

**BERLIN TOWNSHIP PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

*West Berlin, New Jersey 08091*

August 3, 2020

Special Action Meeting Minutes

*“Educating Today for Tomorrow’s Success”*

**This meeting is being recorded for purposes of accurate recordkeeping in light of the remote format of the meeting due to COVID-19. Please note however, attendees images and audio will not be captured in this recording. Only the images and audio of Board members, the Superintendent, the Board Solicitor, the School Business Administrator and select members of the administrative team will be captured in this recording.**

**1. Call Meeting to Order**

I, Gerard Peterson, President, call this meeting to order under the Open Public Meetings Act at 7:07pm. 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, 2020, 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, Vice President	<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
Mrs. Holly Murrenburke	<u>present</u>	2020 / 2020
Dr. Edythe B. Austermuhl, Superintendent	<u>present</u>	
Mrs. Megan Stoddart, Business Administrator	<u>present</u>	
Lauren Tedesco, Board Solicitor	<u>present</u>	
Charles Rizzi, Esq., Capehart & Scatchard	<u>absent</u>	

**BERLIN TOWNSHIP PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

*West Berlin, New Jersey 08091*

August 3, 2020

Special Action Meeting Minutes

*“Educating Today for Tomorrow’s Success”*

**4. Presentations –**

***Dr. Edythe Austermuhl – SCHOOL REOPENING PLAN SUMMARY DOCUMENT***

**Discussion on the plan between the members of the board took place**

**5. Public Comments – Open**

Comments have been submitted electronically due to the remote meeting set-up based on guideline from Governor Murphy’s executive orders. Mrs. Stoddart will read the comments to the Board members. Copies will become part of the meeting minutes.

Recognition of Citizens – for agenda items only

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 on the published agenda.

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;
- 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 not an agenda item ;
  - B. Request any individual to leave the meeting when that person does not observe reasonable decorum;

**BERLIN TOWNSHIP PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

*West Berlin, New Jersey 08091*

August 3, 2020

Special Action Meeting Minutes

*“Educating Today for Tomorrow’s Success”*

- 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 to speak on agenda items only shall be limited to 30 minutes which can be extended due to exceptional circumstances at the discretion of the presiding officer.

Motion by Kimberly Reed, seconded by Brian Davis to open the meeting to the public for the discussion of agenda items only. Time in: 8:20pm. Motion carried, voice vote, all present voting “yes”.

*See Email Items in Appendix 1*

*Emails from Jaime Friedman, Denise Smithen, Gena Clark, Nicole Golden, Ron Miller, Samantha Boyle, Barb Kirk, Catherine Taylor, Megan Folcher, Ebony Robinson, Bonnie Dasher, Kristen Beers, Rebecca Gillis, Bonnie Stintsman, Concetta Sherlock, Rich Grabowski, Christie Conn, Amy Simpson, Jeanne Rodrigues, Evan Lindner, Erika Disalvio, Dane Bundick, Sharon Powers-Jacob*

Comments have been submitted electronically due to the remote meeting set-up based on guideline from Governor Murphy’s executive orders. Mrs. Stoddart will read the comments to the Board members. Copies will become part of the meeting minutes.

**6. Public Comments – Closed**

Motion by Kimberly Reed, seconded by Brian Davis to close the meeting to the public. Time closed: 10:06pm. Motion carried, voice vote, all present voting “yes”.

**7. Executive Session – In**

Motion by Brian Davis, seconded by Jeffrey Souza, to go into Executive Session to discuss: the superintendent’s evaluation. Lauren Tedesco, Board Solicitor, is assuming the role of Board Secretary for this portion of the meeting. Time in: 10:07pm. Motion carried, voice vote, all present voting “yes”,

**BERLIN TOWNSHIP PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

*West Berlin, New Jersey 08091*

August 3, 2020

Special Action Meeting Minutes

*“Educating Today for Tomorrow’s Success”*

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.

**8. Executive Session – Close**

Motion by Kimberly Reed, seconded by Cynthia Mozee to come out of Executive Session. Time out: 10:30pm.

**9. Adjournment**

Motion by Gerard Peterson, seconded by Kimberly Reed, to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned: 11:04pm. Motion carried, voice vote, all present voting “yes”.

Respectfully submitted,

Megan Stoddart, Business Administrator