

3/16/2010 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, Eileen Leffler, Jennifer Morris, Sandra Owens

**Guests included:** Dawn Demick, Atsushi Akeru, Beth Bourassa, Heinz Noeding, Lisa Purdy, Kenny Masterson, Andy Zlotnick, Diane, Frank Giumarra, Diane Paine, Alan Webster, Jr., Donna Kelly, Jennifer Burhans, Robert C. Miller, Jim Goyer, Dale Goyer, Monica Shupe, Kathy Burdick, Karen Deiana, Mary Lou Hunt, Matthew Myers, Danielle Myers, John Nash, Patrice Nash, Phillip Roder, June Hmielenski, and others.

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

On motion of Elizabeth Miller, second by John Greene, minutes of the 3/2/2010 meeting were approved.

The Public Comment portion included:

1. Concerns about verbal comments between Board members during meetings and how this may appear to people in the audience were expressed. Also mentioned were the financial challenges facing the district, declining enrollment, closing of Grafton Elementary School, and mention of the high rate of drug and alcohol use amongst students in the area. Also, a suggestion to create an advisory committee which could provide guidance to the Board in regards to consolidation with New Lebanon or another district, renovations at Berlin Elementary, reliance on BOCES services, and more.
2. Another resident spoke about the rejected bond issue and suggested that the Board should wait for a more favorable economic climate before closing buildings, or leasing modular classrooms.

On motion of Jeffrey Paine, second by Elizabeth Miller, the following Consent Agenda Items 1,2,3,4,5,6 & 8 were unanimously approved:

- Treasurer's Reports from 2/1/10 – 2/28/10 – General Fund, Special Aid Fund, School Lunch Fund, Capital Fund, Trust & Agency Fund

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**PERSONNEL ACTION:**

Upon the recommendation of the Interim Superintendent to create a 1.0 FTE, 30-day temporary Teaching Assistant position at \$14.56 per hour.

Upon the recommendation of the Interim Superintendent to appoint Herbert Mace – Bus Driver (replacing Carol Yerg) 1 hour per day, 4 days per week @ \$21.43 per hour – effective 3/3/2010.

Upon the recommendation of the Interim Superintendent to appoint Joshua Weaver as Modified Baseball Coach @ \$2,299.00 effective 3/17/2010, contingent on passing the fingerprinting mandates.

**RESIGNATION:**

Upon the recommendation of the Interim Superintendent to accept the resignation of Carol Yerg – Bus Driver (from the Berlin Mountain Late Run) – effective 2/12/2010.

**RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COMMITTEE ON SPECIAL EDUCATION:**

- Approval of the following recommendations of the Committee on Special Education: 000063311, 000077315, 000047312, 102800, 103959, 102871, 101644, 102089, 103960, 102095, 000086812, 000083014, 000061310, 104458, 104318, 104280, 103498, 101813, 103760, 102009, 104399, 103879

- RESOLVED: That the Board of Education of the Berlin Central School District hereby accepts the February 2010 Claims Audit as submitted.

- RESOLVED: That the Board of Education of the Berlin Central School District hereby approves the following amendment to the 2009-2010 Questar III Final Service Request:

- Deletion of 81910 from Construction I Program – effective 3/3/2010

- RESOLVED: That the Board of Education of the Berlin Central School District hereby accepts, with appreciation, the following donations:

Name	Qty	Description	Value
James Asmussen	1	Bach Stradivarius Bass Trombone	\$600.00
	1	Canon Digital Video Camera with an 8 GB SDHC card, headphone cable, battery charger, audio/video cables and instructional DVD	\$356.00
William D. Sauer	1	Roland EXR-75 Keyboard	\$950.00
Linda Sullivan	1	Exerciser – High Step	\$50.

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**- Budget Development Calendar as follows:**

- Tuesday, January 26 – Board budget workshop – Preliminary work
- Tuesday, February 23 – Regular Board meeting – Budget Draft #1
- Tuesday, March 9 – Board budget workshop – Budget Draft #2
- Tuesday, March 16 – Regular Board meeting – Budget Draft #3
- Tuesday, March 30 – Board budget workshop – Budget Draft #4
- Tuesday, April 13 – Board budget workshop – Budget Draft #5
- Friday, April 23 – Final date for Board of Education approval – Budget Adoption \* (if necessary)

**\*By law, the district must post its Board of Education adopted budget on the NYSED website no later than Saturday, April 24**

**On motion of Jeffrey Paine, second by Elizabeth Miller, Consent Agenda Item # 7 - Budget Transfer, was unanimously approved as follows:**

**- RESOLVED: That the Board of Education of the Berlin Central School District hereby approves the following 2009-2010 budget transfer:**

<b>Code From</b>	<b>Code To</b>	<b>Amount</b>
<b>A9060.8000</b>	<b>A1920.4000</b>	<b>\$6,115</b>

**Discussion regarding Consent Agenda Item #9 SEQR for Modular Units included: location for modular units, connecting units to new ADA accessible sidewalks which will lead into current building. Also, installation of a holding tank for septic needs, which will periodically be pumped out, as well as connection to town water system.**

**On motion of Jeffrey Paine, second by Elizabeth Miller, the following was approved with**

**5 YES votes: Zwack, Miller, Greene, Paine, Goodermote**

**2 NO votes: Morelli, Stewart as follows:**

**WHEREAS, the Board of Education is considering the passage of a resolution to approve the lease of two 2-unit modular classrooms for a period of not more than five years, to be installed at Berlin Elementary School, (the “Lease Project”), and**

**WHEREAS, the Board has reviewed the Improvements and the applicable provisions of the State Environmental Quality Review Act (“SEQRA”).**

**NOW, THEREFORE, it is:**

**RESOLVED, that in accordance with the regulations of the New York State Education Department, the Berlin Central School District is primarily responsible for assuring compliance with the procedural and substantive requirements of the State Environmental Quality Review Act and the regulations of the Department of Environmental Conservation of the State**

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**of New York (6 N.Y.C.R.R. Part 617, as amended) promulgated there under (“SEQRA”), and it is further**

**RESOLVED, that, based upon the review by the Board of Education of the proposed Lease Project, the Board hereby declares itself lead agency to the extent necessary for this purpose and hereby finds that the proposed Lease Project constitutes “Type II action” as such quoted term is defined in SEQRA and, therefore, is not subject to any further review by the School District under SEQRA.**

**Discussion regarding Consent Agenda Item #10 Resolution for Modular included: Lease costs, use of cash reserves for this and upcoming school years, budget gap, closure of Grafton school, condition of Berlin Elementary School building, extensive work needed at Grafton Elementary, reduction in state aid, program cuts, loss of local schools and the impact on the local community. One Board member could not see the savings in closing Stephentown School, and felt leasing modular units was a short plan solution.**

**On motion of Jeffrey Paine, second by Elizabeth Miller, the following was approved with**

**4 YES votes: Zwack, Miller, Paine, Goodermote**

**3 NO votes: Morelli, Greene, Stewart**

**WHEREAS, on March 31, 2008, the Board of Education resolved to close Stephentown and Grafton Elementary Schools and to consolidate the District’s elementary school students and programs at a single site; and**

**WHEREAS, Stephentown Elementary School was closed effective June 30, 2009; and**

**WHEREAS, on December 8, 2009, the District’s voters declined to approve a proposition to add certain permanent classroom space to Berlin Elementary School, and other reconstruction/renovation work; and**

**WHEREAS, additional, temporary classroom space is needed to expeditiously achieve the Board’s goal of consolidating elementary students in a single location to achieve cost savings and efficiency, until a permanent, consolidated facility is available;**

**NOW, THEREFORE, it is:**

**RESOLVED, that the Board of Education, after completing a review in accordance with the State Environmental Quality Review Act, hereby finds that lease of two 2-unit modular classrooms to be installed at Berlin**

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**Elementary School is in the best financial interest of the District, for the reason set forth above, and it is further**

**RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby approves the purchase of stamped architectural plans for the installation of two 2-unit modular classrooms at Berlin Elementary School, in the amount of \$3,500/each, and it is further**

**RESOLVED, that subject to approval of such plans by the Commissioner of Education, and further subject to voter approval, two 2-unit modular classrooms shall be leased for a period of not more than five years and installed at Berlin Elementary School by no later than September 1, 2010, in compliance with applicable public building requirements, and it is further**

**RESOLVED, that Grafton Elementary School shall be closed effective June 30, 2010.**

**There was a question regarding the date for Consent Agenda Item #11. Cathie Allain said the date will be changed.**

**On motion of John Greene, second by Elizabeth Miller, Consent Agenda Item #11 – Approval for Fundraiser, was unanimously approved as follows:  
- RESOLVED: That the Board of Education of the Berlin Central School District hereby approves the Class of 2012 Berlin vs. New Lebanon Alumni Basketball Game**

**SEQR Resolution for ADA compliant sidewalk access into Berlin Elementary School.**

**On motion made by Jeffrey Paine, second by Elizabeth Miller, the SEQR resolution for compliance with the resolution agreement with the United States Department of Education, Office of Civil Rights was unanimously approved as follows:**

**WHEREAS, the Board of Education is required to reconstruct an accessible exterior route to the Berlin Elementary School, to comply with a Resolution Agreement between the District and the United States Department of Education, Office of Civil Rights, Case No. 02-09-1209, (the “OCR Project”) and**

**WHEREAS, the District has solicited bids for the OCR Project, and will open those bids on or around March 29, 2010 and award the contract for the OCR Project to the lowest responsible bidder on or around March 30, 2010; and**

**WHEREAS, the Board has reviewed the OCR Project and the applicable provisions of the State Environmental Quality Review Act (“SEQRA”).**

**NOW, THEREFORE, it is:**

**RESOLVED**, that in accordance with the regulations of the New York State Education Department, the Berlin Central School District is primarily responsible for assuring compliance with the procedural and substantive requirements of the State Environmental Quality Review Act and the regulations of the Department of Environmental Conservation of the State of New York (6 N.Y.C.R.R. Part 617, as amended) promulgated there under (“SEQRA”), and it is further

**RESOLVED**, that, based upon the review by the Board of Education of the proposed OCR Project, the Board hereby declares itself lead agency to the extent necessary for this purpose and hereby finds that the proposed OCR Project constitutes “Type II action” as such quoted term is defined in SEQRA and, therefore, is not subject to any further review by the School District under SEQRA.

In the Superintendent’s Report, Ms. Gregory spoke of concerns regarding the 2010-2011 budgets. An overview of the budget change shows a 1.52% increase. She also cautioned about spending too much of the reserve funds for one year – they may be needed for upcoming years to help offset impending budget gaps.

The Oral Communications portion included the following:

1. A member of the audience suggested moving Grafton 6<sup>th</sup> graders back to Grafton Elementary School.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

A. Distance Learning was postponed to April 27, 2010 B.O.E. meeting.

B. Recommendation to appoint commercial real estate agent:

Ms. Gregory introduced realtor Win Morrison and associate broker Bob Baum. They did a marketing presentation for Stephentown Elementary School. A suggestion for use as a senior or adult residence was mentioned, which could bring income into the area. Mr. Morrison feels the property is valuable and considers this a great project. His plan for marketing includes advertising on the web, and personal contacts. He plans on listing the building for \$980,000.

- On motion of Jeffrey Paine, second by Gina Goodermote, the Board of Education approved the appointment of Win Morrison Realty to market Stephentown Elementary School with

6 Yes: Zwack, Goodermote, Miller, Greene, Paine, Morelli

1 No: Stewart

On motion of Thomas Morelli, second by Elizabeth Miller, executive session was entered into at 8:25 PM.

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**On motion of Gina Goodermote, second by Jeffrey Paine, return to public session at 8:35 PM, with all voting in favor.**

**C. Budget Work:** The Superintendent talked about the upcoming budget in a power point presentation given by Sandra Owens. Support of educational programs included appropriations and revenues. Also discussed were staff reductions, contract obligations, Questar, increases in the budget and aid ratio. Restrictive spending procedures were previously put in place for money savings. Some Board members felt the public should be informed of the budget gap and economic situation the school is facing. Continuing discussion about the budget and suggestions from Board members for cost reductions included the closing of Grafton School, an increase in class sizes, staff reductions, insurance costs, maintenance costs, and distant learning costs.

**Beth Bourassa spoke briefly regarding keeping personnel issues private, and reminded the Board to save discussion for Executive Session.**

**Calendar of Meetings**

**Board of Education Workshop Meeting – March 30, 2010, 7PM at the Middle/High School Library**

**On motion of Jeffrey Paine, second by Thomas Morelli, executive session to discuss personnel items was entered at 9:27PM, with public session resuming at 10:20PM.**

**The meeting was adjourned at 10:22PM on motion of Jeffrey Paine, second by Thomas Morelli.**

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**Rebecca A. Giumarra, District Clerk**