January 17, 2019

A meeting of the Berlin Board of Education was held in the Berlin High School library at 6:00 p.m. Present for the meeting were Nicole Plourde, Louise Valliere, Lynn Moore, Scott Losier, Corinne Cascadden, Bryan Lamirande, Kevin Carpenter, Julie King, Tammy Fauteux, Melanie McCoy, Martha Miller, Kristen Goyette, Maria Young, Tom Sutton, Candy Richard, Karen Moore, approximately 40 staff and members of the community, and members of the press.

MINUTES

On a motion by Scott Losier, seconded by Lynn Moore, the Board voted to approve the minutes of the January 10, 2019 meeting, public session. The motion passed unanimously.

WARRANTS

On a motion by Scott Losier, seconded by Lynn Moore, the Board voted to approve the warrant dated, January 21, 2019 for the amount of $265,709.42. On a roll call vote, all members voted in the affirmative.

FINANCIAL REPORT

The Board reviewed and approved the financial report.

COMMENTS

Michael Cote read a letter he had written asking the Board to reinstate the boys high school cooperative ice hockey team with NHIAA.
Ted McCormick, BHS teacher, asked how can the Board expect to put the schools together in an abbreviated amount of time? He feels caution should be used in making a change in less than 8 months and that the students have not been involved.

FY 20 BUDGET

The Superintendent and the Administration presented their recommendations for grade reconfiguration. The Superintendent reviewed last year's Budget Hearing booklet with the Board in an effort to prepare for the Budget Hearing on February 7, 2019. Lynn Moore requested that an amortization chart showing the loss of stabilization aid be included.
A motion was then made by Lynn Moore to close Brown School and have a K-5 and 6-12 school and to cut the budget to $500,000 over the current appropriation. Discussion Ensued. The Board reiterated that they do not want the FY 20 Budget request to be more than $500,000 than the current appropriation. Louise Valliere stated the Board will take the recommendation of the Superintendent and the Administration. She stated that the Board does not want this as it is being forced down their throats. Closing Brown School in her opinion is not the solution. Lynn Moore stated that she is heartbroken over this. Julie King reminded the Board of the pros and cons to reorganize, we are at a point where we can't keep everything. Kevin Carpenter stated that they have worked this through with many people and have a very dedicated staff that will make this work. If we have to close Brown School, we have developed the most beneficial model. Louise Valliere seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, Louise Valliere, Lynn Moore, and Nicole Plourde voted in the affirmative, Scott Losier voted in the negative. The motion passed by a 3 to 1 margin.

STUDENT REPORT

Kristen Goyette and Maria Young informed the Board on the following:

- Final Exams on January 17 and January 18, 2019
- Student Artwork display at AVH (K-12)
- Unified Basketball game on January 25, 2019
- HOSA State Conference on March 21, and 22, 2019
- Key Club making blankets for first responders to be distributed
- National Honor Society collected gifts for Toys for Tots
- FCCLA held a food drive to support our food pantry and helped with the tree lighting at Coos

County Nursing Home.

SUPER'S REPORT

The Superintendent informed the Board on the following:

- Patty Hood, BHS Health Teacher, was awarded the annual Louise Tillotson Teaching Fellowship, which recognizes excellence in public-school teaching.

COMMENTS

Trisha Walsh stated that her heart bleeds for Brown School teachers but it looks like you have a good plan. My concern is for the staff and I hope they are given support and time. We can't cut staff; my children are where they are today because of staff.
Ted McCormick stated we will make this work, this building is not a fun place to be "we are not going to collaborate, it is not going to happen". You need to give us time to make this happen.
Mike Cote thanked the Board for allowing him to speak.
Josh Ewalt felt that the decisions we make here affect whether or not people move here
Lucie Remillard thanked everyone for the time put into this draft. We can succeed if we keep staffing up and do not cut staff to keep a building.

MEMBER BUSINESS

Nicole Plourde thanked everyone for coming, she stated the Board will add BHS hockey at their February 7, 2019. She also thanked the staff for their confidence in the Board.
Lynn Moore reiterated that Berlin is open to regionalization.
The Superintendent stated that the Berlin School District is in support of a cooperative boys' ice hockey team, but it must be available and equitable to allow all students to participate. This is a requirement of any school district that accepts Federal Funds.
Scott Losier sent an email to all Board members encouraging teachers to contact School Board members. He also stated people didn't speak up at public comments because they fear repercussions. Louise Valliere responded with follow up questions about staff visiting BHS, budget on grade re-organization vs status quo.

NON PUBLIC

On a motion by Scott Losier, seconded by Lynn Moore, the Board voted to go into nonpublic session at 8:08 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 Louise Valliere, seconded by Scott Losier, the Board voted to come out of nonpublic session at 8:47 p.m. The motion passed unanimously. No additional votes were taken in nonpublic session.

STAFFING

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

NOMINATIONS:

Cynthia Gagne – Cafeteria Worker – BMS/Hillside School
Christopher Anderson- SPED Teacher – BHS
Tina Demers – Athletic Director – Hillside
Tina Demers – Girls Grade 5-6 Traveling team Basketball Coach
Peter Peare – Girls Basketball Coach – BMS
Nathan Roberge – Boys Basketball Coach - BMS

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

ADJOURN

On a motion by Lynn Moore, seconded by Louise Valliere, the Board voted to adjourn it's meeting at 9:00 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise Valerino

Secretary, Berlin Board of Education

MINUTES
BERLIN BOARD of EDUCATION
NONPUBLIC SESSION
January 17, 2019

On a motion by Scott Losier, seconded by Lynn Moore, the Board voted to go into nonpublic session at 8:08 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

On a motion by Louise Valliere, seconded by Scott Losier the Board voted to come out of nonpublic session at 8: 47p.m. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise Valerino

Secretary
Berlin Board of Education