

April 8, 2021

An emergency meeting of the Berlin Board of Education was held in the Berlin Middle High School library beginning at 6:02 pm. Present were Ann Nolin, Matthew Buteau, Jeanne Charest, Nathan Morin, Scott Losier, Julie King, Marion Moore, Tammy Fauteux, Michael Kelley and Autie Hamilton. Attending virtually were Jason Hook, Sonya L'Heureux, Martha Miller, Jamie Welch, a member of the press, members of the public and staff.

DISCUSSION OF GOVERNOR'S ORDER #89

Superintendent King reviewed the Governor's Executive Order #89, mandating all students, unless medically necessary, or at the request of a parent, attend school onsite 5 days per week by April 19, 2021. Areas of concern were social distancing, staffing shortages and the number of staff and students out on quarantine or isolation. The Superintendent recommends applying for a waiver from the governor to continue to allow the district to maintain its current onsite and remote learning pathways which are based on family choice.

Tammy Fauteux reviewed the following concerns at Berlin Elementary School:

- Safety protocols currently in place will be compromised
- Significant disruption in our educational process and well-being
- Class size with remote learners returning to school
- Transportation
- Implementation of OT, PT, Title I, Speech and Special Education Services
- Need for more Special Education Educational Assistants
- Duty Schedule
- Social Emotional Well Being of students and staff

Michael Kelley expressed his disappointment in the executive order and the following concerns at Berlin Middle High School:

- Worked hard to offer a quality program
- Library would no longer be available for use
- Impossible to offer onsite and remote learning 5 days a week using current plan
- Buses are at capacity
- Cafeteria would be at capacity

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Many comments and concerns were raised by staff and community members as follows:

- Waiver is the way to go due to COVID concerns and the timing of the mandate
- Live streaming with a camera such as an OWL
- Changing class schedules this late in the year
- We are not back to normal yet, need to craft our plan with guidance from professionals
- Would remote students returning to onsite have the same teacher(s)

MEMBER COMMENTS

Nathan Morin spoke in favor of applying for the waiver.

Matthew Buteau feels the kids need to be back in school along with live streaming

Ann Nolin and Jeanne Charest support applying for the waiver along with having a back up plan
RE-ENTRY PLAN

A motion was made by Nathan Morin, seconded by Scott Losier to apply for a waiver and have a back up plan that is in the best interest of the staff and students. On a roll call vote, all members voted in the affirmative.

COMMENTS

The following additional concerns were made:

- Is the waiver for BMHS or the district.
- Are there other OWL options available- Autie Hamilton responded yes there are other options
- What happens if we don't follow the executive order
- Streaming is the best option

Superintendent King informed the Board that she received a call from Con-Val informing her that the Adequate Education case was moving forward to a full hearing. There is a small window of opportunity to partner and join in the suit. We could invite the attorney to the next board meeting.

ADJOURN

On a motion by Jeanne Charest, seconded by Matthew Buteau, the Board voted to adjourn it's meeting at 7:44 pm. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted



Secretary, Berlin Board of Education