

A virtual meeting of the Berlin Board of Education was held beginning at 6:00 pm. Present were, Ann Nolin, Jeanne Charest, Matthew Buteau, Louise Valliere, Scott Losier, Julie King, Marion Moore, Autie Hamilton, Michael Kelley, Sandy Pouliot, Tammy Fauteux, Jason Hook, Sonya L'Heureux, Bryan Lamirande, staff members, and a member of the press.

AGENDA

On a motion by Matthew Buteau, seconded by Jeanne Charest, the Board voted to amend the January 14, 2021 agenda as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

MINUTES

On a motion by Ann Nolin, seconded by Jeanne Charest, the Board voted to approve the minutes of the December 17, 2020 and December 28, 2020 meetings, public sessions. All members voted in the affirmative.

WARRANTS

On a motion by Scott Losier, seconded by Jeanne Charest, the Board voted to approve the warrants dated January 11, 2021 and January 18, 2021 for the amounts of \$17,948.58 and \$197,531.06. On a roll call vote, all members voted in the affirmative.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

The Superintendent informed the Board on the following:

- COVID 19 Vaccination site. The Board was given an update on the use of the BMHS gym as the city's vaccination site. Concerns were raised and the use of other buildings was mentioned. The Superintendent explained the pros and cons of using the gym and expressed her desire to be part of the solution rather than an obstacle.
- Update on Sports. The link for games along with the schedules were given to the Board. The issue of Berry Transportation not sending buses to areas with more than 19 active COVID cases was discussed. The athletic director has revised schedules many times to accommodate this. Matthew Buteau inquired on the feasibility of parents transporting students to games. The Superintendent will look into the issue.
- Next Board Meeting Agenda and Packet. Due to the short turnaround time, next week's Board packet will be sent out in a piecemeal fashion.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

None

APPROVAL OF BUILDING COMMITTEE

On a motion by Jeanne Charest, seconded by Scott Losier, the Board voted to approve the formation of a building committee. On a roll call vote, all members voted in the affirmative. The members of this committee will be appointed at the next meeting.

APPROVAL OF HVAC AT BMHS

On a motion by Scott Losier, seconded by Ann Nolin, the Board voted to approve the HVAC project at BMHS with the hiring of an engineer. On a roll call vote, all members voted in the affirmative.

NON PUBLIC SESSION

The Board consensus was that a nonpublic session was not required.

STAFFING

On a motion by Ann Nolin, seconded by Matthew Buteau, the Board voted to approve the following staffing changes:

Resignations:

Nominations:

Lindsey Secinore - Educational Assistant - BES

Teacher

RENOMINATIONS NOT REQUIRING BOARD APPROVAL

Allan Pike - Tech & Robotics Club Advisor - BMHS

The motion passed unanimously.

All nominations are contingent upon the applicant completing a successful background check and physical.

FY 22 BUDGET PRESENTATION

The Superintendent opened the budget presentation explaining how the budget was fluid and the different factors that will impact the budget such as COVID funds, Free and Reduced lunch legislation and if the CTE Director position will be needed due to compliance.

Marion Moore reviewed the district expenditures and revenues. She mentioned the cost of fuel and the increase in NHRS; along with the loss of adequacy aid.

Autie Hamilton informed the Board of the need for added software for the Technology Department.

Martha Miller explained the requirements of the special education program and the need to add an additional Speech Language Assistant and a part time OMS. Matthew Buteau and Martha Miller both expressed their gratitude to Debbie Dupuis, SPED OMS, for all her efforts.

Tammy Fauteux, reviewed some of her increases and the need for an additional teacher and guidance counselor. The Board was very supportive of the work that the current guidance counselor, Krystal Bunnell, does and is in complete agreement with the need for an additional counselor.

Michael Kelley explained to the Board how this year's budget was approached differently since it is the first year with the middle and high school having been combined. He explained the DOE's requirement for a full-time CTE Director, changing the OMS guidance position to a full time position, and the need for funds to compensate game officials due to the lack of gate revenue . The social worker position was mentioned. The Board and administration expressed their gratitude to the current social worker and how important the position is to the district.

Julie King thanked the administration for their efforts on presenting their budgets and informed the Board that she will make a list of changes and ways to reduce the budget. This will be presented and discussed at the next board meeting.

Board members commented that getting the funds to meet this budget is important and that the students are the most important thing.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

None

NEW BUSINESS/MEMBER COMMENTS

Louise Valliere reminded the Board the Election of Officers will be held at the next meeting.

Ann Nolin thanked the administrators for all their hard work to keep costs down and how time consuming this was. She also mentioned using St. Kieran's Arts Center as a possible site for the COVID 19 vaccination.

Jeanne Charest mentioned St. Joseph's School as a vaccination site. She was informed that the building was falling apart.

Ann Nolin inquired if there were plans to go remote each week after the February and April school vacations, as had been done for the Christmas break. She mentioned maybe combining the vacations so that the students would just have to go remote one time instead of two. She realizes how difficult this is and that parents, staff, and students need their vacation time

Louise Valliere mentioned possibly sending out a letter to get input on the vacation issue.

Jeanne Charest mentioned sending out a letter to teachers checking on their vacation plans.

Matthew Buteau asked who would be making the final decision on the vacation and remote plans, and if it was the Board he wanted more input from families. He also inquired on the continuation of the PODS program. The Superintendent will have more information on this at the next board meeting.

Matthew Buteau also commented on how he sat in on one of his son's remote classes and how great a job the teacher, Travis Houle, had done. He was understanding, had a sense of humor, and stayed calm through the class.

ADJOURN

On a motion by Jeanne Charest, seconded by Ann Nolin the Board voted to adjourn it's meeting at 8:00 pm. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted



Secretary, Berlin Board of Education