

Board of Education Meeting Minutes

6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, January 24, 2024 at Berlin Middle School

1. Meeting Called to Order by President

President Kujawa called the regular January Board of Education meeting to order.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

The middle school band played the Star Spangled Banner instead of reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Roll Call

Present: Bartol, Burgess, Gehrke, Krause, Kujawa, Shattuck.

Absent: Malchetske, Podoll, Toney.

4. Consent Agenda

Burgess/Gehrke moved to approve the consent agenda items consisting of December 13, 2023 minutes, retirement of Patti Piotter-third grade teacher, resignation of Erin Maguire-District Social Worker, new hire of Denise LaFleur-Yancy-Middle School Special Education Teacher, December vouchers in the amount of \$1,467,516.65 and Treasurer's reports from July 2023 to November 2023. Motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

i. Approval of Agenda

ii. Approval of December 13, 2023 Minutes

iii. Retirements, Resignations and New Hires

iv. Approval of Vouchers

v. Approval of Treasurer's Report

5. Time to Shine

Mrs. Walheim, middle school band director, introduced the 7th and 8th grade band students who played the Star Spangled Banner. A description of the activities band students partake in during the school year was shared. Recruiting for new students, including 5th graders, will take place in the spring. Mrs. Walheim talked about the skills that band students hone in on, including working on the long game and deep listening.

6. Opportunity for those in audience to address the Board on any school related issue

Scott Mundro, Berlin Journal reporter, introduced Allie Borland, who will be covering the school district news.

7. 2024-2025 Open Enrollment Limitations

Shattuck/Burgess moved to approve no limits on regular education students and no acceptance of any special education students for 2024-2025 open enrollment. Discussion followed. Motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

8. Continuous Improvement Plans Mid-Year Updates

District and building-level administrators presented a mid-year update on the continuous improvement plans. Discussion followed.

9. Financial Update

Tricia Polakowski, Director of Business Services, informed the board that the 2022-2023 audit and financial statements have been completed and submitted to DPI. 2023-2024 actuals to budget figures were presented. The preliminary January membership count is down twenty-one students from the September count.

10. Superintendent Update

Dr. Durtschi talked about the staff advisory council meeting that took place this week for the first time. He explained that the district is considering a November Operating Referendum question. The timeline right now is to have Board approval in June.

Dr. Durtschi shared middle-of-the-year reflections: engaging new staff, the Communication Specialist position has been filled by Allison Gohlke, working on mailings going to all stakeholders, moving the Focus program to the previous district office, reducing property taxes and still being able to prepay debt, new math curriculum at the middle school and other new classes, took over the aquatics program from the City of Berlin, new musical instruments have been updated using ESSER funds.

Shout-outs to the coaches working with our students. The first year of a full-day 4K program. Shout out to Ms. Piotter for her years of valued service.

11. Committee Updates

Buildings & Grounds, Employee Relations, and Finance meetings were held in January. A Policy committee meeting is next week, Curriculum committee meeting is in February.

12. School Board Member Updates

vi. Board Correspondent Legislative Update

None

vii. Board President Update

Attendees of the WASB convention shared takeaways with the group.

13. Approval to adjourn to closed session for discussion of administrator contracts per State Statute 19.85(1)(c). The Board may reconvene into open session where action may be taken.

Gehrke/Krause moved to adjourn to a closed session for discussion of administrator contracts per State Statute 19.85(1)(c). Roll call vote: Burgess-yes, Shattuck-yes, Gehrke-yes, Krause-yes, Bartol-yes. Motion passed. Kujawa was not present.

Discussion followed.

Gehrke/Krause moved to return to open session. Motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

There was no action to be taken.

Gehrke/Krause moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:05 p.m. Motion passed by unanimous voice vote.