

BERLIN TOWNSHIP PUBLIC SCHOOLS

West Berlin, New Jersey 08091

January 29, 2020

Special Meeting Minutes

“Educating Today for Tomorrow’s Success”

1. Call Meeting to Order

I, Gerard Petersen, President, call this meeting to order under the Open Public Meetings Act at 7:00pm. Motion carried, voice vote, all present voting “yes”.

This is to advise the general public and to instruct that it be recorded in the Minutes, that in compliance with Chapter 231 of the Public Laws of 1975, entitled the “Open Public Meetings Act,” the Berlin Township Board of Education on January 10, 2018, caused to be posted at the Business Office of the Board of Education located at 225 Grove Avenue, West Berlin, New Jersey and advertised in the Courier Post on January 10, 2020 and the Central Record the week of January 12, 2020 a meeting notice setting forth the time, date and location of this meeting.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Roll Call

Yr Began/Current Term Expires

Mr. Brian Davis	<u>present</u>	2012 / 2021
Mrs. Kimberly Reed	<u>present</u>	2015 / 2021
Mrs. Lisa Hill-Muff	<u>present</u>	2018 / 2021
Mr. Jeffrey Souza	<u>present</u>	2014 / 2022
Mrs. Cynthia Mozee	<u>present</u>	2013 / 2022
Mr. Domonic Balducci	<u>present</u>	2019 / 2022
Mr. Gerard Petersen, President	<u>present</u>	2017 / 2020
Mr. Sol Cohen	<u>present</u>	2014 / 2020
Vacancy	_____	
Dr. Edythe B. Austermuhl, Superintendent	<u>present</u>	
Mrs. Megan Stoddart, Business Administrator	<u>present</u>	
Charles Rizzi, Esq., Board Solicitor	_____	
Lauren Tedesco, Capehart & Scatchard	<u>present</u>	

Notification was received from the office of the County Superintendent. Jeffrey Souza has been recommended by the county superintendent for vice president of the Berlin Township Board of Education.

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4. Executive Session – In

Motion by Kimberly Reed, seconded by Jeffrey Souza to go into Executive Session to discuss: personnel, legal, contractual and negotiation issues. Time in: 7:02pm.

Motion carried, voice vote, all present voting “yes”.

Resolution for Executive Session:

Whereas Section 8 of the Open Public Meeting Act, Chapter 231, P.L. 1975, permits the exclusion of the public from a meeting in certain circumstances, and whereas this public body is of the opinion that such circumstances presently exist. Now, therefore, be it resolved by the Berlin Township Board of Education, County of Camden, State of New Jersey, as follows:

1. The public shall be excluded from discussion and action upon hereafter specified subject matters. They are:
 - a. Any matter which by express provision of federal law or state statute or rule of court shall be rendered confidential.
 - b. Matters dealing with Federal Funding.
 - c. Discussion of any materials, the disclosure of which would constitute an unwarranted invasion of individual privacy.
 - d. Matters dealing with collective bargaining.
 - e. Matters dealing with the sale or purchase of public land.
 - f. Discussion of any pending or anticipated litigation or contract negotiation.

5. Executive Session – Close

Motion by Kimberly Reed, seconded by Gerard Petersen to come out of Executive Session. Time out: 7:22pm. Motion carried, voice vote, all present voting “yes”.

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6. Public Session

Motion by Kimberly Reed, seconded by Cynthia Mozee to resume Public Session.

Time in: 7:23pm. Motion carried, voice vote, all present voting “yes”.

- a. Motion by Jeffrey Souza, second by Kimberly Reed, to appoint Holly Murrenburke to fill the Board Vacancy for the remainder of the term expiring December 31, 2020 pending criminal history background check and confirmation that residency requirements have been met.

Motion carried, roll call vote, all present voting “yes”.

7. Public Comments – Open

Recognition of Citizens – for subjects not appearing on agenda

The Public is reminded that they should attempt to resolve problems and/or complaints through initial contact with the staff member or members involved therein and the Chief School Administrator prior to petitioning the Board of Education. Complaints should only be brought to the Board after the appropriate school staff have had a reasonable opportunity to resolve the problem at the employee level. Statements should be limited to topics to be addressed.

Public participation shall be governed by the following rules as per Regulation 9322:

- A. All persons wishing to participate in a public board meeting shall register their intent by signing in with the board secretary in advance of the meeting;
- B. A participant must be recognized by the presiding officer and must preface comments by an announcement of his/her name, place of residence, and group affiliation, if appropriate;
- C. Each statement made by a participant shall be limited to five minutes’ duration;
- D. No participant may speak more than once on the same topic;
- E. All statements shall be directed to the presiding officer; no participant may address or question board members individually;

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Special Meeting Minutes

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- F. The presiding officer may:
 - A. Interrupt, warn, or terminate a participant’s statement when the statement is too lengthy, personally directed, abusive, obscene, or irrelevant;
 - B. Request any individual to leave the meeting when that person does not observe reasonable decorum;
 - C. Request the assistance of law enforcement officers in the removal of a disorderly person when that person’s conduct interferes with the orderly progress of the meeting;
 - D. Call for a recess or an adjournment to another time when the lack of public decorum so interferes with the orderly conduct of the meeting as to warrant such action; and
 - E. Waive these rules when necessary for the protection of privacy or the efficient administration of the board’s business.

The portion of the meeting during which the participation of the public is invited shall be limited to 30 minutes which can be extended due to exceptional circumstances at the discretion of the presiding officer, and will be concluded by 10:00 pm.

Motion by Jeffrey Souza, seconded by Sol Cohen to open the meeting to the public for the discussion of subjects. Time in: 7:25pm. Motion carried, voice vote, all present voting “yes”.

Public in Attendance – Ron Miller, Holly Murrenburke

Mr. Miller offered congratulations to Ms. Murrenburke on board appointment

8. Public Comments – Closed

Motion by Kimberly Reed, seconded by Gerard Petersen to close the meeting to the public. Time closed: 7:26pm. Motion carried, voice vote, all present voting “yes”.

9. Adjournment

Motion by Kimberly Reed, seconded by Sol Cohen to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned: 7:26pm. Motion carried, voice vote, all present voting “yes”.

Respectfully submitted,

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Megan Stoddart, Business Administrator