

BERLIN BOARD OF EDUCATION
Curriculum Committee Meeting
June 5, 2020
MINUTES

Attendance: Mr. Richard Aroian, Mrs. Kari Sassu, Chair; Mrs. Jaymee Miller

Also in Attendance: Mr. Brian Benigni, Superintendent; Dr. Erin McGurk, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction; Ms. Linda Holian, Director of Pupil Services

I. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 3:04 p.m.

II. Superintendent Benigni updated the committee by sharing some of the steps that have been taken in preparation for summer school this July. Mr. John Schmaltz has been named compliance officer for these efforts. His primary responsibility as compliance officer is to ensure that the guidelines released by the state of Connecticut for opening summer school are followed. A special district committee has been put in place to guide reopening efforts for summer school, including Superintendent Benigni, Ash Zaitoun (head custodian), Ashley Dorsey (business office-transportation), and Linda Holian. They have scheduled a standing meeting every Monday. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) such as masks, face shields, barrier gowns, and gloves have been ordered for summer school.

Ms. Holian reported that parents of students recommended for summer school were surveyed. As of the time of this meeting, 89 parents indicated that they would plan to send their child to summer school, 37 did not plan to, and 21 were still being contacted. It was noted that every year, a number of parents of students who are recommended for summer school by the district staff choose not to send their children. This year, some parents who are not planning to send their children noted that they have concerns about medical issues, including either the child or family members who are immunocompromised. The committee discussed some of the challenges with having young children wear masks and the procedures that have been put in place, including having adults who need to work in close contact wearing face shields.

The committee discussed a number of issues related to virtual/distance learning programming for both the summer and next year, including the issues related to broadcasting instruction from the classroom. For summer school, broadcasting instruction is particularly challenging as most instruction is provided in 1:1 or small group settings working on students' IEP goals and objectives. Mr. Benigni described the vision of being able to broadcast some instruction from classrooms and having the technology in place to allow students to interact from home. The technology staff has ordered equipment to allow staff to try out different set ups and systems.

III. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 4:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Erin K. McGurk, Ed.D.
Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction