

**BERLIN BOARD OF EDUCATION
MAY 4, 2020 SPECIAL MEETING
MINUTES**

Attendance: Richard Aroian
Julia Dennis
Mary Ellen Maloney
Jaymee Miller
Timothy Oakes
Adam Salina
Kari Sassu, Ph.D.
Tracy Sisti
Matthew Tencza
Student Representatives: Jenna Smalley
Ryan McGowan

Also in attendance: Superintendent of Schools Brian J. Benigni; Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction Erin McGurk; Director of Pupil Personnel Services Linda Holian; Director of Human Resources Denise Parsons; Director of Literacy and Social Studies Laurie Gjerpen; Director of Mathematics and Science Kara Watson; Principal of Berlin High School Eileen Eustis; Assistant Principal of Berlin High School Barbara Ventura; Principal of McGee Middle School Salvatore Urso; Principal of Hubbard School Alfred Souza; and Principal of Willard School Megan Sirois.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Aroian called the virtual meeting to order at 5:59 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Student Representative Jenna Smalley.

II. AUDIENCE OF CITIZENS

No audience of citizens was held.

III. 2020 GRADUATION

Moved by Mr. Tencza, seconded by Ms. Dennis, to change the Berlin High School graduation date from Sunday, June 21, 2020 to Friday, August 7, 2020, with Saturday, August 8, 2020 as a rain date. Time and location to be determined.

The Board discussed the results of the parent and student surveys and various options for the 2020 graduation ceremony.

Moved by Mr. Tencza, seconded by Ms. Dennis, to move to amend the motion.

FAVOR: ALL

MOTION CARRIED: 9:0; including President Aroian

Amended Motion:

Moved by Mr. Tencza, seconded by Ms. Dennis, to change the Berlin High School graduation ceremony date from Sunday, June 21, 2020 to Friday, August 7, 2020, with Saturday, August 8, 2020 as a rain date. Time and location to be determined.

FAVOR: ALL

MOTION CARRIED: 9:0; including President Aroian

IV. GRADUATION FOR 2021 AND BEYOND

The Board continued its discussion to move graduation from a Sunday afternoon to a Friday evening beginning with the 2021 graduation.

Moved by Mr. Tencza, seconded by Mr. Oakes, that the Berlin High School graduation ceremony will be held on a Friday evening following the 180th scheduled day of school, provided Welte Hall is available, beginning with the 2021 graduation ceremony.

FAVOR: Aroian, Dennis, Miller, Oakes, Salina, Sassu, Sisti, Tencza

OPPOSED: Maloney

MOTION CARRIED: 8:1; including President Aroian

Establishment of Graduation Date for 2021

Public Act 19-195 allows boards of education to establish a firm graduation date for students in Grade 12 for that school year which, at the time of establishment, provides for at least 180 days of school. In accordance with Public Act 19-195, Superintendent of Schools Brian Benigni recommended that the Board set the date of the Berlin High School 2021 graduation for Friday, June 11, 2021, provided Welte Hall is available. The ceremony will be held in Welte Hall at Central Connecticut State University.

Moved by Mr. Tencza, seconded by Ms. Sassu, to set the BHS 2021 graduation date for Friday, June 11, 2021, provided Welte Hall is available.

FAVOR: Aroian, Dennis, Miller, Oakes, Salina, Sassu, Sisti, Tencza

OPPOSED: Maloney

MOTION CARRIED: 8:1; including President Aroian

V. ADJOURNMENT

At 7:25 p.m., a motion was made by Mr. Salina, seconded by Mr. Oakes, to adjourn.

FAVOR: ALL

MOTION CARRIED: 9:0; including President Aroian

Respectfully submitted,

Julia Dennis, Secretary, Berlin Board of Education