



Berlin Public Schools

183 Hillside Avenue, Berlin, NH 03570

Telephone: 603/752-6500; FAX: 603/752-2528

Climbing to achieve academic excellence for college and career readiness for all students.

Berlin Board of Education Meeting Minutes

Thursday, May 18, 2023

DRAFT

Board Members: Chair Ann Nolin, Secretary Jeanne Charest, Vice Chair Matthew Buteau (Zoom - did not vote), Nathan Morin, Eamon Kelley (zoom - did not vote), Aric Huter (Student Representative), Dominick Couture (Student Representative)

SAU #3 Administration: Superintendent Julie King, BMHS Principal Michael Kelley, BHS Assistant Principal Jason Hook, BMS Assistant Principal Sonya L'Heureux, BES Principal Tammy Fauteux, BES Assistant Principal Sandy Pouliot, Director of Student Services Martha Miller, CTE Director Danielle Demers, Business Administrator Marion Moore.

Guests and Public: Cari Perreault (minutes), Rachelle Gilcris, Ted McCormick, Jamie Welch, Eva, Aubrie Woodward, Casey Norton, Linda Pivin, Nicole Fortier, Susanne Styles, Alaina Huot, Jewel Judson, Jamie Davis, Kirsten Knowlton, Renee Stewart, Elizabeth Gilcris, Haden Poulin, Ashley Baldrige, Gina Welch

A meeting of the Berlin Board of Education was held in the Berlin Middle High School Library beginning at 6:00pm.

Minutes

On a motion by Nathan Morin, seconded by Jeanne Charest, the Board voted to approve the minutes of the May 4, 2023 public and nonpublic sessions. All members voted in the affirmative.

Warrants

On a motion by Jeanne Charest, seconded by Nathan Morin, the Board voted to approve the warrants dated May 10, 2023 and May 22, 2023 for the amounts of \$20,633.26 and \$150,179.88. On a roll call vote, all members voted in the affirmative.

Comments from the Public

Ted McCormick - 199 Prospect, Berlin, NH - Ted spoke to the board regarding the Dress Code policy on the agenda for later in the meeting. He asked the board to contemplate holding off on approving the policy given the administration next year will be new and may wish to change it again. Ted also explained his disagreement with allowing students to wear hats in school as it is an improper way to prepare students for a successful future.

Approval of Student Manuals

The board reviewed the student manuals for the elementary school and the middle high school. Julie confirmed that these manuals are distributed to and signed off on by parents at the beginning of the school year. On a motion by Nathan Morin, seconded by Jeanne Charest and all in favor, the board voted to approve the student manuals for the elementary school and the middle high school.

Approval of Dress Code Policy

The Dress Code committee put forth a recommended change in the Dress Code policy and brought forward that change to the board. The student board members mentioned the new policy was not only allowing hats at the discretion of teachers, but taking the gray area out of the Dress Code with more specific language. It was also discussed that administration at BMHS would be changing next year and it would be unwise to approve this and have the new administration wish to make further changes. On a vote by Nathan Morin, seconded by Jeanne Charest, the board voted to postpone the approval of the new Dress Code policy and would revisit next school year with the new administrators. All members voted in the affirmative.

Discussion of Key Club Request

Per the Key Club's request, the topic of recognition of the Key Club members at graduation was discussed. A written compromise was included in the board packet after the previous request to allow Key Club members to wear cords at graduation was denied. After some discussion, the board was unaware that the compromise proposal had not been discussed with the Key Club and only been brought forward by administrators. There was some discussion surrounding the compromise that was brought forward, but there was no decision made regarding that proposal.

Several Key Club advisors and Key Club members spoke and gave a presentation in support of the Key Club and further requested that they be recognized in some way at graduation. The board stressed that some agreement must be made between administration and the Key Club members. A meeting will take place between Julie and the Key Club members to discuss the issue further and a decision will be reported to the board as soon as it is made to ensure the issue is resolved.

Superintendent Report

The Superintendent provided the board with a letter in support of repealing 193:26 Graduation Requirements; Free Application for Student Aid (FAFSA). The letter has been signed by several NH superintendents, including Julie King.

There was some discussion about the delivery of the board packet, and the board confirmed they would like procedures to stay the way they are currently.

Comments from the Public

None

New Business/Member Comments

Dominick Couture asked the board to confirm there would be another School Board meeting before graduation. There is one more meeting before graduation on June 1, 2023.

Eamon Kelley reported that the Parental Bill of Rights was defeated today in Concord. It was noted that the House voted to advance the medicaid expansion bill to its finance committee.

Nonpublic

On a motion by Nathan Morin, seconded by Jeanne Charest, the Board voted to go into non-public session at 7:31 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 Jeanne Charest, the Board voted to come out of a nonpublic session at 9:08pm. The motion passed unanimously. No additional votes were taken in the nonpublic session.

Approval of Job Position Changes- District Data System Coordinator, Financial Administrator

On a motion by Nathan Morin, seconded by Jeanne Charest, the board voted to dissolve the FY24 Finance Administrator position. On a roll call vote, all members voted in the affirmative.

On a motion by Nathan Morin, seconded by Jeanne Charest, the board voted to approve the non-union position and job description for the position of District Data System Coordinator, which will follow the BEA wage scale and benefits, effective immediately. On a roll call vote, all members voted in the affirmative.

Approval of Staffing

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

Resignations:

Michael Kelley - BMHS Principal

Teacher Nominations:

Rebecca Wallace - Special Education Teacher (2023-2024 school year)

NOMINATIONS/ RENOMINATIONS NOT REQUIRING BOARD APPROVAL:

Stacey Herrman - renomination BES Building Substitute (2023-2024 school year)

Adjourn

On a motion by Jeanne Charest, seconded by Nathan Morin, the Board voted to adjourn the meeting at 9:16pm. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted

Secretary, Berlin Board of Education