

December 28, 2020

A virtual meeting of the Berlin Board of Education was held beginning at 6:01 pm. Present were, Ann Nolin, Jeanne Charest, Louise Valliere, Julie King, Marion Moore, Jason Hook, Sonya L'Heureux, Matt Lambert, Robert Theberge, Jim Wheeler, Emily Frizzell, Kayla Steady, Erin Hennessey, Danielle Demers, Mayor Paul Grenier, Mark Eastman, Candy Richard, and a member of the press.

Louise Valliere expressed her deepest sympathies for the loss of colleague Joe Fortin.

#### **WARRANTS**

On a motion by Ann Nolin, seconded by Jeanne Charest, the Board voted to approve the warrant dated December 29, 2020, for the amount of \$191,494.44. On a roll call vote, all members voted in the affirmative.


#### **COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**

None

#### **ADJOURN**

On a motion by Louise Valliere, seconded by Ann Nolin, the Board voted to adjourn it's meeting at 6:06 pm. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted



Secretary, Berlin Board of Education

### **JOINT MEETING OF BERLIN BOARD OF EDUCATION, CITY COUNCIL, AND STATE REPRESENTATIVES**

A virtual meeting of the Berlin Board of Education, Berlin City Council and State Representatives was held beginning at 6:17 pm. Present were, Ann Nolin, Jeanne Charest, Louise Valliere, Julie King, Marion Moore, Jason Hook, Sonya L'Heureux, Matt Lambert, Robert Theberge, Jim Wheeler, Emily Frizzell, Kayla Steady, Erin Hennessey, Danielle Demers, Mayor Paul Grenier, Mark Eastman, Candy Richard, Matthew Buteau, Devin Atkinson, Cheryl McCormick, Denise Morgan- Allain, Larry Laflamme, Susanne Styles, Lucie Remillard, Eamon Kelley, Madison Boynton, Diane Berthiaume, Shelli Fortin, Peter Higbee, and a member of the press.

#### **ADEQUACY AID AND FREE AND REDUCED LUNCH**

Anticipated FY 22 Adequacy Aid and Free & Reduced Lunch loss was discussed. Superintendent King explained that the applications for free and reduced meals were just not being completed as all meals are free to students 18 years of age and under for the year and

there is no urgency to do so. This has caused the Free and Reduced Lunch Rate to drop significantly, impacting the formula used to anticipate FY22 aid.

Mayor Paul Grenier explained that the NH Mayors hold monthly meetings and that one is scheduled for tomorrow and on the agenda is the Free and Reduced numbers that faces not only Berlin but other cities in NH. There is movement within the NH Mayors to request a waiver from the state to use last year's free and reduced numbers as a bridge for one year.

Representative Hennessey addressed the participants and indicated that on the senate side there is a bill to use last year's numbers for this year. She further explained how we are fortunate to have remained level with our enrollment numbers, where other cities are seeing a decrease in free and reduced applications as well as a loss of enrollment which affects adequacy aid.

A question was asked on how Berlin will see a decrease of \$186,000 with the loss of only one student in enrollment numbers. Business Manager Marion Moore , explained the formula used has many layers and a detailed spreadsheet provided by the NH DOE would more clearly show the picture of the reduction. She would send this document to anyone who would like to review it.

Superintendent King explained that letters have been sent out to parents requesting the completion of the free and reduced application and that efforts are ongoing.

Representative Laflamme asked if the request for a waiver needed to come from Commissioner Edelbut. Superintendent King explained that it needs to come from legislative action.

Mayor Grenier thanked the council members and state representatives for participating in the joint meeting and for their support.

School Board Chair Louise Valliere, thanked all who participated in the meeting.

#### **ADJOURN**

On a motion by Ann Nolin, seconded by Matthew Buteau, the Board voted to adjourn it's meeting at 6:49 pm. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



Secretary, Berlin Board of Education