

Regarding The FY24 Budget That The School Committee Approved:

The school committee first agreed to a Level Service Budget. A level service budget simply allows the district to continue teaching students next year at the same level as this year, i.e. the same number of teachers, courses, programs, services, etc. To approve a budget below level would require cutting of staff, teachers, and services.

Then the committee discussed several items it believed crucial to the continuing success of the district in the future. These ideas came from surveys and conversations with community members and parents that speak to the need for better staff to student ratios, improved culture in the middle and high school, and a growing need for help with behavioral issues in the buildings. The committee voted to adopt these items as part of the approved budget.

1. **An assistant principal at Tahanto Middle School.** While **Tahanto** is one building, it **is two distinct schools**. Middle school students need different attention than high school students, and of all the models that have been discussed the committee felt the model of having one principal, who is responsible for everything in the building, supported by two assistant principals who are dedicated to the middle school and high school separately, was the one found to be most successful elsewhere and a fit for Tahanto.

This will **help students transition between schools**, help keep more students in Tahanto rather than leave for private school, and **afford more opportunities for students** to compete beyond high school.

2. **Board Certified Behavioral Analyst.** The committee feels that this position is crucial to helping teachers and staff throughout the district. With our **growing population** we are seeing more frequent incidents of behavioral issues with all students, and this position will greatly contribute to a **safer and better learning environment for all students**.
3. **Kindergarten Aides at Boylston Elementary School.** With upwards of **70 kindergarten students** expected to enroll in Boylston the committee felt it necessary to provide additional supervision in the classroom. These positions will be **funded by Boylston, NOT Berlin**, despite some rumors of this floating around that Berlin will have to pay for Boylston.

As A Reminder:

The Town of Berlin covers the budget for the Berlin Memorial School.

The town of Boylston covers the budget for the Boylston Elementary School.

Both towns share expenses at the district level and at Tahanto.

All of this can be viewed in its entirety via a recording of the Budget Hearing from Saturday March 18, 2023 [here](#). The Passcode for this video is: rRTx8#m3