

**BERLIN BOARD OF EDUCATION  
SEPTEMBER 2, 2022  
MINUTES  
SPECIAL MEETING**

Attendance: Tracy Sisti  
Adam Salina  
Matthew Tencza

Also in attendance: Superintendent of Schools Brian J. Benigni  
Board Legal Counsel Jessica Ritter  
Berlin High School Principal Eileen Eustis  
Student's Mother

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Ms. Sisti called the virtual Zoom meeting to order at 9:10 a.m.

**II. STUDENT EXPULSION HEARING**

**At 9:11 a.m., a motion was made by Ms. Sisti, seconded by Mr. Salina, to enter into executive session to discuss a confidential student matter.**

**FAVOR: ALL  
MOTION CARRIED: 3:0**

At 9:12 a.m. the Board entered into executive session. In addition to the Board members, the following individuals were invited into executive session: Superintendent of Schools Brian J. Benigni; Board Legal Counsel Jessica Ritter; BHS Principal Eileen Eustis; and the student's mother.

At 9:45 a.m., the Board reconvened in open session.

**The following motion was made by Ms. Sisti, seconded by Mr. Salina:**

**Moved, based on the evidence in the record, that the Board approve the stipulation regarding the student who is the subject of this hearing, as entered into the record by agreement of the parties on September 2, 2022, and moved further that the Board expel the student, for one calendar year effective August 25, 2022, in accordance with the terms set forth in the stipulation.**

As a result of the Board's approval of the stipulation, the following terms will apply to the student's expulsion:

- 1. The student shall be expelled for one calendar year, with a commencement date of August 25, 2022, under the following conditions:**
  - a. During the period of expulsion, the student will be provided with an alternative educational opportunity to be determined in accordance with applicable law.**

- b. If the student becomes ineligible to attend the Berlin Public Schools pursuant to Board Policy and/or if the parent withdraws the student from enrollment in the Berlin Public Schools, the Board will have no obligation to provide the student with an alternative educational opportunity.
- c. During the period of expulsion, the student will not be permitted to be on school grounds and will not be permitted to attend or participate in any school-sponsored activities, with the sole exception of the student's participation in the alternative education program provided to the student.

Prior to April 1, 2023, the Superintendent will determine, in the Superintendent's sole discretion, whether the student should be readmitted to school, on or about April 1, 2023. In order to be eligible for consideration for early readmission, the student must satisfy all of the following conditions:

- a) The student must make a good faith effort to succeed in the alternative educational program during the period of expulsion, by attending and participating in the program regularly, completing all assigned homework and other assignments in a timely manner and otherwise demonstrating a good faith effort to succeed in the program;
- b) The student must not engage in any conduct that would warrant suspension and/or expulsion under the policies of the Berlin Board of Education.

**FAVOR: ALL**  
**MOTION CARRIED: 3:0**

### **III. ADJOURNMENT**

At 9:47 a.m., a motion was made by Ms. Sisti, seconded by Mr. Salina, to adjourn.

**FAVOR: ALL**  
**MOTION CARRIED: 3:0**

Respectfully submitted,



Brian J. Benigni  
Superintendent of Schools

BJB/db