guidance would be helpful.

- Portrait of a Graduate Presentation - *Ms. Carol Costello* – Ms. Costello shared the Portrait of a Graduate efforts have been months of work from a 21-volunteer committee of staff, parents, and community members. Ms. Costello showed the logo and the pillars that were created based on perspectives coming into the session. The committee heard from alumni and what they felt was needed and from members from area colleges and what they have seen coming in. Ms. Costello thanked the members for all of their hard work. She explained the two hands are the elementary schools holding up the Tahanto green tree. The next phase is the strategic plan, which will tie into the three-year plan developed a while ago. They are digging into what is needed for the children in the schools.

Mr. Joey Flourney shared his experience with the committee. He felt it was a good experience and a lot of really good information was shared. They also looked into the non-college route for students. The BBRSD administration noted that having all of the different perspectives was helpful to hear and a lot of it was similar. They will work at bringing those aspirations to the schools now. It was important to have the students there as a voice and the admissions officers for what the students need at this time. Mrs. Degliaberti as a parent and school committee member expressed it was a great process. Many appreciated the efforts to make it all happen. They felt they had productive discussions and everyone was very focused.

Mr. Totman felt there was nothing to tell him where they are now and that there would be something more at this point. Ms. Costello noted the strategic plan will be done in the fall. It is building on what is important to the schools, parents, students and many of these ideas were not defined before. The committee wants to make sure all the students come out with these qualities.

- Director of Finance and Operations

- Budget presentation and follow up- if necessary - *Mr. Michael Wood* – Mr. Michael Wood noted the next phase is to start rebuilding the Berlin and Tahanto budget and address the cuts. BBRSD has seven days to get the assessment to the town. They will have a budget subcommittee meeting and meet with members from the town boards. Mr. Wood will present to the School Committee what they end up doing in the end. Meagan asked if possible to have monthly financials in the next school year

- Administrator Reports (5 mins each)

- BES Principal - *Ms. Cinthia Sykes* – Mrs. Cinthia Sykes shared highlights from the end of year field trips, field day, and fifth grade recognition, PTO and BEF BEPTO have combined and provide many resources for the BBRSD students.
- BMS Principal - *Mr. John Campbell* – Mr. John Campbell highlighted end of the year combined concert for fourth and fifth grade. Additionally, the students enjoyed the Natures Classroom trip.
- TAH Principal - *Ms. Lisa Sequeira* – Mrs. Lisa Sequeira share Tahanto had a busy end of the year and all testing was completed the first week of June, Eighth Grade sat for four separate exams this year. Graduation was held on June 2nd in a beautiful ceremony for 76 students. The rescheduled career fair was held and was wonderful opportunity for community members to share with the students. It was the first year that the community got to come in and learn about the capstones that were completed by the students, which was a great success. Lastly, the middle school had field day and 8th grade graduation.
- Director of Pupil Personnel Services - *Mrs. Jannel Fitzpatrick* – Mrs. Jannel Fitzpatrick gave a snapshot of student data for last 6 years representing different student groups that constitute different high needs. It showed how the district changes over the years.
- Director of Curriculum and Grants, Grades 6-12 - *Ms. Sally Stukuls* – Ms. Sally Stukuls expressed how well the career fair went. She was invited to a wellness conference in Norway with Lisa Mair and Lisa Lamoreaux.
- Technology Coordinator - *Mr. Paul Mara* – Mr. Paul Mara about state and federal reporting. They have passed the review process and it will be done again next year. About 60% of data is already ready. He thanked Ms. Bonnie Morin for all of her work with the data. The Fiber grant project has been run to Tahanto, BMS, and Central office. BES should be done by the end of the month. The town has been inquiring with Verizon on the 5G cell service project that has been ongoing.
- Facilities Manager - *Mr. Dan Ayala* – Mr. Dan Ayala spoke about the BES roof and grant being awarded. A Tahanto assessment was done that was part of last year's capital. Mrs. Grill noted there may need to be some kind of stabilization fund for the Tahanto building. Plans will need to be put in place for the future. Mr. Ayala explained the items in the assessments are now prioritized.

- Subcommittee Updates

- Student Success and Technology Subcommittee - *Mrs. Jessica Deglialberti – Joint meeting between committees*
- Budget and Facility Subcommittee - *Mrs. Meagan Grill – not met*
- Superintendent Evaluation Subcommittee - *Mrs. Lori Hart -*
 - i. *Superintendent Evaluation* – Mrs. Deglialberti shared how Ms. Costello organized her goals along the MASC template. It is a summative report submitted by the school committee members. It provides feedback and goal setting and is the basis tied to superintendent salary. She highlighted comments of Ms. Costello's hard work, positive attitude, values of student safety, community engagement and instructional leadership. Ms. Costello will spend more time to fully digest the evaluation since she just received it that afternoon.
- Policy Subcommittee - *Mr. Michael Totman* – Took ILD off because they have not heard from the attorney. The amendments are legally sound but need to take a closer look at it.
- Superintendent of Schools Report - *Ms. Carol Costello*
 - CPA Grant for Tahanto Fields – BBRSD is potentially looking into a preservation application about fixing the fields and some of the money that is available. Mr. Matt Mecum shared there are students who have done a civics project about field restoration and what it would entail. There would be two phases for track renovation. Some businesses in town have expressed interest in helping fund the track restoration. The budget subcommittee will get together to discuss fixing the fields. A lack of maintenance over the years has caused the issues. There is a maintenance plan going forward. They will need some volunteers to help submit the application for CPA funds.
- Any other business not anticipated by the chair within 48 hours of the meeting

VII. Business Items

- ~~Policy ILD— Student Submission to Educational Surveys and Research—Vote~~
- Acceptance of Superintendent Evaluation Summative Report- **Vote - A motion to accept the superintendent evaluation was made by Mrs. Julie Lee and seconded by Mr. Michael Totman, 4-0, motion passes.**
- Approval of Boylston Lions Club donation to BES Art Department – **Vote – The Boylston Lions Club reached out to Lauren Kuppens and donation 1k for the art department. Motion to approve the Boylston Lions Club donation made by Mr. Michael Totman and seconded by Mrs. Julie Lee, 4-0, motion passes.**
- Approval of Cape Cod National Seashore Field Trip - *Mr. Peter Doherty* – **Vote – Annual cape trip with AP students. – Motion to approve the overnight field trip to Cape Cod made by Mrs. Jessica Deglialberti and seconded by Mrs. Julie Lee, 4-0, motion passes**
- ~~Approval of BES After School Program Fee Increase – Vote~~ – Mrs. Sykes explained there is a need for staffing and training and to make it more consistent with other districts. BES has not raised their fees in a long time. It is about a 20% increase for one kid and for having multiple kids there is a discount. The money goes into a revolving account for the After School Program. **Motion to approve the after-school program fee increase made by Mrs. Julie Lee and seconded by Mr. Michael Totman, 4-0, motion passes**

A motion was made to enter into executive session without returning to open session at 7:14pm by Mrs Julie Lee, roll call: Mr. Michael Totman, Mrs. Jessica Deglialberti, Mrs. Julie Lee, and Mrs. Meagan Grill.

VIII. Executive 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 and the holding in Suffolk Construction Co., Inc. v. Division of Capital Asset Management, 449 Mass. 444 (2007), to review an attorney-client privileged communication.

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.