

3/30/2010 Special Meeting of the Board of Education of the Berlin Central School District, held at the Berlin Middle School/High School

Present: Frank Zwack, Gina Goodermote, John Greene, Elizabeth Miller, Thomas Morelli, Jeffrey Paine, Beverly Stewart

Absent: No one

Also Present: Charlotte Gregory, Cathie Allain, Michelle Colvin, Cyril Grant, Eileen Leffler, Sandra Owens

Guests included: Andy Zlotnick, Heinz Noeding, Bob Miller, Diane Paine, Patty Nash, Karen Deiana and Dawn Wetmore

President Zwack convened the meeting at 7:00 PM with all seven board members present.

On the motion of Liz Miller, second by Jeffrey Paine the Board of Education of the Berlin Central School District unanimously approved the following resolution:

- **RESOLVED:** That the Board of Education of the Berlin Central School District hereby approves the lease agreement with the Town of Stephentown – effective 6/28/2010 – 8/31/2010

On the motion of Jeffrey Paine, second by Gina Goodermote the Board of Education of the Berlin Central School District unanimously approved the following resolution:

- **RESOLVED:** That the Board of Education of the Berlin Central School District hereby awards the bid for the Exterior Accessible Route and Accessible Entrance to Tim Giumarra in the amount of \$21,425.00

On the motion of Jeffrey Paine, second by Liz Miller the Board of Education of the Berlin Central School District unanimously approved the following resolution:

- **RESOLVED:** That the Board of Education of the Berlin Central School District hereby approves the increase in the 2009-2010 Budget of \$20,840.00 for the emergency repair of the failed dry well at the Berlin School Bus Garage

On the motion of John Greene, second by Tom Morelli the Board of Education of the Berlin Central School District unanimously approved the following resolution:

- **RESOLVED:** That the Board of Education of the Berlin Central School District hereby declares the following as contingent expenses in the 2009-2010 budget, for health and safety reasons, with Fund Balance as the source of funding:

- \$4,000.00 for Questar III professional environmental engineering services for the Transportation Department
- \$16,840.00 for Professional Service Industries Inc. for the remediation of the failed dry well at the Berlin School Bus Garage in

accordance with regulations set forth by New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

On the motion of Jeffrey Paine, second by Gina Goodermote the Board of Education of the Berlin Central School District unanimously approved the following resolution:

- RESOLVED: That the Board of Education of the Berlin Central School District hereby accepts the proposal from Professional Services Industries Inc. in the amount of \$16,840.00 for the remediation of the failed dry well at the Berlin School Bus Garage

The Administration presented information on the projected loss of state aid funding and the increasing salary, benefit and retirement costs – resulting in an 18% increase on the tax levy.

They also presented information on what to do to drive the budget total down and contain the costs that included:

- **Closing the Grafton Elementary School**
- **Use of planned reserves in the 2010-2011 budget (\$200,000)**
- **Use of appropriated fund balance (\$300,000)**
- **A one time use of \$500,000 for the initial set up and leasing for the modular units**
- **Continued use of the Restrictive Spending System**
- **Careful planning for the 2010-2011 program budget expenditures**
- **Reallocation of other 2009-2010 reserve accounts**
- **Maximize use of Questar III aidable services and purchases**
- **Contractual talks with bargaining units to hold costs down – 55/25 legislation for teaching staff age 55 with 25 years of service**

Information on the following was also provided:

- **Reduction of costs and tax levy impact from 18% to 2.99%**
- **Substantial savings in district-wide building operational costs**
- **Preservation of educational programs**
- **Addition of Distance Learning program**
- **Reduction of 10 staff**
- **Reduction of operational costs of food service and student transportation costs**
- **A budget to budget increase of \$188,600, plus the modular costs of \$391,000 for year one and an ongoing lease cost of \$34,000 per year for a four year period**
- **A long term five-year financial plan with contains costs into the future in single digit projections**
- **An additional \$541,000 in cuts would be necessary if the budget is voted down**

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- **The 2010-2011 Budget Draft #2 shows a budget total of \$18,861,477 with a tax levy increase of 2.99%**

In other business Tom Morelli presented a handout comparing revenues, expenses, staffing and enrollments from 2005-present. Mr. Morelli also presented a handout with two proposals for board member consideration for the May Vote – #1 establishment of a Special Advisory Committee for long term strategic vision of the district - #2 reduction of the total board size from 7 to 5 members.

Calendar of Meetings

Special Meeting – Budget Workshop – April 13, 2010 – Middle School/High School – 7:00 PM

On motion of Jeffrey Paine, second by Gina Goodermote, executive session to discuss personnel items was entered at 9:07 PM, with public session resuming at 9:22 PM.

On the motion of Jeffrey Paine, second by Liz Miller the Board of Education voted to amend Article 11.9 of the Collective Agreement between the District and the Berlin Teachers Association as follows:

For the 2009-2010 school year only, any teacher who chooses to retire effective June 30, 2010, and who meets all of the other requirements as stated in Article 11.9 must notify the District in writing by April 20, 2010 in order to qualify for the incentive provided in Article 11.9.

**YES: Goodermote
Miller
Paine
Zwack**

**NO: Greene
Morelli
Stewart**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:24PM on motion of Jeffrey Paine, second by Liz Miller.

Mary M. Grant, District Clerk