

**BERLIN BOARD OF EDUCATION
NOVEMBER 14, 2019
MINUTES
SPECIAL MEETING**

Attendance: Jaymee Miller
Timothy Oakes
Adam Salina
Tracy Sisti
Matthew Tencza

Also in attendance: Superintendent of Schools Brian J. Benigni; Board Legal Counsel Alyce Alfano; student who is the subject of the hearing and the student's parents.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Tencza called the meeting to order at 7:36 a.m. in the Board of Education ("the Board") meeting room at 238 Kensington Road, Berlin, CT.

II. STUDENT EXPULSION HEARING

At 7:43 a.m., a motion was made by Mr. Oakes, seconded by Ms. Sisti, to enter into executive session for the purpose of discussing confidential student records.

FAVOR: ALL

MOTION CARRIED: 5:0; including President Tencza

At 7:44 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 Alyce Alfano; student who is the subject of the hearing and the student's parents.

At 8:15 a.m., the Board entered into deliberations in the Board meeting room.

At 8:25 a.m., the Board reconvened in open session in the Board meeting room.

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

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 November 14, 2019, and moved further that the Board expel the student, effective November 14, 2019 and continuing through October 29, 2020, 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, effective November 14, 2019 and continuing through October 29, 2020, under the following conditions:**
 - a. During the period of expulsion, the student will be provided with an alternative education opportunity deemed appropriate by the Administration in accordance with applicable law.**
 - b. If the student becomes ineligible to attend the Berlin Public Schools pursuant to Board Policy and/or if his parents withdraw him from his enrollment as a student 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 his participation in the alternative education program provided to him.**
- 2. Prior to the first day of the 2020-21 school year, the superintendent will determine, in the superintendent's sole discretion, whether the student should be readmitted to school, effective on the first day of the 2020-21 school year. 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.**
- 3. If the superintendent determines that the student should be readmitted to school early in accordance with the preceding section, and if the student subsequently commits any offense that would warrant suspension and/or expulsion under the policies of the Board, the superintendent shall have the**

right to reinstate the student's expulsion for the remainder of the expulsion period, through October 29, 2020, without the need for any further proceedings before the Board.

FAVOR: ALL

MOTION CARRIED: 5:0; including President Tencza

III. ADJOURNMENT

At 8:30 a.m., a motion was made by Mr. Oakes, seconded by Ms. Sisti, to adjourn.

FAVOR: ALL

MOTION CARRIED: 5:0; including President Tencza

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brian J. Benigni". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent "B" and "J".

Brian J. Benigni
Superintendent of Schools

BJB/db