

BERLIN BOARD OF EDUCATION
Curriculum Committee Meeting
January 13, 2020
MINUTES

Attendance: Mr. Richard Aroian, Mrs. Jaymee Miller

Absent: Mrs. Kari Sassu, Chair

Also in Attendance: Mr. Brian Benigni, Superintendent

Dr. Erin McGurk, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction

I. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 5:10 p.m., in the Library Conference Room at the Board of Education.

II. Proposed Revisions to the 2020-2021 School Calendar: The committee discussed the impact of new legislation on the establishment of a high school graduation date. New legislation allows a district to set a firm graduation date providing that date is on or after the 180th day of school, as established in the adopted district calendar. After some discussion, the committee supported making a recommendation to the full board that the graduation date for this school year be set on Sunday, June 21, 2020.

Dr. McGurk and Mr. Benigni discussed the increasing need for time for educators across the district to meet requirements for mandated trainings. Over the past several years, while the number of state mandates has increased, the number of early release dates for professional development has been drastically reduced. Mr. Benigni indicated that the number of early releases for professional development had been reduced from 12 to 3 for the current year. The committee discussed the possibility of the scheduled 181st day of school this June being changed from a school day to a professional development day. This idea was supported by the committee members and will be proposed as an additional agenda/action item at the Board meeting on January 13, 2020.

III. Discuss Graduation for 2021 and Beyond: The committee also discussed how the new legislation may impact the selection of dates for future graduations. Based on the calendar previously adopted by the Board for 2020-21, graduation could be set on or after June 11, which is the planned 180th day of school. A discussion related to this will be held at a future Board meeting.

IV. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 5:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Erin K. McGurk, Ed.D.

Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction