



**Berlin Borough School District
Regular Meeting of the Board of Education**

Date: February 4, 2019
Time: 7:00 p.m. Special Meeting
Location: Media Center
 Berlin Community School
 215 South Franklin Avenue
 Berlin, NJ 08009

Minutes

I. PUBLIC SESSION

Time: 7:00 p.m.

A. Meeting Called to Order: Jocelyn Lewis, President

Anyone who wishes to speak during the public comment portion of the meeting is reminded to sign in at the podium at this time.

B. Statement of Open Meeting Compliance

The *New Jersey Open Public Meetings Act* was enacted to ensure the right of the public to have advance notice of and to attend the meeting of the public bodies at which any business affecting their interest is discussed or acted upon. In accordance with the provisions of this Act, the Berlin Borough Board of Education has caused notice of this meeting to be published by having the date, time, and place published in the *Courier-Post* and posted in the Berlin Community School, the Berlin Community School Website, (www.bcsberlin.org), and Borough Hall.

C. Flag Salute

D. Roll Call

Member	Present	Absent
Lisa Asare	X	
Jenine Del Palazzo	X	
Jeffrey Greenberg	X	
Lisa Kehoe	X	
Dennis Quinn	X	
Brandy Titus	X	
Francine Viscome	X	
Rebecca Holland - Vice President	X	
Jocelyn Lewis - President	X	

E. Public Participation – All Issues

Motion: Dennis Quinn, seconded by Rebecca Holland to open meeting to the public

Call Vote: Unanimous Yes – Motion Passed

This meeting will now be open to the public. If your questions or comments pertain to litigation, students, personnel, or negotiations, we would ask that you establish a time to meet with the Superintendent after the meeting since the board will not discuss these items in public.

Complaints stated or actions requested by the public will be taken under advisement by the Board and referred to the Superintendent for investigation, discussion, action, or disposition at a later date or time. Please keep in mind that the public comment session is an opportunity for you to share your opinions and remarks with the Board, and it is not a question and answer session.

Please be aware that all district employees retain the right of privacy. Please also be reminded that any individuals who may be the subject of public comments, including district employees, shall retain all rights against defamation and slander according to the laws of New Jersey. The Board will not be held liable for comments made by members of the public.

Any person wishing to participate in the public Board meeting must register prior to the conclusion of the finance section of the meeting and will be recognized by the presiding officer when it is their time to speak. Please state your name and address for the record. Comments will be limited to 3 minutes per person. All statements shall be directed to



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the presiding officer; no participant may address or question Board members individually. If personal or discourteous statements are made, the presiding officer may require the speaker to stop; the presiding officer reserves the right to request a recess. The total comment period will be 30 minutes unless extended by a vote of the majority of the Board members present at the meeting.

- Community Member Dana Hughes comment: Support the teachers vote of no confidence
- Community Member Lisa Woolston comment: For the best of the community I support the teachers
- Community Member Nicole Beale comment: Here to support the teachers
- Community Member Heather Corcoran comment: New to the community and I'm here to support the teachers
- Parent Maria Ryan comment: My son was brutally and mentally bullied and a HIB was never introduced
- Parent Tracy Salvatore comment: Many teachers helped my son; I need to support the teachers
- BBEA President, Dali Kilpatrick read a letter written by membership regarding the superintendents contract renewal. It's not just one person or a small group of people. We are here asking for your help.

Motion: Dennis Quinn, seconded by Jeffrey Greenberg to close public session
Call Vote: Unanimous – Motion Passed

II. NONPUBLIC EXECUTIVE SESSION

Time: 7:25 p.m.

Motion: Dennis Quinn, seconded by Lisa Kehoe to move into executive session
Call Vote: Unanimous Yes – Motion Passed

In accordance with the NJ Open Public Meetings Act, the Berlin Borough School District desires to discuss certain matters in closed session described in the aforementioned law, pertaining to student matters. The Berlin Borough School District Board of Education will disclose the discussion topic of the closed session at a public meeting as soon as possible. The Berlin Borough School District shall now enter a closed session for an approximate time limit of 60 minutes.

WHEREAS; Matters pertaining to sensitive personnel issues, negotiations, student discipline issues and litigation are proper topics for closed sessions under the Public Meetings Act, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: to hold a Closed Meeting of the Berlin Borough Board of Education for said purposes pertaining to personnel issues and litigation

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED; to make available the results of the Closed Meeting in the minutes of this meeting or in subsequent actions of the Board.

BERLIN BOROUGH BOARD OF EDUCATION

Secretary

Motion: Brandy Titus, seconded by Rebecca Holland to close executive session
Roll Call: Unanimous Yes – Motion Passed

Member	Yes	No	Abstain
Lisa Asare	X		
Jenine Del Palazzo	X		
Jeffrey Greenberg	X		
Lisa Kehoe	X		
Dennis Quinn	X		
Brandy Titus	X		
Francine Viscome	X		
Rebecca Holland - Vice President	X		
Jocelyn Lewis - President	X		



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III. RETURN TO PUBLIC SESSION

Time: 8:28 p.m.

Motion: Dennis Quinn, seconded by Lisa Kehoe to return to public session

Call Vote : Unanimous Yes – Motion Passed

Motion: Dennis Quinn, seconded by Lisa Asare to provide a notice of non-renewal to the Superintendent that the Board does not intend nor desire to renew the contract which will expire on June 30, 2019.

Roll Call: 7 - Yes; 2 - No - Motion Passed

Member	Yes	No	Abstain
Lisa Asare	X		
Jenine Del Palazzo	X		
Jeffrey Greenberg	X		
Lisa Kehoe	X		
Dennis Quinn		X	
Brandy Titus	X		
Francine Viscome		X	
Rebecca Holland - Vice President	X		
Jocelyn Lewis - President	X		

Board President Statement:

As Board members, we have a responsibility to be silent observers in the governance of our school. I believe I can speak for the Board in saying that this was not an easy decision for anyone to make and as always, our role is to make difficult decisions in the best interest of the students. The mission of BCS, which we are responsible for overseeing states that an active partnership between school and community is necessary to provide a comprehensive education. The Board has rendered a decision to not renew the contract for the Superintendent. At this time, it is my sincere hope that our community can begin to heal and forge a sense of togetherness that fosters continued lifelong learning and global citizens as we strive to provide and excellent education for the students of Berlin.

IV. NEW BUSINESS - None

V. OLD BUSINESS

1. Committee Selections:

Personnel

Jenine Del Palazzo
Dennis Quinn
Jocelyn Lewis
Francine Viscome

CCSBA

Jocelyn Lewis

NJSA

Dennis Quinn

Facilities

Rebecca Holland
Lisa Kehoe
Jeffrey Greenberg

Conduct

Lisa Asare
Rebecca Holland
Jenine DelPalazzo
Lisa Kehoe

Goals/Evaluation

Lisa Asare
Jeffrey Greenberg

Negotiations

Francine Viscome
Dennis Quinn
Rebecca Holland
Jenine Del Palazzo

CCESC

Rebecca Holland
Francine Viscome – Alt.

Finance

Rebecca Holland
Jocelyn Lewis
Brandy Titus
Dennis Quinn

Policy

Lisa Asare
Rebecca Holland
Francine Viscome
Jeffrey Greenberg

Liaison

Rebecca Holland –Alternating with
Jocelyn Lewis
Brandy Titus



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VI. MEETING ADJOURNED

Time: 8:50 p.m.

Motion: Dennis Quinn, seconded by Lisa Kehoe to adjourn the meeting

Call Vote: Unanimous Yes – Motion Passed

Next Meeting: February 21, 2019
Time: 7:00 pm
Location: Media Center
Berlin Community School
215 South Franklin Avenue
Berlin, NJ 08009