

The Berlin/Boylston Regional School Committee would like to recognize that on September 29, 2021, the National School Boards Association wrote a letter to The Honorable Joseph R. Biden, President of the United States. The letter (linked below) asked, in part, that certain events surrounding school board meetings and parent interactions that they deemed as threats be classified as “the equivalent to a form of domestic terrorism and hate crimes”. The letter asks that federal law enforcement become involved in these cases, including the Department of Homeland Security and U.S. Secret Service.

We also recognize that on October 22, 2021 the National School Boards Association Board of Directors issued an apology for the letter stating that “there was no justification for some of the language included in the letter.”

While the Berlin/Boylston Regional School Committee does not condone violence or criminal activity, we strongly encourage all forms of Constitutionally protected speech and encourage our community to engage with us as we conduct the important business that school committees are directed to do. We would never seek to classify any parent, citizen, group, or individual as a domestic terrorist in any way, no matter how much members of the BBRSD community may disagree with our discussions, protest a decision, or question our judgement on any matter. We encourage all opinions and welcome members of the BBRSD community to engage with our committee.

We also recognize the fine work that our local Berlin and Boylston police departments do and fully trust that they are capable of handling any illegal act that may be associated with public interactions at a school committee meeting. We also trust that they would know best when it would be appropriate to request assistance from higher authorities up to and including federal law enforcement.

Thank you. Our next meeting is: November 9, 2021

NSBA Letter: <https://nsba.org/-/media/NSBA/File/nsba-letter-to-president-biden-concerning-threats-to-public-schools-and-school-board-members-92921.pdf>

NSBA Apology: http://www.osba.org/News-Center/News_releases/20211022NSBA.aspx