

August 6, 2020

A virtual meeting of the Berlin Board of Education was held beginning at 6:00 pm. Present in the Berlin Elementary School cafeteria were, Louise Valliere, Scott Losier, Ann Nolin, Matthew Buteau, Jeanne Charest, Julie King, Marion Moore, Tammy Fauteux, Sandy Pouliot, Michael Kelley, Jason Hook, Sonya L'Heureux, Autie Hamilton, Martha Miller, Craig Melanson, Lynne Mercier, Pauline Duquette, Catrina Annis, Richelle Greer and Bryan Lamirande. Attending virtually were Susanne Styles, Amy Welch, Jennifer Buteau, Kayla Lavoie, Lauren Letourneau, Aisha Rai Thompson, staff, members of the community, and a member of the press.

MINUTES

On a motion by Scott Losier, seconded by Jeanne Charest, the Board voted to approve the minutes of the July 16, 2020 meeting, public and nonpublic sessions. The motion passed unanimously.

WARRANTS

On a motion by Ann Nolin, seconded by Jeanne Charest, the Board voted to approve the warrants dated August 10, 2020 and August 11, 2020 for the amounts of \$366,114.45 and \$92,755.24. On a roll call vote, all members voted in the affirmative.

PRESENTATION OF REOPENING PLAN

The Superintendent reviewed the reopening plan included in the Board packet, along with the listening sessions held for staff and the community. Remote learning in the Fall will be different from the Spring.

The four school nurses gave a presentation on the reopening document included in the Board packet. All children over the age of two will be required to wear a mask. All staff and students are asked to have a supply of 5 face coverings/masks that will fit snugly over their nose and under their chin. Face shields will not be allowed as a primary prevention measure, but are a good second line of defense. Parents will be instructed to keep kids home if they have a temperature of 100.4 or higher or if the child does not look right or is on the ill side.

Matthew Buteau asked the nurses if they have the support and tools they need. They unanimously agreed that they have all the support needed.

Jeanne Charest asked what the follow up will be. Lynne Mercier explained the computer program, SNAP, that will provide an update and a reminder the next day.

Louise Valliere thanked the school nurses.

Ann Nolin hopes we have a way to phrase the screening questions to the little ones.

Craig Melanson then presented the athletic portion of the plan. He informed the Board that the district will be following NHIAA guidelines for fall sports. Summer practices have been held with

COVID guidelines in place. The tentative start dates are September 8, 2020 for practices and September 18, 2020 for competitions. The question on Regional vs Divisional was discussed.

Martha Miller reviewed the reopening proposal for Special Education children who have IEP's or 504 plans and the services they are entitled to receive. She explained the different models using remote and on site learning. She also noted that some PPE will need to be adapted for certain services, such as speech pathology.

Bryan Lamirande reviewed the available PPE. He informed the Board that orders have been placed for disposable wipes, gallons of disinfectant, hand free faucets, hand sanitizers and soap.

Louise Valliere raised a question on the cleaning of bathrooms only once a day. Bryan responded that the schedule follows the CDC guidelines. Cleaning the classrooms during the day would be a challenge.

The HVAC system was discussed. We are currently having an evaluation on Monday to test the air quality.

The question of where we are with providing meals was raised. Will it be available for remote learners? The Superintendent said that meals will be provided for all. We are hoping to provide delivery but numbers will dictate that. The issue of scheduling recess was discussed.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Amy Welch feels it would make more sense to have Grades K-5 on the same schedule.

Jennifer Buteau feels K-5 should be on the same schedule and to possibly include grade 6, she feels it would be good for the community.

Kayla Lavoie agrees with combining K-5 and the addition of grade 6.

Susanne Styles questioned why grades 4 and 5 are going 3 days a week instead of 5.

Lauren Letourneau mentioned staggering the entry into the building of the students at BMHS.

Aisha Rai Thompson reiterated the importance of the staff's mental and physical health, the importance of new sinks being installed, recess, social emotional well-being, and keeping everyone safe.

APPROVAL OF REOPENING PLAN

A motion was made by Scott Losier, seconded by Ann Nolin to approve the hybrid version of the reopening plan. Discussion ensued. Jeanne Charest suggested a small group for a week to see how it goes, Matthew Buteau explained his concern for the lack of PPE. On a roll call vote, Matthew Buteau and Jeanne Charest voted in the negative, with Ann Nolin, Louise Valliere, and Scott Losier voting in the affirmative. The motion passed by a 3 to 2 margin.

APPROVAL OF NEW POSITION

On a motion by Scott Losier, seconded by Ann Nolin, the Board voted to approve the creation of a temporary permanent school year substitute position. On a roll call vote, all members voted in the affirmative.

COVID EMERGENCY LEAVE

The Board reviewed the updated COVID 19 Emergency Sick Leave Policy that was presented as per the requirements of the Provisions of the Families First Coronavirus Response Act.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

The Superintendent informed the Board on the following:

- AHEAD Organization donated \$1,000 worth of Chamber Gift Certificates
- Nicole Eastman's Loose Change Project. Community members are encouraged to drop off change at the Fire Department and the money will be used by the Quilter's Club to make face coverings for students.
- Title IX Sexual Harassment Law will need a new policy for the next meeting
- Staffing update - more to come at the next meeting

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Jennifer Buteau encouraged the committee to be very mindful of the community.

Rachelle Gilcris commented that everyone is making sacrifices. Thank you all for the hard work. If we had our choice K-12 would be back in school

NEW MEMBER BUSINESS

Scott Losier thanked the Superintendent and all Administrators for the hard work.

Jeanne Charest echoed Scott's statement.

Matthew Buteau thanked everyone involved and requested that an update on the reopening plan be on the next Board meeting agenda.

NON PUBLIC SESSION

The Board consensus was that a Non Public session was not required.

STAFFING

On a motion by Matthew Buteau, seconded by Jeanne Charest, the Board voted to approve the following staffing changes:

Resignations:

Justin Henderson - Educational Assistant - BES

Nominations:

Carol Laflamme - Cafeteria Worker - BMHS

Anne Marie Brewer - Educational Assistant - BES

Donna Favreau - Educational Assistant - BMHS

Teacher Nominations:

Amy Welch - Special Education Teacher - BMHS (6-8)

Amy Parsons - Grade 4 Teacher - BES

On a roll call vote, all members voted in the affirmative.

All nominations are contingent on the applicant completing a successful background check and physical.

ADJOURN

On a motion by Ann Nolin, seconded by Matt Buteau, the Board voted to adjourn it's meeting at 9:00 pm. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ann Nolin".

Secretary, Berlin Board of Education