



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 14, 2025 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.

Due to technical issues this meeting may not always stream live, but we will make every attempt to do so and to record the meeting for future posting.

The items listed on the agenda may be discussed out of order as the Chair decides due to potential scheduling and timing requirements.

AMENDED on 11/12/2025 @ 1:20pm

Present: School Committee: Mr. Michael Totman, Chair; Mrs. Lori Hart, District Clerk; Mrs. Meagan Grill, Vice Chair; Mrs. Elisabeth Mancini, Mrs. Jessica Deglialberti, Mrs. Lisa Mair

Administration: Mr. Albert G. Ganem Jr., Interim Superintendent; Ms. Jennifer Fortune, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent; Mr. Aaron Osborne, Director of Finance and Operations; Ms. Renee Legendre, Director of Curriculum and Grants; Mr. Joseph Sposato, Director of Technology; Mr. Rob Pelczarski, Boylston Elementary Principal; Mr. John Campbell, Berlin Memorial Principal; Ms. Lisa Sequeira, Tahanto Regional Middle/High School Principal

Guest: Mrs. Julie Lee, Athletic Director for BBRSD

- I. Call to Order** -Mr. Totman called the meeting to order at 5:01 pm.
 - Mr. Totman gave a brief update stating that due to the training that School Committee had with Ms. Novick, a recommendation to help streamline things was to move where the administration sits during the meeting, they will be off to the side sitting while the School Committee and Superintendent are the only ones that are at the table.
- II. Pledge of Allegiance**
- III. Public Comment**

- Peter Doherty, Teacher/Coach, TRMHS- expressed concern regarding middle school athletes and high school sports.
- Dan Ashman, Teacher/Coach, TRMHS, disappointed to be at the meeting. They as coaches wanted to make it very clear that they as coaches have not been contacted. Asked the School Committee not to make any changes to the Athletic handbook, leave it as is. Make the committee and work with coaches and have changes for the FY27 school year.
- Whitney Moore, Parent/ , Strongly requests that the school committee and the administration take a pause on this before they implement changes to the handbook until a committee is formed and coaches get to weigh in before there is a lawsuit on their hands because we didn't provide equal opportunities for all students as this is being proposed during the school year or we cripple our athletics program which could result in more students leaving Tahanto altogether.

IV. Consent Agenda - A motion to approve the consent agenda was made by Mrs. Hart and seconded by Mrs. Mancini. -Vote 6-0, all in favor, motion passes.

- Warrants
- 06/24/25 Student Success & Technology Subcommittee Meeting Minutes
- 09/05/25 Student Success & Technology Subcommittee Meeting Minutes
- 09/09/25 School Committee Meeting Minutes
- 09/23/25 School Committee Meeting Minutes

V. Administrator Updates -

- Director of Finances - Mr. Aaron Osborne
 - Budget Closeout-Where we closed out FY25. We finished the year out with spending a total of \$24,605,928.01. December School Committee approved a full budget, for our auditor Mr. Osborne would like to back in what our intended revenue sources would have been. This requires the School Committee to approve specific line items as part of the revenue budget, these are the funding sources.
 - All of our reporting will be on time.
 - i. End of Year Report is in process.
 - ii. Excess and Deficiency is in process.
 - Few funds will be taken out of school choice.
 - Capital Priorities, We need to go to the Town of Berlin by October 31st with our Capital needs. Boylston is later in December. Has met with the principals as well as Mr. Dan Ayala, Director of Facilities asking how important are these? How crucial are these?
 - i. Berlin:
 - a. \$304,242 Gym door, phone system, student and staff technology, repairing some rooftop units and repairing cracks in the wall.
 - b. There are 2 caveats, roof replacement is being considered at the October special town meeting. If needed, we would put this in as item three and renumber everything accordingly if we have too. Mini splits, Mr. Ayala is working on a Green Communities grant that would largely fund this. He is working directly with the town of Berlin to get this completed. We would be comfortable putting this off for another year if the grant does not work out.
 - ii. Boylston:
 - a. \$486,100 Student staff building technology, would love to move this into the operating budget. Playground rubber services, repaving the back

parking/play area. Bathroom Updates, Early Elementary Play Area fenced in.

iii. Tahanto:

- a. \$932,000 Student/Staff technology, auditorium lights & projector, IDF Closet AC Unit, Electrical & Lighting Repairs, Replace middle school furniture, evaluate track condition, update paging/intercom system, Additional parking.
- Budget Calendar, this is a timeline that has been used in the past, Mr. Osborne has removed the dates and is just ongoing every single year and can be reused. At present time we are pretty on point where we need to be.
- Our END will be submitted by October 31st, we may stretch it a week or two beyond that but well within budget.

VI. School Committee Chair Report - Mr. Michael Totman

VII. Superintendent of Schools Report - Mr. Albert Ganem Jr.

- Mr. Ganem thanked the School committee for their work with Mrs. Novick.
- Introduced Mr. Nathan Wheeler, Math teacher at TRMHS going through the PALS Program and learning to become an Administrator. He is doing that work and part of that is attending school meetings as well.
- Mrs. Lee was invited up to give an update on the Field Renovation.
 - Nate Miller is the contractor. He gave an update to Mrs. Lee stated that the field is in good shape. Sod is starting to root. They were up adjusting the irrigation. Last week they slice seeded the areas that did not get sodded and added some loam to the low areas around the team branches and the corner marks. Mr. Miller is satisfied with the progress. They are planning on aerating and top dressing later in November when there is more root strength. Another round of fertilizer going out before the end of October. There is also a robotic mower to mow the surface everyday. This method of mowing allows for a greater quality of cut and also doesn't put heavy equipment on the new sod while it's starting to get established in its home. It will be playable for the Spring, track can go on it, not ideal. You could get lacrosse out there in the spring but again, not ideal. Will be playable for our soccer kids next fall.
- Mrs. Renee Legendre spoke regarding the Strategic Plan Update.
 - First full committee meeting on October 8th, everyone was really collaborative. Staff, parents, teachers. Conducted by Pam Gould.
 - Looking at what our mission statement is. "Big Rocks" that we want to identify to move our District forward. It's not this committee that is moving it forward, it is the focus groups and the surveys.
 - Today we had our Admin focus group, tonight Fincom and selectboard, both towns, focus group.
 - Next week there will be the following:
 - i. Staff focus group
 - ii. Student focus group
 - iii. Parent focus group
 - Pam and Zeff are really excited to be working with us. Nashoba has worked with them as well, they have worked with Pam and Zeff, Teaching Learning Alliance, and have their Strategic Plan on their website.

- This will be able to give us a true identity of our District, surveys will be going out prior to December if you can not make it to a focus group.
- **Safety Update:**
 - This past year with coordination by Mr. Rich Cameron, TRMHS Assistant Principal who is the District's safety liaison. The amount of improvements in our safety protocols has been incredible. The Central Office went through training a few weeks ago. Mr. Ganem will be asking for an Executive Session during the November 10 meeting for Mr. Cameron to go over the District's Emergency Plans. We do not share all of our safety plans with the community.
- **MCAS:**
 - October 9th MCAS was sent home to the families, this will be presented to the School Committee in November.
 - Math's scores were good and we have room for improvement for ELA.
 - Mrs. Grill brought up at the Elementary schools with the budgets, a Reading Coach.
 - DESE still has not organized data for families yet.
 - Mrs. Deglialberti brought up the amount of time that students are at home and time spent on reading and **screen** over the summer is also something to reflect on.

VIII. Student Liaison Report - Mr. Matthew Dowd

- Mr. Dowd was present and gave an update on student life at Tahanto.
 - Cape Cod Trip this weekend, last year this trip will take place.
 - Next week, Middle School has Spirit week
 - High School Student Council October 30 we will have the haunted hallway/bonfire at the soccer field.
 - Sports have been doing pretty well.
 - Past Events, Homecoming Dance, High School Spirit Week.

IX. Subcommittee Updates

- **Student Success and Technology Subcommittee - Mrs. Jessica Deglialberti**
 - Mrs. Deglialberti thanked Joe and Admin for working on a safe solution for the middle school parent emailing situation.
 - Thanked Joe and AI for getting BARK on the district computers for safety to help control what they can access.
 - Securely, training is still ongoing.
 - January Attorney General put forth a cellphone and social media school kit and presented it to the Superintendent's at their winter meeting. Cellphone policies are most likely going to come down from the state.
 - We would like to host a parent/community night.
 - Mrs. Deglialberti was able to speak with Brockton Public Schools principal about their process and going cell phone free. They had parents night and a short introductory video and talking points. That it has helped put the focus back on education. It has increased interpersonal skills and conversation skills which also increased peer-to-peer and also student to teacher. 50% drop in skipping classes. AP passing scores increased by 12% and MCAS participation increased in math.
 - AI was discussed, and spoke about DESES Office of Education Tech, which has a multi-year AI road map. August 2024, they created a task force, this summer, created AI

literacy guided guidelines and policies. They plan to create workshops, training and toll recommendations for districts for the 2026-2027 school year.

- Budget and Facility Subcommittee - *Mrs. Meagan Grill*
 - Mr. Osborne discussed about 75% of the meeting.
 - There is a need for a new math program. The current contract is coming to an end, we have currently had the current program for 10 years.
 - Mr. Flournoy has put together and done research regarding new math programs. He has found iReady. He believes that this will give us more than what we already have, Sabas.
 - We could sign a 3 year contract, which would allow this to align with the High School contract that expires in 3 years.
 - This is a program, not a curriculum. Mr. Flournoy has brought iReady material to the meeting so that the School Committee can take a portion of it home for a month and really explore it and look it over.
 - iReady will cost \$100,000.00 over the next 3 years.
 - If there are any questions, they can reach out to Mr. Flournoy.
- Superintendent Search Subcommittee - *Mrs. Lori Hart*
 - The Superintendent search screening committee has their first meeting tomorrow night, October 15, 2025 at 6:00pm with Mrs. Tracy Novick for training, open meeting but just for the people that are on the superintendent search screening committee. People can come watch but it's not the full committee, and not required to be there.
 - The weekend of the 25th and 26th they will be given resumes to review.
 - Monday, October 27th will be their next meeting at 6:00pm, Chair Election.
 - November 3-7th will be meeting at the Central Office to conduct interviews and following that will be school visits and people coming here. We are on track and Tracy has it all under control and is doing a great job guiding us.
- Policy Subcommittee - *Mr. Michael Totman*

X. Second Public Comment

- Christina Medeiros, Parent/Boylston, MCAS, voters voted to end MCAS. Wachusett School has already taken to not having this as a requirement. This is very 1 dimensional to make this a requirement on if a student graduates. Regarding the Career Pathways and Technical opportunities, she has been very vocal to date about this. She hopes that they can create some goals where students can feel like they belong and have a pathway.
- Amanda Baer, Parent/Boylston, Daughter is a 6th grade student who tried out for JV soccer and made the team. There needs to be a major revision to how things have been at Tahanto for decades. The proposed policy was not distributed until 12pm today and is problematic, parents and coaches have not been able to review the policy and weigh in on it. Also wants to point out that the policy does not have any provisions on what will happen with the current middle schoolers? She would hate to see their ability to stay on their team be jeopardized in any way by this new policy. She would hope that the School Committee would include some provision that kids who are currently on the teams would be grandfathered in.

XI. Business Items

- **Mark Fidrych Foundation Donation to Unified Sports -VOTE -Motion to approve the Mark Fidrych Donation to unified sports was made by Mrs. Hart and seconded by Mrs. Grill. 6-0, all in favor. Motion passes.**
- **BMS Music Supplies -VOTE -Motion for the BMS music supplies donation was made by Mrs. Mancini and seconded by Mrs. Mair. 6-0, all in favor. Motion passes.**
- **Nature's Classroom -VOTE -Motion to allow for Nature's classroom was made by Mrs. Mancini and seconded by Mrs. Hart. Amendment to the motion, to approve this as approval for fundraising for Nature's classroom made by Mrs. Deglialberti and seconded by Mrs. Mair. 6-0, all in favor, amendment motion passes. Back to the original motion, this is now for fundraising, all in favor, 6-0 vote. Motion passes.**
- **Career and Technical Education (CTE) Middle School Pathways Awareness Policy -VOTE,** Lisa Sequeira **Motion to approve the Career and Technical Education Middle School Pathways awareness policy was made by Mrs. Mancini and seconded by Mrs. Deglialberti.**
 - This has everything to do with the Towns. The Towns buy into the Assabet. Berlin bought in and Boylston did not. Parents would need to work with the selectboard.**6-0, all in favor. Motion passes.**
- **Graduation Requirements -First Read**
 - Required by DESE for submission. 1, Competency Determination and 1, is for the Graduation requirements. Last year, we found ourselves looking at these due to the November vote to eliminate MCAS from the state competency determination and graduation requirements. These two documents have been reviewed by stakeholders, school council, department chairs, staff, the Curriculum coordinator, and administration to ensure they are aligned with the expectations of the state.
 - i. Competency Determination (CD) represents two accomplishments showing a mastery of skills in ELA, Math, and Science, and in two years, social studies. As well as satisfactory completion of relevant coursework aligned with the standards measured by the high school ELA, Mathematics, and science MCAS assessment administered in 2023 MCAS. Are you showing mastery skills in these three areas, soon to be four areas by the 2023 MCAS.
 - ii. Graduation Requirements are at the sole discretion of the district and cover grades up through 12. Local graduation requirements may go beyond the requirements of the CD policy to include requirements related to credit earning, attendance, participation, and extracurricular activities, etc. Dependent on what the School Committee identifies. Currently graduation requirements include the passage of the MCAS of ELA, Math, and STE or science technology and engineering, decided on Biology as of last year. Since that time, local districts have reflected that there are currently no districts that Mrs. Sequeira works within the Midwatch group will be using MCAS as a local graduation requirement. Members of the School council and department chairs have agreed that MCAS should no longer be required as a local graduation requirement as the state is still not clear on exactly how the test will be used and the reduced number of makeup opportunities that are being afforded to students.
- **Tahanto Student Handbook -VOTE -Motion to approve the proposed changes to the Tahanto Student Handbook approved by Mrs. Mancini and seconded by Mrs. Hart.**

**Amendment to the motion to table the document until the November 10, 2025 meeting.
6-0, all in favor. Amendment passes.**

- **Protocol Subcommittee -VOTE -Motion to create a protocol subcommittee that will consist of Mrs. Meagan Grill and Mrs. Lisa Mair with the purpose of using notes done in our training session and creating written protocols strictly based on the notes from the training.
6-0, all in favor. Motion passes.**
- **Budget Closeout -VOTE -Motion to authorize the FY25 operating budget by funding source provided above and net total amount of \$24,793,688 consistent with the school committee vote of December 10, 2024 was made by Mrs. Mancini and seconded by Mrs. Deglialberti.**

Roll Call Vote:

Mrs. Grill - Aye

Mrs. Hart - Aye

Mrs. Mancini -Aye

Mrs. Deglialberti -Aye

Mrs. Mair -Aye

Mr. Totman -Aye

6-0, all in favor. Motion passes

- **MASC Delegate Representative -VOTE -Motion to nominate Mrs. Deglialberti as the MASC Delegate representative for this MASC conference was made by Mrs. Grill and seconded by Mrs. Hart.
6-0, all in favor. Motion passes**
- **Motion to update the Agenda as it incorrectly states our upcoming meeting is on November 15 when it is in fact on November 10 was made by Mrs. Grill and seconded by Mrs. Deglialberti.
6-0, all in favor. Motion passes.**

XII. Future Agenda Items

- MCAS
- Math Curriculum
- Superintendent Finalist Announced
- Executive Session regarding Safety Protocols
- Vote on Nature's Classroom
- Vote on Graduation Requirements
- Vote on Handbook as a whole
- Vote on the Athletic handbook as a whole

XIII. 6:30 pm Executive Sessions –

- **Motion was made to enter into Executive session and then to return to open session, Executive Session pursuant to Mass. G.L. c. 30A, Section 21(a), Purpose 7 to comply with, or act under the authority of, any general or special law, including the Massachusetts Public Records Law, Mass. G.L. c. 66, Section 10, and the Massachusetts Open Meeting Law, Mass. G.L. c. 30A, Sections 22(f) and (g), relating to continuing review of executive session minutes for meetings that occurred between January 1, 2024, and September 2, 2025 was made by Mrs. Mancini and seconded by Mrs. Hart.**

Roll Call Vote:

Mrs. Grill - Aye

Mrs. Hart - Aye

Mrs. Mancini -Aye

Mrs. Degliaberti -Aye

Mrs. Mair -Aye

Mr. Totman -Aye

6-0, all in favor. Motion passes

- **Motion to authorize Attorney Sean Sweeney to make redactions in executive session minutes related to attorney client privilege and other information exempt from disclosure under the public records law in connection with their release in relation to a public records request as discussed by the full committee in executive session on October 14 2025 was made by Mrs. Mancini and seconded by Mrs. Mair.**

Roll Call Vote:

Mrs. Grill - Aye

Mrs. Hart - Aye

Mrs. Mancini -Aye

Mrs. Degliaberti -Aye

Mrs. Mair -Aye

Mr. Totman -Aye

6-0, all in favor. Motion passes

XIV. Upcoming Meeting

- November 10

XV. Adjournment

- **Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Mrs. Grill and seconded by Mrs. Mair.
6-0, all in favor. Motion passes**

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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