

BERLIN BOARD OF EDUCATION

July 17, 2023

MINUTES

SPECIAL MEETING – 6:00 PM

Attendance: Julia Dennis
Melissa Gibbons
Jaymee Miller - Absent
Gina Nappi
Adam Salina
Kari Sassu, Ph.D.
Tracy Sisti
Matthew Tencza
Peter Zarabozo – remotely, via Zoom

Also in attendance: Superintendent of Schools Brian J. Benigni; Director of Business Operations Jeffrey Cugno; Director of Finance Ashley Dorsey; Director of Pupil Personnel Services Linda Holian; Director of Human Resources Denise Parsons; Co-Directors of Curriculum Laurie Gjerpen and Kara Watson; Principal of Berlin High School Katie Amenta; Principal of McGee Middle School Salvatore Urso; Assistant Principal of McGee Middle School Tim Chiaverini; and Principal of Hubbard School Alfred Souza.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Pledge of Allegiance

Ms. Dennis called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m. in the Board of Education (“the Board”) meeting room at 238 Kensington Road, Berlin, CT. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

II. CORRESPONDENCE TO THE BOARD

Superintendent Benigni shared thank you notes received from Tom and Donna Francolino and the family of John Sampl.

III. ANTICIPATED APPOINTMENT – BHS ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

Moved by Mr. Salina, seconded by Ms. Nappi, that the Board of Education appoint Karen Despres to the position of Assistant Principal of Berlin High School with an effective dated of August 1, 2023.

Superintendent Benigni shared the process to fill the position of Assistant Principal of Berlin High School.

FAVOR: ALL

MOTION CARRIED: 8:0; including President Dennis

IV. RETIRMENT – DISTRICT DATA SPECIALIST

Lora Curtis, district data specialist, has submitted her letter of intent to retire at the close of the day on Friday, December 29, 2023.

Moved by Dr. Sassu, seconded by Mr. Salina, that the Board accept the retirement of Lora Curtis, district data specialist, effective December 30, 2023. Also to thank her for the 11½ years of service she has provided to the Berlin Public Schools and wish her good health and happiness in her retirement years.

FAVOR: ALL

MOTION CARRIED: 8:0; including President Dennis

V. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approval of Minutes
 - 1. Special Meeting of June 12, 2023
 - 2. Regular Meeting of June 12, 2023
- B. Monthly Budget Report – Period ending June 30, 2023
- C. Facilities Update

Director of Operations Jeffrey Cugno provided a facilities update which has been posted in Schoology.

Moved by Mr. Salina, seconded by Ms. Gibbons, to approve the consent agenda as presented.

FAVOR: ALL

MOTION CARRIED: 8:0; including President Dennis

VI. TECH SCHOOL TRANSPORTATION

Finance Director Ashley Dorsey stated the District is seeing an increase in the number of students withdrawing from Berlin Public Schools to attend technical and vocational schools. Transportation to technical and vocational schools is provided to resident students by the district. Currently, the district is transporting students to six different technical schools, and there are twenty-nine vans in fleet, which need to be prioritized for Special Education students who attend Berlin Public Schools. New, within the past several years, transportation was provided to and from school from assigned stops closest to the student's home. With the increased number of students requiring transportation to alternative schools, Ms. Dorsey stated the Business Office would like to reinstate the utilization of a centralized group stop, which will maximize route efficiency and ensure vans and buses are available for students attending the Berlin Public Schools. The proposed location is Willard Elementary School.

Mr. Salina stated prioritizing for students who attend Berlin public schools has to be primary, and he has no issue with the reinstatement of a centralized group stop.

In response to Dr. Sassu's question how many students attend technical schools, Ms. Dorsey responded thirty students.

In response to Ms. Nappi's question is the district responsible for transporting students to technical schools, Ms. Dorsey responded yes; however, the district does not have to transport to the number of technical schools that it does.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

At 6:12 p.m., a motion was made by Mr. Salina, seconded by Mr. Tencza, to adjourn.

FAVOR: ALL

MOTION CARRIED: 8:0; including President Dennis

Respectfully submitted,

Tracy Sisti, Secretary, Berlin Board of Education