

**BERLIN BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**SPECIAL MEETING**  
**December 18, 2020**  
**MINUTES**

Attendance: Julia Dennis  
Steve Jenkins  
Jaymee Miller - absent  
Timothy Oakes  
Mark Pruzin  
Adam Salina  
Kari Sassu, Ph.D.  
Tracy Sisti  
Stephen Weber - absent

Also in Attendance: Superintendent of Schools Brian J. Benigni

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Board President Julia Dennis called the remote meeting to order at 3:39 p.m.

**II. DISCUSSION OF ELECTION RESULTS**

Mr. Benigni and Mr. Oakes discussed how Mr. Oakes ended up with a 2-year term after the 2020 election instead of a 3-year term. Ms. Dennis had concerns that this would affect future board members and their terms of office.

**III. ATTORNEY/CLIENT RELEASE**

**MOVED by Mr. Jenkins and seconded by Mr. Pruzin that the Board authorize Shipman & Goodwin to advise and represent the Board with respect to a determination by the town of Berlin regarding the length of the term of office for one member of the Board following the November 2020 election of Board members; and MOVED FURTHER that the Board waive the conflict of interest involved in Shipman & Goodwin's representation of the Board in this matter, as Shipman & Goodwin serves as labor counsel to the Town and the Town is therefore a client of Shipman & Goodwin for matters unrelated to this matter.**

Mr. Pruzin requested clarification if this affects every board member's three-year term. Ms. Dennis explained how the election process works and how this could impact future elections.

**FAVOR: 6 in favor; 1 abstained**

**MOTION CARRIED: 6:0; including President Dennis; Mr. Oakes abstained**

**IV. AJOURNMENT**

**At 3:53 p.m., a motion was made by Mr. Oakes, seconded by Mr. Pruzin, to adjourn.**

**FAVOR: ALL**

**MOTION CARRIED: 7:0; including President Dennis**

Respectfully submitted, Tracy Sisti, Secretary, Berlin Board of Education