



The Berlin-Boylston Regional School District

Towns of Berlin and Boylston

215 Main Street, Boylston, MA 01505

508-869-2837

www.bbrsd.org

November 3, 2025

Re: School Resource Officer (SRO) Position

At this time, the administrative team at Tahanto Regional Middle/High School feels that our school is well supported by local safety officials in our current structure. Both the Berlin and Boylston Police and Fire Departments have consistently demonstrated their availability and responsiveness, whether in person or by phone, whenever their assistance has been needed.

The few occasions in which we have required their support have primarily involved behavioral situations, not safety emergencies. Our local departments have provided outstanding collaboration in developing and refining our safety protocols, participating in our emergency drills, and ensuring we maintain a safe and secure environment for all students and staff.

Safety within our building is upheld through multiple proactive measures, including secured entrances, established entry protocols, and a strong administrative presence throughout the building each day. We believe these systems, combined with the steady support of our local safety partners, have been effective in maintaining a secure school environment.

While we deeply value the role that School Resource Officers play in some districts, at Tahanto we do not see an immediate or critical need for this position. Officer Goody's quarterly visits already provide positive engagement opportunities for our students, fostering healthy relationships and reinforcing safety awareness. Additionally, police details are assigned to all large-scale events, ensuring the safety of our community during those times.

From a fiscal perspective, the Tahanto administration must also acknowledge current budget realities. Last year, we were forced to eliminate two full-time teaching positions, which directly impacted course offerings and academic opportunities for students in grades 6–12. Given this, we do not believe that funding an SRO when our safety needs are already being met would be the best use of limited financial resources. Restoring those teaching positions would provide a far greater benefit to student learning and the overall school experience.

Please know that the safety and well-being of our students, staff, and entire Tahanto community remains our highest priority. However, based on our current experience, structure, and partnerships, we believe our resources would be better directed toward academic support and enrichment for our students.

Superintendent of Schools and Tahanto Administrative Team

Al Ganem Jr., Interim Superintendent

Lisa Sequeira, Principal

Rich Cameron, Assistant Principal

Joe Barnas, Assistant Principal