

12/15/2009 Regular 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, Dennis Healy, Eileen Leffler, Jennifer Morris, Sandra Owens

Guests included: Beth Bourassa, Mr. Rubin, Mr. Brown, Becky Giumarra, Glen Giumarra, Scott Gordon, Andy Zlotnick, Joe Allain, Dawn Demick, Diane Paine, Tammy Osterhout, Bob Miller, Madonna Roy, Patty Nash, Mr. & Mrs. Sawyer, Donna Kelly, Don French, Fleda Berschwinger, Erin Berschwinger, Alicia Beisler, Rachel Gordon, and Connor Brown

President Zwack convened the meeting at 6:30 M with all seven board members present for an executive session for advice from legal counsel.

Public session resumed at 7:10 PM on the motion of Liz Miller, second by Beverly Stewart.

On motion of Liz Miller, second by Tom Morelli, minutes of the 11/17/2009 and 12/1/2009 meetings were approved.

The Oral Communications portion included the following:

1. Spanish Trip Request – Spanish Teacher, Alicia Beisler, and students Rachel Gordon and Connor Brown presented the Board with information on a proposed trip to Spain in 2011. The presentation included information on the education benefits, itinerary, costs, student eligibility, chaperone ratios, and fundraising. - On motion of Beverly Stewart, second by Jeffrey Paine, the Board of Education of the Berlin Central School District unanimously approved the request from the Spanish Club for a trip to Spain in 2011.
2. Bus Drill Up-date – Berlin Volunteer Fire Department – Tammy Osterhout provided the Board with information on the MCI Bus Drill that was done in November. One of the many things learned from the drill was the need for the EMS/fire personnel to know where to find student information on the buses and standardizing this for all buses.

The Public Comment portion included:

1. Concerns from a parent regarding the June results of the algebra and geometry testing and evaluation of the program. Discussion occurred with the Superintendent to work with staff to generate a report.

12/15/2009 Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of the Berlin Central School District, held at the Berlin Middle School/High School

On motion of Jeffrey Paine, second by Beverly Stewart, the following Consent Agenda Items (#4,5,7,8,9,10 and 14) were unanimously approved:

- RESOLVED: That the Board of Education of the Berlin Central School District hereby accepts the November 2009 Claims Audit as submitted

- RESOLVED: That the Board of Education of the Berlin Central School District hereby approves the 2009-2010 Preliminary Tax Collector's Report as submitted.

- RESOLVED: That the Board of Education of the Berlin Central School District hereby approves the 2009-2010 health services contract with the Wynantskill Union Free School District in the amount of \$4,201.56 for 9 students

- RESOLVED: That the Board of Education of the Berlin Central School District hereby declares the following items as surplus, with such items to be appropriately disposed of:

Qty	Description	Model Number	Serial Number	Bldg
1	Sharp Fax Machine	FO-2950	0G101960	GES
1	3M Overhead Projector	66AG	057113M	GES
1	Dukane Overhead Projector	EP1800	22200453	GES

- RESOLVED: That the Board of Education of the Berlin Central School District hereby approves the nighttime Talent Show fundraiser for the Berlin Elementary School PTO to be held on March 5, 2010

- RESOLVED: That the Board of Education of the Berlin Central School District hereby accepts, with appreciation, the donation of one Gibson Baldwin Flute serial #108640105 from Joseph Styer with an estimated value of \$200

- 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:

- \$4,905.00 for video camera systems for the Transportation Department
- \$23,750.00 for sidewalk repairs at Berlin Elementary School as directed by the Office of Civil Rights

Discussion occurred regarding the Treasurer's Reports and questions were answered.

- **On the motion of Liz Miller, second by Tom Morelli, the Board of Education of the Berlin Central School District unanimously approved the Treasurer's Reports from 10/1/2009 – 10/31/2009 Trust & Agency Fund, Special Aid Fund, School Lunch Fund, Capital Fund and the 11/1/2009 – 11/31/2009 General Fund, Trust & Agency Fund, School Lunch Fund, Special Aid Fund, and Capital Fund**

Discussion occurred regarding the continued membership with the New York State School Boards Association with Board members each giving their opinion on the membership.

12/15/2009 Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of the Berlin Central School District, held at the Berlin Middle School/High School

- On the motion of Jeffrey Paine, second by Liz Miller, the Board of Education approved the 2009-2010 membership dues of the New York State School Boards Association in the amount of \$6,115.00 with 5 YES votes (Goodermote, Greene, Miller, Paine and Zwack and 2 NO votes (Morelli and Stewart)

Discussion occurred regarding the Repeal of Budget Transfer indicating that this is a correction from the November meeting.

- On the motion of Liz Miller, second by Tom Morelli, the Board of Education unanimously repealed the 2009-2010 budget transfer of \$4,905.00 from Code A5510.5710 to Code A5510.2000 from the 11/17/2009 meeting

Discussion occurred regarding Increase in 2009-2010 Budget indicating that this will properly purchase the video camera systems for the buses and also provide the money for the repair of the exterior accessible route and accessible entrance at the Berlin Elementary School.

- On the motion of Tom Morelli, second by Liz Miller the Board of Education unanimously approved the following: RESOLVED: That the Board of Education of the Berlin Central School District hereby approves the increase in the 2009-2010 Budget of \$4,905.00 for video camera systems and \$23,750.00 for the repair of the exterior accessible route and accessible entrance at the Berlin Elementary School

Discussion occurred on the Recognition of Letter from Board Member with a letter dated December 8, 2009 being read aloud by the District Clerk:

Dear Mr. Zwack:

As you may know, at the Board of Education's next meeting on December 15, 2009, the Board may be asked to approve certain proposed contracts for work to the accessible exterior route at Berlin Elementary School, to comply with the resolution agreement entered into between the District and the US Department of Education, Office of Civil Rights (OCR). If the Board approves, one such contract may be awarded to my husband, David Goodermote, who I understand submitted a quote for part of the work on the OCR project.

Pursuant to NY General Municipal Law section 803 and Board Policy No. 1.140-02R, please be advised that I have an interest in the proposed contract between the District and my husband, David Goodermote, for work on the accessible exterior route at Berlin Elementary School. I will accordingly recuse myself from discussing or voting on that proposed contract, if it is submitted to the Board for approval.

At the Board's meeting on December 15, 2009, would you please be so kind as to read this letter aloud in public session, and ask the district

12/15/2009 Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of the Berlin Central School District, held at the Berlin Middle School/High School

**clerk to attach a copy of this letter to the minutes of the Board's meeting.
Thank you.**

**Respectfully submitted,
Gina Goodermote**

Discussion occurred regarding the bidding process for the Exterior Accessible Route and Accessible Entrance. Discussion also occurred on up-dating the Procurement Policy.

-On motion of Jeffrey Paine, second by Liz Miller the following resolution failed with 3 YES votes (Miller, Paine, Zwack) and 3 NO votes (Greene, Morelli, Stewart):

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 Dave Goodermote Excavating & Gravel in the amount of \$23,750.00

Beth Bourassa, legal counsel for the District, was to prepare a response to OCR.

In the President's Report, Mr. Zwack read a statement out loud asking for a motion to hold discussion on the following letter: Proceeding along with my message reported in the newspaper about a positive look at the results of the December referendum, I think the Board of Education needs to move on in its planning work for the school district. Clearly, it is a time when we should be looking to long range planning updates that revisit the needs of the district. We heard some input from people who did attend the public meetings. We haven't had the chance to review the exit surveys for other information, but that should be completed soon.

At this point I believe the Board of Education should direct the Superintendent to continue to engage the public and staff in dialogue about old and new options for ongoing facility improvements that taxpayers and residents can support; and to prepare a report for the January 19 Board of Education meeting. I think we are interested in a report that shows a history of the options previously considered, many of which the public was not aware. This part of the report might be a simple matrix of the numerous options that can serve as the history of planning development. The Board of Education needs a plan that moves forward.

The Superintendent's goal should provide the Board of Education with feedback from the public to assist with future board decisions. The report should contain options as well as recommend timelines and activities to assist the board in these deliberations. During this period of review, the board should remain objective and exercise a spirit of compromise as it seeks answers to serving students, parents, staff and community.

Discussion occurred regarding the continued work of the Superintendent's Advisory Committee.

12/15/2009 Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of the Berlin Central School District, held at the Berlin Middle School/High School

- On motion of Jeffrey Paine, second by Liz Miller the Board of Education approved the continued work of the Superintendent's Advisory Committee to review the exit survey, formally finish and respectively recognize the work of the group, and to prepare a report for the January 2010 meeting with 5 YES votes (Greene, Goodermote, Miller, Paine, Zwack) and 2 NO votes (Morelli, Stewart).

Discussion occurred on the addendum for the Memorandum of Understanding.

On motion of Liz Miller, second by Jeffrey Paine the Board of Education approved the following with 5 YES votes (Goodermote, Miller, Paine, Stewart, Zwack), 1 NO vote (Tom Morelli), and 1 ABSTAINMENT (Greene):

This Memorandum of Understanding is entered into by and between the Berlin Central School District, the New Lebanon Central School District, Rensselaer County and the Town of Berlin (collectively, the "Municipal Partners").

WHEREAS, the Municipal Partners wish to investigate and implement various opportunities to reduce overall governmental costs by sharing services between highway, school district, and public works agencies; and

WHEREAS, the New York State Department of State, Shared Municipal Services Implementation Grant Program 2010 presents an opportunity to receive fiscal assistance in developing and implementing viable, cost-effective programs to reduce governmental costs by sharing resources and services; and

WHEREAS, a proposed project, if funded by said grant program, would be entitled the Eastern Rensselaer and Columbia County Shared Vehicle Maintenance Facility Implementation Grant and would identify opportunities to reduce public agency spending and provide superior service in vehicle maintenance operations by sharing facilities; coordinate the operational and fiscal analysis of shared services; evaluate funding resources to implement services; and develop intermunicipal agreements leading to the implementation of cost savings opportunities; and

WHEREAS, the amount of the grant, if awarded, shall be \$200,000 for each Municipal Partner, for a total of \$800,000, subject to a 10% local cost match; and

WHEREAS, one Municipal Partner must be designated as the Lead Agency for the purpose of submitting the grant application;

NOW, THEREFORE, the Parties AGREE as follows:

12/15/2009 Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of the Berlin Central School District, held at the Berlin Middle School/High School

1. The Berlin Central School District shall be the designated Lead Agency for the purpose of preparing and submitting the Shared Municipal Services Implementation Grant application for the Eastern Rensselaer and Columbia County Shared Vehicle Maintenance Facility Implementation Grant (the "Grant") and is authorized to submit such Grant application on behalf of the Municipal Partners on or before _____, 2010.

2. Each Municipal Partner shall share equally in the costs associated with preparation and submission of the grant application.

3. In the event that the Grant is awarded in the total amount of \$800,000:

A. Each Municipal Partner shall contribute equally to fund the 10% local cash match; and

B. The Municipal Partners shall enter into an intermunicipal agreement for the purpose of accepting, administering and performing the grant project.

4. In the event that the Grant is not awarded in the total amount of \$800,000, each Municipal Partner shall have no cash liability and no further obligation with respect to the proposed project.

On motion of Jeffrey Paine, second by Liz Miller, the Board of Education unanimously adopted Board Policy 5.520-09 Home Instruction.

All other board policy readings were tabled until the January meeting.

On motion of Jeffrey Paine, second by Liz Miller, executive session to discuss personnel items was entered at 9:30 PM, with public session resuming at 10:00 PM on motion of Jeffrey Paine, second by Liz Miller.

On motion of Beverly Stewart, second by Jeffrey Paine, the Board of Education unanimously approved the following personnel action:

The following new appointments are contingent on passing the fingerprinting mandates:

Upon the recommendation of the Interim Superintendent to appoint the following people to the 2009-2010 Non-Instructional Substitute List – effective 12/16/2009

Michaels, Joshua – Aide, Monitor, TA – effective 12/16/2009

Riccardi, Stephen – Bus Driver – effective 12/3/2009

Upon the recommendation of the Interim Superintendent to appoint the following person to the 2009-2010 Instructional Substitute List – effective 12/16/2009

12/15/2009 Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of the Berlin Central School District, held at the Berlin Middle School/High School

**Michaels, Joshua – Non-Certified
Randall, Megan - Certified**

APPOINTMENTS

Upon the recommendation of the Interim Superintendent to appoint the following people as Advisors/Mentor Teachers for the 2009 -2010 school year:

Position	Name	Stipend
Self-Defense Advisor	Jason Breh	\$1,801 (pro-rated to \$1,324 – effective 11/18/2009)
JV Masterminds Advisor	Jennifer Overocker	\$1456 – retroactive to 9/1/2009
Co-Advisor Class of 2013	Robert Gould	\$440.50 – retroactive to 9/1/2009
Co-Advisor Class of 2013	Nicholas Toole	\$440.50 – retroactive to 9/1/2009
Mentor Teacher	Ariel Hodges	\$1,000.00 – retroactive to 9/1/2009
Mentor Teacher	Patty Korzec	\$1,000.00 – retroactive to 9/1/2009
Mentor Teacher	Karen Deiana	\$1,000.00 – retroactive to 9/1/2009
Mentor Teacher	Michelle Baldwin	\$1,000.00 – retroactive to 9/1/2009
Mentor Teacher	Fran Mason	\$400.00 – effective 9/1/2009 – 1/1/2010

Upon the recommendation of the Interim Superintendent to appoint Becky Giumarra as District Clerk, Pro-tem @ \$17.69 per hour – effective 1/13/2010 – 3/26/2010

RESIGNATIONS

Upon the recommendation of the Interim Superintendent to accept the resignation of Becky Giumarra as Assistant Supervisor for Student Activities – effective 12/8/2009

Upon the recommendation of the Interim Superintendent to accept the resignation of Richard Jones as Bus Driver - effective 12/31/2009

On motion of Jeffrey Paine, second by Liz Miller, the Board of Education unanimously approved the:

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COMMITTEE ON SPECIAL EDUCATION

- Approval of the following recommendations of the Committee on Special Education: 000063811, 101706, 103318, 101543, 000030515, 000082110, 101806, 104238, 103983, 102834, 103498, 000002916, 101719, 103459, 000046711, 103879, 000084017, 000064917**

On motion of Jeffrey Paine, second by Liz Miller, the Board of Education unanimously approved the following:

12/15/2009 Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of the Berlin Central School District, held at the Berlin Middle School/High School

- RESOLVED: That the Board of Education of the Berlin Central School District hereby approves and ratifies a memorandum of agreement dated November 25, 2009 to extend the collective agreement between the District and the Civil Service Employees Association for two years, through June 30, 2012.

On motion of Jeffrey Paine, second by Tom Morelli, the Board of Education unanimously denied the sabbatical proposal submitted by Anne Lazarony, Guidance Counselor.

Calendar of Meetings

Special Meeting – Workshop – January 13, 2010 – MS/HS Library – 6:30 PM

Regular Meeting – January 19, 2010 – MS/HS – 7:00 PM

The meeting was adjourned at 10:04 PM on motion of Jeffrey Paine, second by Beverly Stewart.

Mary M. Grant, District Clerk