

PUBLIC HEARING

The Virtual Public Hearing opened at 6:00 pm. Superintendent King conducted the presentation of the FY 22 Budget. She reviewed enrollment, tuition rates, tax rate, new positions, along with expenditures, expected revenue, and adequacy aid.

Matthew Buteau encouraged the Board members to attend the City Council meeting on March 4, 2021, to show unity and support for the budget request. He would like as many people possible to attend the meeting. He would also like Autie Hamilton to attend to answer any technology questions.

A motion was made by Jeanne Charest, seconded by Matthew Buteau to close the Public Hearing section of the meeting at 6:45 pm. The motion passed unanimously.

A virtual meeting of the Berlin Board of Education was held beginning at 6:50 pm. Present were, Ann Nolin, Matthew Buteau, Jeanne Charest, Julie King, Marion Moore, Autie Hamilton, Tammy Fauteux, Sandy Pouliot, Michael Kelley, Jason Hook, Sonya L'Heureux, Martha Miller, Nathan Morin, Lily Campbell, staff and members of the community.

BOARD VACANCY

The Superintendent informed the Board that Louise Valliere had resigned from the Board due to personal reasons. She explained that the City Council would advertise for candidates to fill her remaining term, and would choose her successor at their February 22, 2021 meeting. Matthew Buteau commented that not having Louise was a huge loss, she will be missed.

Julie King thanked her for her dedication, efforts and the time she devoted to our students and staff, especially with the restructuring of grades and the COVID crisis.

Ann Nolin stated she truly will be missed.

MINUTES

On a motion by Matthew Buteau, seconded by Jeanne Charest, the Board voted to table the minutes of the February 4, 2021 meeting public session. All members voted in the affirmative.

WARRANTS

On a motion by Matthew Buteau, seconded by Jeanne Charest, the Board voted to approve the warrants dated February 9, 2021 and February 22, 2021 for the amounts of \$18,628.18 and \$170,156.55. On a roll call vote, all members voted in the affirmative.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

None

BUILDING COMMITTEE

The Superintendent informed the Board of a recommendation that was made by a member of the public to have one staff member from each building on the Building Committee. This will allow each building to be represented. Discussion ensued. A motion was then made by Matthew Buteau, seconded by Jeanne Charest to add one additional staff member to the building

committee to allow each building to have a representative. On a roll call vote, all members voted in the affirmative.

SCHOOL BOARD ROLES

The Superintendent gave the Board some School Board Policies relevant to School Board members with new roles. She explained that she was available to answer any questions they may have with their new responsibilities. There were no questions. A request was made to update Policy BEA to show Thursday as the day of the week that Board meetings are held.

INSTAGRAM ACCOUNT REQUEST

The Superintendent informed the Board that any type of new student publication needs to be brought to the Board for approval and monitored by the Administrator. The True North Leadership Group at BMHS gave the Board a presentation of what their group does for athletes at the high school and how they involve the community. They are requesting an Instagram account to reach out to more students. They would tie the account to the current school facebook account that would have the same policies and would be managed by the advisor. In essence it would be a second form of communication. Discussion ensued. A motion was then made Matthew Buteau, seconded by Jeanne Charest, to approve the creation of one Instagram account to be used by BMHS and the True North Leadership Group. The motion passed unanimously.

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

The Superintendent thanked the wonderful parents, staff, students and the community for their outpouring of support during her recent loss. Even though she had never been on the receiving end before now, she knew we had a great community that pulled together to help each other.

She also informed the Board on the following:

- COVID Update - Numbers are down, the contact tracing lists are more manageable. Teachers will be included in the next round of vaccinations. SAU#3 and SAU #20 will coordinate on how to administer the vaccines. The Governor has mandated that by March 8, 2021 all NH Schools must be in session at least two days a week
- Legislative Update- HB20 which would give vouchers for all families and be devastating for Public Education, has been put on hold for the time being.
- Remote Work at Elementary Level

Jeanne Charest questioned if the Superintendent had a feeling on how many teachers would want the vaccine. The Superintendent responded that she was not sure, but that some of the staff have already been vaccinated. It can't be mandated, but hopefully most will want it.

Matthew Buteau questioned how administering the vaccine on site would be handled and if it would be welcomed by staff. The Superintendent explained that it would work similar to the flu shot vaccine clinic held on site every year. The issue of staff having reactions to the shot, may cause the shots to be staggered or all done on a Friday afternoon.

Ann Nolin thought it was a good plan.

STUDENT REPORT

Lily Campbell informed the Board on the following:

- NWEA testing
- NEASC Virtual Facilities Tour

- Math Competition on March 4, 2021
- Sports Update- Games still being played although many are being cancelled or rescheduled
- Semester II- Transition - 20 students returned to onsite learning
- School Play - Journey to the Center of the Earth (Radio version)
- Senior Class Fundraiser - Selling BMHS Swag
- Hunting for Hearts
- Joe Fortin - Memorial

FY 22 BUDGET DISCUSSION

The Superintendent requested the Board make a decision on the budget request to be presented to the City Council on March 4, 2021. Discussion ensued.

Jeanne Charest stated these are our needs and we must present it as is. Kids are important. She also feels that we need to explain Special Education and its obligations.

Ann Nolin felt the pages in the budget booklet explained Special Education very well, was set up nicely, and that it would be helpful to present it that way to the council.

Matthew Buteau felt it was an impressive presentation. It is important to advocate for your students knowing your audience. He is very happy the entire Board will be in attendance since the staff and students are important to us. Thank you for your efforts.

Julie King explained that since we are the first department to go to Council, we won't know our funding right away. This is an extremely fluid process and we are providing what we can at this point in time. City Council doesn't control line items, we need to explain our needs.

A motion was then made by Jeanne Charest, seconded by Matthew Buteau, to present the Budget for FY22 as presented tonight to City Council. On a roll call vote, all members voted in the affirmative.

NEW BUSINESS/MEMBER COMMENTS

Matthew Buteau expressed his sympathies and condolences to the family members of Joseph Fortin and Wayne King.

Matthew Buteau expressed his concern for the safety of children due to the snow banks on Madison Ave. He would like to see the city prioritize that area for snow removal.

Matthew Buteau also gave a shout out to his son's teachers for all their efforts, especially Jared Lauze, Travis, Houle, Gina Lauze, Nathan Roberge and Jane Brannen.

Since the Board will be presenting the budget to the city council, on the night of their regular Board meeting on March 4, 2021, Marion Moore requested a meeting at 7:30 am that day to approve the warrants via zoom. The Board was in agreement.

Ann Nolin inquired about having the Board start meeting in person rather than zoom. The Superintendent recommended having Board members only attend in person, allowing all others to continue to zoom in beginning with the March 18, 2021 meeting.

NONPUBLIC

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

STAFFING

A motion was made by Matthew Buteau, seconded by Jeanne Charest to approve the resignation of Steven Gauthier, BES Custodian. The motion passed unanimously.

ADJOURN

On a motion by Jeanne Charest, seconded by Matthew Buteau, the Board voted to adjourn it's meeting at 7:55 pm. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "J. Charest".

Secretary, Berlin Board of Education