February 28, 2019

A special 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, Scott Losier, Louise Valliere, Denise Valerino, Lynn Moore, Corinne Cascadden, Bryan Lamirande, Nathan Morin, Susan Griffin, Kelli Poulin, Cindy Dagesse, Sandra Koxarakis and members of the press.
The meeting was called to order by Nicole Plourde, with no opportunity for comments from the public. The floor was then given to Corinne Cascadden, Superintendent of Schools at 6:15 p.m. to discuss a School Board Member issue.

BOARD ETHICS

The Superintendent requested that Board member Scott Losier resign his position. She reviewed Board policies BBAA – Board Member Authority, BCA – School Board Member Ethics, sections 3, 4, and 11, BDD – Board Superintendent Relationship, and BHE – School Board Use of Email which were violated by Mr. Losier. School Board members are not allowed to act on their own. Mr. Losier contacted NH School Board Association, The National School Board Association, and NHSBA President J. Falconer on his own. The Superintendent informed the Board she would be done on June 30, 2019 in October, December and again in February. Scott Losier encouraged her in a text message to stay an additional year. The Superintendent offered to stay the additional year. The Board elected to establish a search committee for a new Superintendent. Scott Losier informed the newspaper that the Superintendent's contract was not renewed. In schools a nonrenewal is considered a termination or being fired. The Superintendent stated that this false information has financial and professional consequences for her as she seeks part time work. I ask the Board to encourage Mr. Losier to resign. The Superintendent also requested that Scott Losier not continue to participate in negotiations with the Union. He has marred my reputation in the newspaper.

Lynn Moore stated she felt it would be beneficial to the district to vote with the majority to show unity. I made a mistake in that vote and I support the Superintendent. I am disappointed and angry over what has happened.

Denise Valerino stated that she too did not like the article in the newspaper. I funnel my opinion to the Chairperson to make a statement for the Board. I am embarrassed how this looks throughout the state. It is not up to any of us to get this information out there. There are a lot of hard things going on and we need to work together. There is a lot of confidential information that I deal with and I can't disclose. What was done was not fair. If this prohibits the Superintendent from getting another job, it is liable, it is slander. The Superintendent has been pleasant and nice even after our decision. I apologize on behalf of myself for being a part of this Board who got that in the paper.

Louise Valliere stated that she did not expect to be listening to Corinne. I believe her reputation to be impeccable and this will not hurt her. We never vote to seal closed minutes.

Nicole Plourde stated we did not talk about letting the Superintendent go. This article makes it look like we did. What I find most egregious is Scott Losier asked Corinne to stay and then voted to proceed with a search. Nicole asked Scott Losier to resign.

Scott Losier stated that he is not resigning, I have been elected by the people of Berlin and I will continue to represent them. This was a difficult decision. I am sorry people are reading this the wrong way. Things happen and get blown way out of proportion. You are questioning my integrity and text. I am a man of my word. I did contact the NH School Board Association and was told to pull you (Nicole Plourde) aside and speak to you.

Nicole Plourde stated that the NH School Board Association attorneys provide guidance, they are not personal attorneys.

Scott Losier felt he was harassed by the School Board Chair after making one of the hardest decision of his life.

Louise Valliere felt she was also being harassed by the School Board Chair and didn't appreciate her trying to change my mind. I think there has been a violation of ethics all around. Up until December this Board was cohesive, we were tight. I looked forward to meetings. We are passionate and love our schools. I am imploring the Board work together. I ask that we recommit and become the Board we were.

Lynn Moore stated that in the six years on this Board, the last two years were the most difficult. There are clear guidelines of how we operate and I feel they have been violated.

A motion was then made by Lynn Moore, seconded by Denise Valerino, for the breach of confidentiality, we petition the court to remove Scott Losier from the Board. On a roll call vote, Lynn Moore, Nicole Plourde, Denise Valerino voted in the affirmative, Louise Valliere and Scott Losier voted in the negative. The motion passed by a 3 to 2 margin.
Denise Valerino informed the Board she was voting this way because we can be sued. I would be fired if I divulged something like this.

ADJOURN

On a motion by Lynn Moore, seconded by Denise Valerino the Board voted to adjourn it's meeting at 6:55 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise Valerino

Secretary, Berlin Board of Education