

BERLIN BOARD of EDUCATION
August 26, 2002
MINUTES
Regular Meeting

Present: James Baranowski
Gary Brochu
Pat DeVivo
John McIntosh
Kevin Murphy Departed 8:00 p.m.
Kevin Porter
John Richards
Janice Zaccardo Departed 8:35 p.m.

Absent Joseph Annunziata

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Brochu at 7:04 p.m. in the Board of Education (the "Board") meeting room at 238 Kensington Road, Berlin, CT.

A. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

B. Audience of Citizens

Mrs. Sheila Giaconne, 44 Glendale Ave., thanked the Board for allowing her to express her concerns about the number of sections for fourth grade at Griswold School. She is pleased with the hiring of a new teacher, which solves the concern she had for large class sizes, and she feels this benefits all the students involved.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Special Meeting of July 18, 2002.

**Moved by Mr. Richards, seconded by Mr. Baranowski to accept the minutes
of the Special Meeting of July 18, 2002 as presented.**

FAVOR: ALL
MOTION CARRIED: 6:0

B. Special Meeting of August 13, 2002

Moved by Mr. Richards, seconded by Mr. Baranowski to accept the minutes of the Special Meeting of August 13, 2002 as presented.

FAVOR: Baranowski, McIntosh, Porter, Richards
ABSTENTIONS: DeVivo, Murphy, Zaccardo
MOTION CARRIED: 4:0

III. FINANCE

A. Payment of Bills – Period ending June 30, 2002

Moved by Mr. Baranowski, seconded by Mr. Murphy that the bills for the period ending June 30, 2002, including payroll, totaling 4,475,100.44 of which Town is \$4,280,375.31, Federal is \$178,407.63, Building Use is \$12,263.37, Summer Adventures is \$1,119.00 and Afternoon Adventures is \$2,935.13, listed for payment or already paid for in accordance with standard fiscal procedure be approved for payment.

FAVOR: ALL
MOTION CARRIED 7:0

B. Motion for Return of Funds

Moved by Mr. Murphy, seconded by Mrs. Zaccardo that the unaudited balance of the 2001-2002 fiscal year Board of Education budget in the amount of \$8,037.12 is returned to the Town of Berlin General Fund.

FAVOR: ALL
MOTION CARRIED: 7:0

At this time Mr. Paskiewicz praised the work of Mr. Czuchta, Director of Business Operations. He also noted that this is the second sum of money returned to the town, with the first being \$15,000 from CREC on special education tuition costs.

C. Payment of Bills– Period ending July 31, 2002

Moved by Mr. Baranowski, seconded by Mr. Murphy that the bills for the period ending July 31, 2002, including payroll totaling \$594,423.39 of which town is \$579,956.36, Federal is \$285.85, Building Use is \$2,433.68, Summer Adventures is \$11,609.40 and Afternoon Adventures is \$138.10 listed for payment or already paid for in accordance with standard fiscal procedure be approved for payment.

FAVOR: ALL
MOTION CARRIED: 7:0

D. Activity Fund Report Berlin High School Enterprise Fund – Period ending 5/31/02

No motion is necessary for this report. The report was noted, with interest, and Mr. Richards asked when the June 30, 2002 reports would be available. Mr. Czuchta responded that they should be seen by the next regular meeting.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

A. Recommendation – Anticipated Use of School Facilities

Moved by Mr. Porter, seconded by Mr. Baranowski to remove from the table the motion to approve the second reading of the revision to Board Policy KG, and the fee structure as recommended.

FAVOR: ALL
MOTION CARRIED: 7:0

After Mr. Czuchta handed out copies of the revised Policy KG to the Board, Mr. Murphy began the discussion. He stated that prior to this meeting the Educational Resource Committee met and two changes were made to the “Fees Specific” section:

1) Para. 2. F-G: a change was made to eliminate the mandatory ½ hour custodial charges and/or utility charges. Groups still will be charged for for these items, if the meeting runs outside of the normal hours custodians would be in the building (i.e.: Sunday).

2) Para. 3. H: The category includes the YMCA Latchkey program. Allows for fees to be waived and reviewed as needed. An annual cap may be instituted, \$20,000 was recommended, with the ultimate distribution of the fees among rental, utilities, and custodial time, to be determined. It was noted that this exception for the YMCA programs is directly related to the benefits of the program to families in the district.

Additional discussion took place, Dr. McIntosh still expressed concerns regarding the Superintendent and his ability to waive fees that ultimately go back to the Town. Mr. Brochu stated that the legality of this issue was investigated and it is in fact legal as well as being in the best interest of the community. The Town Council also has the right to waive fees. Mr. Czuchta noted that although the language may differ from the Town Policy, the outcome appears to be the same. The groups affected by these changes will be contacted as they have requested.

V. NEW BUSINESS

A. Board Self Evaluation

At this time Mr. Murphy excused himself from the meeting. Mr. Brochu reviewed the Boards' Self Evaluation Summary, which he included in their packets. Discussion took place on several line items. Suggestions were made regarding changes in the language of certain items, and Mr. Brochu noted that this could be considered in proposed revisions to the form for use in the future.

B. Board Goals for 2002-2003

At this time Mrs. Zaccardo excused herself from the meeting.

Mr. Brochu said that this is a two-step process one to identify new goals and next to present them for adoption. Several goals were discussed:

Mr. Richards would like to see the Board perform evaluations throughout the year as well as a forum, which allows for generation of new ideas through open dialogue. Mr. Baranowski agreed that meeting on an interim basis would benefit the Board and community. Mr. Brochu added that he agrees but noted that Board members would need to commit to doing this.

Discussion developed into looking at the how the Board actually conducts business and changes, which may come of that analysis. This related to the roles committees would have and what is brought before the Board at its meetings. Discussion focused on using committees made up of citizens and perhaps Board members to delve into issues and become "issue experts" so that the information could then be presented to the public.

Mrs. DeVivo would like to use State Commissioner of Education, Mr. Sergi's Back-to-School Message as a template for goal setting. She feels review of this as well as the Boards' Self Evaluations should first be done before goal setting. A discussion of how professional development throughout the district might be reviewed, and improved upon, for the Board, administration, and the staff took place.

Mr. Brochu would like to focus on continuing to develop detailed, factual information to the public to better inform them on fiscal issues of the Board, perhaps through the Board's web site. He also said the Board should review the budget critically in order to find any areas where savings could be found and should work with the community to evaluate how the district can improve.

A final area of discussion centered on the new legislation on "no child is to be left behind." The Board would look for a data driven presentation by the administration to help us determine what this actually means to Berlin, as many of the cohort groups do not exist in Berlin. Some of these groups include ethnicity, ESOL, special education, and gender

differences. Mrs. DeVivo said we may find our own criteria, where we would consider early reading intervention, or other specific areas particular to our Town.

A summary of the ideas was to be drafted by Mr. Richards, to allow for continued discussion at the next regular meeting.

C. Superintendent's Report: District's Readiness for the First Day of School

Mr. Paskiewicz stated that new teachers reported to work this past Tuesday, and were introduced to Berlin with a tour of the historic district and a picnic lunch. Today, all staff was welcomed back at McGee Middle School beginning at 7:15 a.m. The Superintendent thanked Mr. Brochu and Mr. Richards for their participation.

Schools are prepared to open on Wednesday, August 28, 2002. Mr. Paskiewicz handed out a preliminary report on the expected enrollment by grade level. He expects some variation in these estimates when they are compared to the October 1, 2002, formal submission to the State.

D. Add Item to Agenda

Moved by Mrs. DeVivo, seconded by Mr. Baranowski to add item to agenda re: nomination for officer position in CABE.

**FAVOR: ALL
MOTION CARRIED: 5:0**

Moved by Mr. Porter, seconded by Mr. Baranowski to nominate Mr. Brochu as a candidate for an officer position in the CT Association of Boards of Education (CABE).

Mr. Brochu explained that his activity as the Region 2 CABE coordinator has provided him an invitation to serve as an officer for CREC. In particular, he hoped to remain active in bringing educational issues before the State legislature.

**FAVOR: ALL
MOTION CARRIED: 5:0**

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Mrs. DeVivo, seconded by Mr. Baranowski to adjourn the meeting at 9:45 p.m.

**FAVOR: ALL
MOTION CARRIED: 5:0**

Submitted by,

John M. Richards, Secretary
Berlin Board of Education

JMR:aeg(Original; 8/27/2, revised 9/6/02, revised 9/11/02)