



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

BERLIN-BOYLSTON REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Student Success and Technology Subcommittee

Thursday, February 20, 2025

2:30pm, ZOOM

Link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84013118166>

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

Present: Mr. Albert G. Ganem Jr., Interim Superintendent of Schools, Ms. Nicole Bilotta, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent; Mrs. Jessica Deglialberti, School Committee Member, Ms. Renee Legendre, Tahanto Assistant Principal; Mrs. Elisabeth Mancini, School Committee Member

- I. Call to Order - Mrs. Deglialberti called the meeting 2:30pm
- II. Pledge of Allegiance
- III. Preliminary discussions regarding cell phones and social media use in school - *Ms. Renee Legendre, Tahanto Assistant Principal/Liaison* -Roll call Mrs. Jessica Deglialberti and Mrs. Elisabeth Mancini,

Mr. Albert Ganem spoke about the meeting with the Attorney General and the Cellphone policy packet that was reviewed. The state has put it on the schools to determine what to do. He spoke to the cell phone use in the schools and how sometimes they are also used as teaching tools. Different school districts are handling it differently and BBRSD will tailor it to the district.

The packet had three different types of use and the benefits and fallbacks for each.

Bell to bell - secured

Off and away

Limited use - can be used during designated time

Mrs. Renee Legendre noted they need to determine what it will look like for different grade levels. They have a lot to do in terms of data before determining the way they would like to pursue it. The district plans to talk to the different stakeholders to get their views. Mrs. Elisabeth Mancini noted lunch time is where she would like to not see phones out. They spoke about getting input from the students and teachers. The group also talked about potential issues with who is storing the phones and what that would mean for the district. Refresh day in March and MCAS are days cell phones

are not used and will be good days to pay attention to. Mrs. Legendre proposed starting to gather data in March and which lunch times they could trial.

In the past there was a staff survey sent out and Mrs. Degliaberti will look back for it. Mr. Ganem also noted staff use of phones during the day. Mrs. Legendre explained the several ways staff use them and how it would be helpful to get the data from them to see exactly what they are using their phones for. The group spoke about getting the buy-in from the students and staff.

Mrs. Degliaberti spoke about some of the examples from other districts provided in the packet from the attorney general. She shared that many of them are procedures rather than policies. Mrs. Legendre's interpretation is that the AG would like a policy to be created. There are classes in the middle school about digital literacy taught by the computer science teacher and it would be good to look into what is being taught in each grade. One focus could be the right way and wrong way to properly use their phones and that would hopefully stay with them as they grow. The BBRSD admin team will discuss cell phone use at their next meeting.

Mrs. Degliaberti mentioned a potential for a community forum to get a feel for what the goals would be and a committee would be formed. Mrs. Legendre suggested going to the smaller groups rather than starting with the big forum. If held, it would need to be very structured. Mr. Ganem noted perhaps to have panelists at the forum that could speak to the topic from different areas (Attorney General office representative, students, teachers, psychologists, a member from a school committee). Mrs. Mancini loved the idea of the panelists and doing trial runs at the schools and getting feedback from them. The group talked about a trial lunch without phones in March and potential incentives for good cell phone use. The subcommittee members are going to work on identifying potential panelists. Mrs. Legendre is going to reach out to the area schools. The idea behind the trials could be a transition not to be so abrupt. The members discussed their action items. Newsletter to include information about the cell phone policy.

The hopes for the Attorney General's office is to eventually introduce a bill, but is just in the initial stages. There is no concrete timeline for cell phone policies. The group discussed creating a committee and they will think about who to include. Mr. Ganem will talk with the admin team on doing the trial day and what they would look like at the elementary level and the upper levels and also teaching the students how to engage with their peers. They discussed what the Refresh day on March 21st is about and how that could be the trial day. At the showcase at the end of the month they discussed having some materials for parents to view. The committee talked about meeting potentially on March 24th on zoom at 4pm. Mr. Joseph Sposato will be at future meetings to talk about a few items with the subcommittee.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:40pm.

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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