

A meeting of the Berlin Board of Education was held in the Berlin Middle High School library beginning at 6:00 pm. Present were Nathan Morin, Jeanne Charest, Matthew Buteau, Eamon Kelley, Julie King, Marion Moore, Sandy Pouliot, Sonya L'Heureux, Aric Huter, Dominick Couture, Autie Hamilton, Michael Kelley, Karen Moore, and Debora Payeur. Attending virtually were Ann Nolin, Jason Hook, Danielle Demers, and Elaine Connary.

#### **MINUTES**

On a motion by Nathan Morin, seconded by Jeanne Charest, the Board voted to approve the minutes of the November 17, 2022, public session. All members voted in the affirmative.

#### **WARRANTS**

On a motion by Jeanne Charest, seconded by Nathan Morin, the Board voted to approve the warrant dated December 5, 2022 for the amount of \$488,585.77. On a roll call vote, all members voted in the affirmative.

#### **FINANCIAL REPORT**

The Board reviewed and approved the financial report. Marion Moore informed the Board the 2023-2024 Budget process has begun. Concern over out of district costs for Special Education was mentioned.

#### **COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**

None

#### **APPROVAL OF SCHOOL YEAR 2023-2024 CALENDAR**

Discussion ensued regarding the April 8, 2023 Solar Eclipse and the reasoning behind not having schools in session on that day.

A motion was then made by Eamon Kelley, seconded by Nathan Morin, the Board voted to approve the 2023-2024 School Year Calendar as presented.

On a roll call vote, all members voted in the affirmative.

#### **APPROVAL OF SCHOOL BOARD MEETING 2023-2024 CALENDAR**

On a motion by Nathan Morin, seconded by Jeanne Charest, the Board voted to approve the 2023-2024 School Board Meeting calendar as presented. The meetings will be held on the first and third Thursday of each month, with the December 21, 2023 meeting being held in the morning. On a roll call vote, all members voted in the affirmative.

#### **REPORTS FROM ADMINISTRATORS AND STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES**

The Board reviewed reports by Principals and Directors in their packets. They were available to update the Board and answer any questions.

Mike Kelley also informed the Board of a NEAS&C meeting with the Berlin Board of Education on March 19, 2023. He also informed the Board of a petition that was signed by 75 students at BMHS requesting that hats, hoodies, and cell phone usage be allowed during non academic times at BMHS. He informed the Board that a survey on this issue is being sent out to all BMHS staff.

Sandy Pouliot informed the Board that the BMHS Key Club would be coming to Berlin Elementary School to make ornaments with the students.

## **STUDENT REPORT**

Dominick Couture and Aric Huter were asked their opinion on the issue of hats, hoodies, and cell phones in school. Dominick agrees with being allowed to wear hats, but does not agree with hoodies. He also feels that cell phone usage should be allowed as long as it can be monitored. Aric Huter feels having access to his cell phone during non academic times can be used as a stress reliever. He also feels hats should be allowed in school, but not hoodies.

Julie King extended a comment to support hoodies if hats are allowed, based on a trauma-sensitive approach. Some students find that they are able to deal with anxiety and trauma in a more positive way when they are able to place a hoodie over their heads to shield them from their surroundings. They feel safe and secluded from so much stimulus in the room..

Matthew Buteau thanked the Administrators and Student Representatives for taking the time to do these reports, with the busy schedule they already have.

The student representatives, Aric Huter and Dominick Couture informed the Board on the following:

- Key Club Ornament making with Elementary Students, Induction, and Pie Auction
- Senior Class Trip to Six Flags in NY, Fundraisers, Prom, and Class Dues
- Student Council - Semi Formal & Theme Days
- FCCLA - Fudge Fundraiser, Thanksgiving boxes, Food Drive , and Nursing Home Trip
- Youth & Government Fundraiser
- Sophomore Class Fundraiser
- True North Leadership Team - Red Nation
- Winter Sports

## **SUPERINTENDENT REPORT**

The Superintendent informed the Board on the following:

- Requested Information from the Board
  - ❖ Homeschool Analysis
  - ❖ Homeless Longitudinal Data
  - ❖ SAS Proficiency
- NHED School Accountability/CSI Schools Release
- WMCC Fast Track Program for Paraprofessionals to work towards Teacher Certification
- Hayden Losier attending the JAG National Student Leadership Academy
- Senior Class Trip to Six Flags in NY
- EF Tours Trip to Greece and Italy during April vacation 2024
- Holiday Event Schedule
- New Partnership with Capone Iron Corporation and Apprenticeship NH-High School Program
- Superintendent's Evaluation and Contract

- Pathways from within, along with collaboration with SAU 20 and WMCC to address work shortages of qualified candidates for new openings in the next 2 to 5 years
- Building Projects Updates - looking into a Facilities Assessment

## **COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**

None

## **NEW BUSINESS/MEMBER COMMENTS**

Eamon Kelley mentioned the recent issue of eviction notices sent out to tenants of landlords in the City of Berlin who have not paid their property taxes. He wondered how and if this affected students in our schools and how the district was handling it. The Superintendent informed him they were doing their best to stay on top of this and that Karen Moore, the District Homeless Liaison, was monitoring the situation. Eamon explained that the article in the newspaper was confusing, since it stated the tenants had to be out of the apartments by December 5, 2002; instead of stating that the eviction process was placed in motion. This will give the tenants more time to look into their legal rights and options.

Matthew Buteau thanked Eamon for bringing this to the Board's attention.

Jeanne Charest reminded the Board that not all of the buildings have tenants.

Matthew Buteau stated losing staff is always difficult and thanked the administration for their efforts to help the situation. He also gave praise to the Winter sports athletes and was glad to hear that Varsity Spirit was back at BMHS. The Superintendent mentioned that it was also returning to the Elementary level.

Ann Nolin, who was attending the meeting via zoom, commented that she was not able to hear anything that was being said unless it was done by Matthew Buteau or Julie King. The Superintendent instructed the IT Director, Autie Hamilton to please look into a solution to this issue. The other zoom attendees agreed with Mrs. Nolin. Mr. Hamilton will look into the option of adding microphones to the tables where attendees speak.

## **NONPUBLIC**

On a motion by Eamon Kelley, seconded by Jeanne Charest, the Board voted to go into a nonpublic session at 7:00 pm in accordance with RSA 91-A3II, (a), (b), & (c). On a roll call vote all members voted in the affirmative.

On a motion by Nathan Morin, seconded by Eamon Kelley, the Board voted to come out of a nonpublic session at 7:07 pm. The motion passed unanimously. No additional votes were taken in the nonpublic session.

## **STAFFING:**

On a motion by Nathan Morin, seconded by Jeanne Charest, the Board voted to approve the following staffing changes as amended:

### **Resignations:**

Debora Payeur - Retirement effective May 1, 2023.

### **Nominations:**

Laurie Carrier - OMS-District- Part-Time

Hailee Guitard - Educational Assistant- BES -Pending successful completion of PARA PRO II  
Lynn Johnson- Varsity Spirit Coach - BMHS (9-12)

***NOMINATIONS/ RENOMINATIONS NOT REQUIRING BOARD APPROVAL***

Kurt Melanson - Girls Basketball Coach - BES (5-6)

On a roll call vote, all members voted in the affirmative

All nominations are contingent upon the applicant completing a successful background check, physical and NH Certification or Statement of Eligibility.

**ADJOURN**

On a motion by Jeanne Charest, seconded by Nathan Morin, the Board voted to adjourn the meeting at 7:08 pm. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted

Secretary, Berlin Board of Education

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MINUTES  
BERLIN BOARD OF EDUCATION  
NONPUBLIC SESSION  
December 1, 2022

On a motion by Eamon Kelley, seconded by Jeanne Charest, the Board voted to go into a nonpublic session at 7:00 p.m. in accordance with RSA 91-A3II 9a), (b), (c). On a roll call vote, all members voted in the affirmative.

The Board discussed a staffing issue

The Board discussed staffing

On a motion by Nathan Morin, seconded by Eamon Kelley, the Board voted to come out of a nonpublic session at 7:07 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted

Secretary, Berlin Board of Education