

February 7, 2019

PUBLIC HEARING	<p>The Public Hearing was opened at 6:15 p.m. Nicole Plourde conducted the presentation of the FY 20 Budget. Gina Welch informed the Board that she was not happy with the way the Board cut the budget. She was appalled and disgusted. She wanted to know if the Board was fighting for our students and their needs. It is your job to advocate for them. Jamie Welch informed the Board that his taxes have gone up and that he will be paying for some of the increase for education. At the last budget hearing there was a good detailed presentation as to why we needed the funding. I will be moving into a school with less space. We are at a point where we have given everything there is to give. I am paying 30% more for students' opportunity to have less. I encourage you to let the city council struggle with this and not cut more. The public hearing was closed at 6:30 pm</p> <p>A meeting of the Berlin Board of Education was held in the Berlin High School library at 6:15 p.m. Present for the meeting were Nicole Plourde, Lynn Moore, Denise Valerino, Louise Valliere, Scott Losier, Corinne Cascadden, Bryan Lamirande, Julie King, Susan Griffin, Kevin Carpenter, Autie Hamilton, Tammy Fauteux, Martha Miller, Melanie McCoy, many staff members, members of the Berlin and Gorham communities, and a member of the press.</p>						
ELECTIONS	<p>Nominations were made for the elections of Board Officers. By secret ballot, the results were as follows:</p> <table><tr><td>Chairperson:</td><td>Nicole Plourde</td></tr><tr><td>Vice-Chairperson:</td><td>Lynn Moore</td></tr><tr><td>Secretary:</td><td>Denise Valerino</td></tr></table>	Chairperson:	Nicole Plourde	Vice-Chairperson:	Lynn Moore	Secretary:	Denise Valerino
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Secretary:	Denise Valerino						
MINUTES	<p>On a motion by Lynn Moore, seconded by Scott Losier, the Board voted to approve the minutes of the January 17, 2019 meeting, public and nonpublic sessions. The motion passed unanimously.</p>						
WARRANTS	<p>On a motion by Denise Valerino, seconded by Lynn Moore, the Board voted to approve the warrants dated, February 4, 2019 and February 11, 2019 for the amounts of \$14,746.86 and \$490,416.97. On a roll call vote, all members voted in the affirmative.</p>						
FINANCIAL REPORT	<p>None</p>						
COMMENTS	<p>Michael Cote informed the Board that Gorham started a scholarship program to fund students who need money. I commend Berlin for paying the entire cost of the hockey program, but other schools do not do so. Please allow us to fund it our way and let the kids play. Don't draw a line in the sand like this.</p>						
POLICY REVISIONS	<p>On a motion by Lynn Moore, seconded by Louise Valliere, the Board voted to approve the revision to Policies; JICD – Student Discipline and Due Process, JIC – Student Conduct, and JH-R – Policy Implementation Procedures – BHS. The motion passed unanimously.</p>						
CO-OP HOCKEY TEAM	<p>The Superintendent read a draft letter on the Boys Cooperative Hockey Team in response to a letter received from Berlin Youth Hockey. Discussion ensued. Louise Valliere had concerns on the statement of school closing, consolidation, and State and Federal laws. Nicole Plourde stated that having parents prove they are poor enough for assistance to play hockey is elitist. It is not fair and equitable. Kevin Carpenter said he wants all kids to play from the same platform. SAU 20 would have parents pay \$1,000 per year for four years. We are one program, but kids in the other school are being treated differently. We want the Memorandum of Understanding to include the equity piece. Denise Valerino would like this issue worked out before the deadline. Nicole Plourde stated that if we sign this MOU as it is tonight, then the impetus would be</p>						

on Gorham. I support signing this tonight to let Gorham figure this out. Denise Valerino stated that she would agree with it as written and hopefully the Gorham Board will invite the Berlin Principal and Athletic Director to their meeting to work this out. This is a good school and we should cooperate with all sports. A motion was then made by Denise Valerino, seconded by Scott Losier, to sign the Memorandum of Understanding as presented. On a roll call vote, Nicole Plourde, Lynn Moore, Denise Valerino, and Scott Losier, voted in the affirmative, with Louise Valliere voting in the negative. The motion passed by a 4 to 1 margin.

SUPER'S REPORT

The Superintendent informed the Board on the following:

- Life Changer Award
- NH Public Infrastructure Grant – Update
- Communications from School Nurses – Louise Valliere requested we obtain legal advice regarding nurse staffing and student needs.
- Testimonies for School Funding
- Thank you letter from Students on the Board's efforts

FY 20 BUDGET

Discussion ensued regarding the FY 20 Budget. A motion was made by Scott Losier, seconded by Louise Valliere to submit the FY 20 budget as presented with the addition of a Special Education teacher and a School Nurse. The total budget request will be 18,773,726.00. On a roll call vote, all members voted in the affirmative.

GRADE RE-ORG

The Superintendent gave the Board an update on Grade Re-organization.

COMMENTS

Michael Cote asked if fundraising would be allowed to fund hockey. He feels this will bring good money into the program because they do have support. He was told it was allowed. He then went on to say what is the biggest travesty, the one kid who has to get free lunch and ask for money to play hockey or the 20 other kids? Please erase that line in the sand.

Gina Welch thanked the Board for putting the two positions back into the budget.

MEMBER BUSINESS

Louise Valliere thanked Melanie McCoy for the Hillside tour.

Nicole Plourde commented on how nice it was that staff at Ed Fenn School in Gorham sent a care package to Brown School. We really care about the kids and it pains me that the kids coming up will not have the same opportunities I had. I am going to Concord to fight for it. We can't supplant the State's obligation to fund education.

Lynn Moore wanted to reiterate that the Board received and reviewed the budget before the last meeting.

NON PUBLIC

On a motion by Denise Valerino, seconded by Louise Valliere the Board voted to go into nonpublic session at 8:11 p.m. in accordance with RSA 91-A3II, (a), (b), & (c). On a roll call vote, all members voted in the affirmative.

On a motion by Denise Valerino, seconded by Louise Valliere, the Board voted to come out of nonpublic at 8:57 pm. The motion passed unanimously. No additional votes were taken in nonpublic session.

STAFFING

On a motion by Denise Valerino, seconded by Louise Valliere, the Board voted to approve the following staffing changes:

RESIGNATIONS:

Mandy Woods – Speech Assistant – BMS/Hillside

Renee Boucher – Educational Assistant – Pre-School

NOMINATIONS:

Marissa Lemoine – Morning Duty Supervisor – BHS

All nominations are contingent upon the applicant completing a successful background check and physical. The motion passed unanimously.

On a motion by Denise Valerino, seconded by Louise Valliere, the Board voted to approve establishing a search committee and advertise for a Superintendent effective July 1, 2019.

On a roll call vote, Denise Valerino, Lynn Moore, Louise Valliere, and Scott Losier voted in the affirmative, with Nicole Plourde voting in the negative. The motion passed by a 4 to 1 margin.

ADJOURN

On a motion by Lynn Moore, seconded by Scott Losier, the Board voted to adjourn its meeting at 9:00 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Secretary, Berlin Board of Education

MINUTES
BERLIN BOARD of EDUCATION
NONPUBLIC SESSION
February 7, 2019

On a motion by Denise Valerino, seconded by Louise Valliere, the Board voted to go into nonpublic session at 8:11 pm in accordance with RSA 91-A3II (a), (b), and (c). On a roll call vote, all members voted in the affirmative.

The Board discussed staffing

The Board discussed options for Superintendent position for the 2019-2020 School Year.

On a motion by Denise Valerino, seconded by Louise Valliere the Board voted to come out of nonpublic session at 8: 57p.m. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Secretary
Berlin Board of Education