



BERLIN-BOYLSTON REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES

Budget, Facilities, and Safety Subcommittee

Tahanto Regional Middle-High School/Multi-Purpose Room

Tuesday November 4th, 2025 | 5:00PM

Attendee List

- *Committee Members:* Meagan Grill, Lisa Mair, Beth Mancini,
- *Administrative Staff:* Aaron Osborne (Finance Director), Al Ganem (Superintendent), Lisa Sequeira (Tahanto Principal), Rich Cameron (Tahanto Vice Principal)
- *Guests:* John Annunziata (Boylston Police Chief), Eric Schartner (Berlin Police Chief), David Goulding (Berlin Sergeant & Community Service Officer/School Resource Officer)

Meeting called to order at 5:00PM

1. Police Chiefs briefly speak about the purpose of having an SRO

- a. Criminal Justice reform restricts what police can do with juveniles in school
- b. SRO's serve to mentor kids, fill gaps between the counseling dept, and teach students about the risks of drug and alcohol use. They also work to form relationships with families
- c. Substantial amount of training is required to get an SRO position up and running- would take at least until next year
- d. The SRO role focuses on prevention over apprehension and serves as another trusted adult in the school.

2. Public Comment

Katrina Lawton- in favor of SRO

Worried about anxiety kids carry due to fear of school shootings

Feels that it's unfair that BES kids do not have an SRO but BMS kids do

Jessica Crossland- wants more information before adding an SRO

Questionnaire or survey to the community

Intervention strategies

Melissa DiFonzo- School Counselor in Hudson, highly supports SRO

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Partners with and extension of school counselors in Hudson

Hudson SRO does Alice training, cyber bullying/ online education, home visits

Lindsay Tierney- In favor of SRO, phased approach (part-time, etc.) to help with cost

Campus resource aide- SRO of lesser scale

BES needs SRO

Sheri Arpin-

Worries about mental health crisis and whether a police presence would help or hurt.

Melissa Broder- Had questions about an SRO

What is the cost?

What's the process to add an SRO to our district?

Aaron commented about the way a budget works

Al informed everyone that we will have an SRO question on our district improvement plan survey

The Admin team from Tahanto is concerned about cuts made last year and if the budget can afford an SRO.

Currently, Officer Goody visits quarterly

Last year the district eliminated 2 teaching positions. The admin team wants to use additional resources for other more pressing needs

Rich Cameron- feels 1st responders have been just a phone call away and our current relationship is strong

Majority of issues are behavioral vs. safety at Tahanto

In current school year, zero calls have been made to police

Principal goes to student houses when issues arise

Student Advisory Council- wants more counselors vs. SRO

All kids need to feel safe

Al- we will discuss current security plans in exec session next week with the entire School Committee.

An SRO should be on town budget

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Someone asked would the school oppose an SRO if the towns funded it.

Chief Schartner- Officer Goody does SRO training, paid for by Berlin. He comes down to school while on duty, primarily focuses on school.

Goody- The district needs to discuss and understand what is the job that needs to be done.

3. Discussion

The subcommittee will bring comments and information to the entire School Committee

The subcommittee discussed waiting to make any decisions until the District Improvement Plan survey is complete.

4. Adjournment

Motion made to adjourn meeting at 6:30PM by Lisa, seconded by Beth. All were in favor, meeting adjourned.