



BERLIN-BOYLSTON REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES

Budget, Facilities, and Safety Subcommittee

Tahanto Regional Middle-High School/Multi-Purpose Room

Wednesday, October 1st, 2025 | 1:30PM

Attendee List

- *Committee Members:* Meagan Grill, Lisa Mair, Beth Mancini,
- *Administrative Staff:* Aaron Osborne (Finance Director), Al Ganem (Superintendent), Renee Legendre (Curriculum Director Grades 6-12), John Campbell (Elementary Curriculum Director), Joey Flournoy (Math Coach)

Meeting called to order at 1:32PM

1. FY26 Budget Closeout – Presented by Aaron

- FY26 concluded with a **positive variance of \$184,760**, leaving the district **under budget**.
- **School Choice funds** were not utilized, allowing preservation of “rainy day” savings for future needs.
- **Circuit Breaker reimbursements** came in higher than expected (increased to 75% for transportation costs), contributing to the budget surplus.
- The district maintained **balanced funding across schools** using Circuit Breaker, IDEA, and Title I grants.
- **Auditor Requirement:**
 - o A detailed “revenue budget” breakdown must be approved to document the funding sources for each expenditure.
 - o Committee clarified confusion about whether they need to vote on line-item detail—Aaron confirmed they vote only on major budget lines (Chapter 70, 71, etc.), not each itemized entry.
- **Correction:** A minor typo (~\$3,000 discrepancy) in the memo will be fixed before final presentation.
- The finalized documentation will be voted on at the **October 14 School Committee Meeting**.

Key Takeaways:

- Strong fiscal close for FY26.
- Members requested a **School Choice fund analysis** to understand balance, usage, and potential for capital investment.
- Future planning will include a discussion of **sustainable use of E&D (Excess and Deficiency)** and long-term capital strategy.



2. FY26–FY27 Budget Development Timeline

- Aaron presented a **month-by-month budget preparation timeline**, detailing capital planning, salary reviews, and administrative collaboration.
- All prior year accounts are now closed, and capital walkthroughs were completed with town officials.
- Draft budgets are being reviewed by school administrators for FY27 projections.
- Emphasis on **chronological task completion by month**, with flexibility to adjust based on district needs.
- This timeline will serve as a **guide for both current and incoming superintendents** to ensure procedural continuity.

3. New Elementary School Math Program Proposal - Presented by Renee, John & Joey

- The district's current math program, **Savvas/EnVision (Pearson)**, is at the end of its **10-year contract**.
- Teacher feedback indicated need for modernization and improved alignment with middle/high school math instruction.

Curriculum Selection Process:

- Teacher committees from both elementary schools participated in multi-stage review meetings (~8 sessions).
- Evaluated programs approved by **MA DESE (via CURATE)** and **EdReports** for quality.
- Reduced from 20+ programs to a shortlist of 4 finalists, then narrowed to **i-Ready Math** as preferred choice.
- Teacher rubric emphasized **differentiation, assessment, pacing, instructional design, and resource quality**.
- Teachers favored i-Ready for its:
 - Strong **student-centered discourse approach**
 - Embedded assessments for individualized instruction
 - Alignment with current **middle school Reveal math program**
 - Simplified teacher materials and professional learning supports

Cost Proposal:

- Current Savvas renewal (3 years): **\$76,000 total**
- i-Ready proposal (3 years): **≈\$93,000 total** (negotiable; includes manipulatives and training)
- Potential savings through negotiation and sourcing of materials.
- Option to explore **3-year vs. 5-year contract pricing**, with possible school committee approval needed for longer terms.



Implementation Planning:

- Committee recommended **review by full School Committee in October or November** for approval.
- Physical samples of teacher/student materials will be shared with members for review prior to vote.
- Future curriculum discussions (ELA, others) will follow similar process.
- Proposal aligns with district mission to ensure consistent instruction from **elementary through secondary levels**.

4. Committee Feedback

- Members expressed strong approval for the **teacher-led process** and **early planning**.
- Requested **one week to review** physical and digital materials before final vote.
- Supported the idea of creating a **Curriculum Subcommittee** to oversee similar adoptions.
- Consensus: The i-Ready program appears beneficial, cost-effective, and pedagogically aligned.
- Recommendation to present abridged update on **October 14**, followed by **final decision in November**.

Motion made to adjourn meeting at 2:40PM by Lisa, seconded by Beth. All were in favor, meeting adjourned.