

BERLIN BOARD OF EDUCATION

February 11, 2019

MINUTES

SPECIAL MEETING

Attendance: Richard Aroian

Julia Dennis

Jake Fisher

Jaymee Miller

Arrived at 5:58 p.m.

Timothy Oakes

Adam Salina

Kari Sassu, Ph.D.

Tracy Sisti

Matthew Tencza

Student Representatives: Alexander Halkias

Absent

Jenna Smalley

Absent

Also in attendance: Superintendent of Schools Brian J. Benigni; Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction Erin McGurk; Director of Human Resources Denise Parsons; Director of Business Operations Jeffrey Cugno; Director of Pupil Personnel Services Linda Holian; Supervisor of Special Education – Elementary Michelle Zeuschner; Supervisor of Special Education – Secondary Cindy Martin; Director of Literacy and Social Studies Laurie Gjerpen; Director of Mathematics and Science Kara Watson; Principal of Berlin High School Eileen Eustis; Principal of McGee Middle School Salvatore Urso; Assistant Principals of McGee Middle School Heather Gish and Tim Chiaverini; Principal of Griswold School David Kitman; Principal of Hubbard School Alfred Souza; Principal of Willard School Matthew Correia; and Director of Athletics Jeff Mauri.

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 5:51 p.m. in the Berlin High School Auditorium at 139 Patterson Way, Berlin, Connecticut.

II. 2019-2020 BUDGET OVERVIEW TO THE PUBLIC

The Board held an informational meeting for the public so community members could provide input on the budget prior to approval. Superintendent Benigni provided a slideshow of the Proposed Operating Budget for 2019-2020. A copy of the presentation was provided to Board members and available to the audience. Superintendent Benigni indicated the budget reflects the district's priorities: purpose, passion and pride and that a school district's budget reflects the commitment of the community to invest in the future of the children. The erosion of funding for education challenges the sustainability of Berlin as a competitive school district with rich educational and extracurricular opportunity for students. The slideshow presentation consisted of students' accomplishments; the 2019-2020 proposed budget overview; new staff requests, which also included those requests that did not make it to the budget; five-year average of Berlin's adopted budgets; budget funding history; net current expenditure per pupil; Berlin and State per pupil expenditure; federal funding; student enrollment; projected enrollments; five year FTE comparisons for administrators, teachers/certified staff, paraprofessionals, clerical, custodians, cook managers, food service and unaffiliated staff; a budget executive summary; Special Education costs; Capital Equipment Budget; and Site and Building Budget.

III. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:24 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kari Sassu, Ph.D., Secretary, Berlin Board of Education