

BERLIN BOARD OF EDUCATION
SPECIAL MEETING
June 18, 2018
MINUTES

Attendance: Richard Aroian
Julia Dennis
Jake Fisher Arrived late
Jaymee Miller
Timothy Oakes Absent
Adam Salina
Kari Sassu, Ph.D.
Traci Sisti
Matthew Tencza

Also in attendance: Superintendent of Schools Brian J. Benigni

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Tencza called the meeting to order at 7:08 p.m., in the Board of Education (“the Board”) Room at 238 Kensington Road, Berlin, CT.

Mr. Tencza requested that item III. Budget Discussion be moved in advance of item II. Personnel.

At 7:10pm. A motion was made by Ms. Miller, seconded by Mr. Aroian, to move item III ahead of item II on the agenda.

FAVOR: 8:0

III. 2018-2019 BUDGET DISCUSSION

Mr. Tencza reviewed the reductions to the Board of Education budget made by the Town Council. A \$300,000 reduction was made to the operating budget, and a \$155,000 reduction was made to the capital budget, resulting in a total reduction of \$455,000. From the capital budget, the following were among the items eliminated: 1 van and the phone systems at 3 elementary schools. It was noted that the carpet at McGee remained in the budget.

Mr. Tencza reported that the Educational Resources Committee recommends to the Board that the Effective School Solutions (ESS) program be removed from the Operating budget, noting that it could not yet be determined whether ESS could be funded by the current budget. Multiple members of the Board noted concerns about the potential elimination of this program, citing concerns for students as well as the potential cost of services required by these students, were ESS to be eliminated. Mr. Tencza asked that Superintendent Benigni explore whether ESS could be funded in another manner.

Discussion among the board was had regarding the security measures recommended by the Board (e.g., the security position and the security cameras). Mr. Tencza reported that the current funding would not allow for the security position or the security cameras. Mr. Aroian noted concerns regarding safety issues.

Mr. Tencza reported that this year’s budget was lean, and that cuts were made in advance of submitting to the Town Council. Additionally, it was noted that additional savings resulted from the following, though these were unusual circumstances: 6 months of an unfilled Assistant Superintendent position, an

unfilled Administrative Assistant to the Assistant Superintendent, a vacant Business Manager position from the end of April to present, FICA savings, and various other positions that have remained vacant. It was further noted that the Board's budget was reduced \$400,000 by the State, and when reinstated, this money was returned to the town's general fund, rather than the Board of Education budget.

II. PERSONNEL (Executive Session)

- A. Unaffiliated Administrators' Contracts
 - a. Director of Human Resources
 - b. Director of Pupil Personnel Services
- B. Personnel Not Covered by Collective Bargaining

At 7:41 p.m., a motion was made by Ms. Dennis, seconded by Ms. Miller, to go into Executive Session to discuss several personnel matters, including unaffiliated administrators' contracts and personnel not covered by the collective bargaining agreement, and to invite the Superintendent with the full Board.

At 8:55 p.m., the Board returned to Open Session.

IV. AJOURNMENT

At 8:56 p.m., a motion was made by Ms. Miller, seconded by Mr. Salina, to adjourn.

FAVOR: 8:0

Respectfully submitted,

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