

March 15, 2020

## EMERGENCY MEETING

A meeting of the Berlin Board of Education was held in the library at Berlin Middle High School beginning at 4:00 p.m. Present for the meeting were, Scott Losier, Ann Nolin, Jeanne Charest, Matthew Buteau, Julie King, Sonya L'Heureux, Sandy Pouliot, Tammy Fauteux, Jake Moore, Martha Miller, Autie Hamilton, Debora Payeur, Paul Grenier, Denise Morgan Allain, Cheryl McCormick, Lindsey Secinore, Tom Sutton, Amy Welch, Ted McCormick, many staff members, members of the community, and a member of the press.

## COVID-19

The Superintendent updated the Board and the following regarding the COVID-19 Virus:

- The Governor of NH issued a directive that all NH Public Schools will be closed effective March 16, 2020 until April 3, 2020. This may be extended if warranted. The schools have five days to implement remote learning which must be in effect on March 23, 2020.
- Our district has one to one capability with Chromebooks for every student. Staff will be educated on ways to implement remote learning.
- All staff is expected to report to work on Monday, March 16, 2020. The rest of the week may be done as remotely as possible depending upon the staff's readiness and availability to do so.
- The district will be as flexible as possible with the needs of staff and their families. Staff members' paychecks will not be affected by this emergency closure of schools.
- The Superintendent requested authority to make decisions and stray from current policy as needed during this time.
- This closure is for a long period of time and educators are reminded that student goals must be met and that we must continue to provide an education to our students.

Matt Buteau asked if any positions would be impacted by this. Julie informed him that the only positions that would be impacted would be our substitutes. She stressed that she has always felt that family comes first and wants to make this transition as smooth as possible. Matt asked about sports and extra-curricular activities. He was informed that the winter sports season is cancelled and that NHIAA is still deciding on how they will handle spring sports. The district will have to wait and see what will happen with extra-curricular clubs.

The Superintendent discussed the area high poverty level and the plan to deliver bag breakfast and lunches to students in need. Surveys will be sent out to families to see if they are in need of this service. Learning materials may be distributed this way as well or the students may make arrangements to pick them up.

Matt Buteau also let the Superintendent know that the Board is willing to help in any way they can.

## COMMENTS

Paul Grenier thanked the Superintendent and staff for foreseeing this issue. Hats off to all of you during this trying time.

Denise Morgan-Allain asked if all staff would receive emails about tomorrow and how the district will deal with parents who have to stay home to take care of their children.

Cheryl McCormick was concerned about confidentiality with paraprofessionals working with small groups. She also reminded everyone that spring sports are held outside and the fresh air may be better for students. Lindsey Secinore thanked the staff and mentioned the possibility of having remote access available at child care centers.

Tom Sutton stated he would have buses available to transport staff to the district meeting at Berlin

Elementary School, due to the lack of parking.

Amy Welch inquired how CTE courses will be handled since they cannot be done remotely. The Superintendent is looking into this issue.

Ted McCormick was concerned about the staff all meeting together in the auditorium and felt it would be better to meet as a school with their administrators. He also feels that the school would not be able to offer child care in the Mini Mounties program since there are no students available to help take care of the children. He also noted that internet access is different in every home and that not all homes may be accessible to more than one student using it at a time.

MEMBER BUSINESS

Matt Buteau stated he is the father of four children in the district and he is very confident and appreciative of all the staff does.

Jeanne Charest was concerned about the community being in panic mode and that teachers will have to climb Mt Everest to try to get some science and not just emotion into this crisis.

Scott Losier stated this is a challenging time for everyone, he has utmost faith in Julie and appreciates all that she is doing

NON PUBLIC

The Board consensus was a nonpublic session was not needed.

ADJOURN

On a motion by Matthew Buteau, seconded by Ann Nolin, the Board voted to adjourn its meeting at 4:50 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Ann Nolin".

Secretary, Berlin Board of Education