

**BERLIN TOWNSHIP PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

*West Berlin, New Jersey 08091*

July 27, 2023

Action Meeting Minutes

*“Educating Today for Tomorrow’s Success”*

***This meeting is being recorded and livestreamed through YouTube.  
Anyone not wishing to appear on camera during the meeting may be excused.***

**1. Call Meeting to Order**

I, Scott Golden, President, call this meeting to order under the Open Public Meetings Act at 7:32pm.

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 4, 2022, 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 11, 2023 and the Central Record for a week starting January 11, 2023 a meeting notice setting forth the time, date and location of this meeting.

The oath of office will be given by the board solicitor or the school business administrator, to the following elected/appointed Board of Education members:

***Ms. Stacey Juliano***

**2. Pledge of Allegiance**

**3. Roll Call**

**Yr Began/Current Term Expires**

Mr. Brian Davis	<u>Present</u>	2012 / 2024
Mrs. Kimberly Reed, Vice President	<u>Present</u>	2015 / 2024
Mrs. Lisa Hill-Muff	<u>Present</u>	2018 / 2024
Ms. Rebecca Allen	<u>Absent</u>	2021 / 2023
Mrs. Kayla Hanna	<u>Present</u>	2021 / 2023
Ms. Stacey Juliano	<u>Present</u>	2020 / 2023
Mr. Scott Golden, President	<u>Present</u>	2021 / 2025
Mr. Keith Jones	<u>Present</u>	2023 / 2025
Mrs. Michele Williams-Oriente	<u>Present</u>	2023 / 2025
Dr. Anthony Petruzzelli, Interim Superintendent	<u>Present</u>	
Mrs. Megan Stoddart, Business Administrator	<u>Present</u>	
Lauren Tedesco, Board Solicitor	<u>Present</u>	

**BERLIN TOWNSHIP PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

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**4. Approval of Minutes**

Motion by Scott Golden, seconded by Kimberly Reed

RECOMMEND that the Board of Education approve the minutes of the June 22, 2023 meeting as presented in duplicated form and dispense with the reading of the same.

Motion carried, voice vote, all present voting “yes”, Stacey Juliano voting “abstain”.

**5. Presentations – unless otherwise stated, all presentations will be held during the Action Meeting**

**6. Public Comments – Open**

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;
  - 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 Scott Golden to open the meeting to the public for the discussion of agenda items only. Time in: 7:36pm.

**BERLIN TOWNSHIP PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

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July 27, 2023

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**7. Public Comments – Closed**

Motion by Brian Davis, seconded by Kimberly Reed to close the meeting to the public. Time closed: 7:36pm.

**8. Superintendent’s Report**

A. Review District Mission Statement

**DISTRICT MISSION STATEMENT**

The slogan of the Berlin Township School District of “Educating Today for Tomorrow’s Success” is meant to focus the educational community on the broad goal of giving ALL of our children the necessary skills to be successful in all future endeavors. Student achievement is the major priority; the district prides itself on its creative approach to learning and its emphasis upon helping each student to discover his or her potential. Teachers use a variety of teaching methods to reach students with a wide range of abilities. Student engagement as volunteers in the learning process is our primary focus. It is our responsibility to create structures and systems where students are totally engaged in the instruction, which will then leads to deeper learning and understanding.

The Berlin Township School District commits itself to all children by creating a standards-based school district in which all students receive the very best educational opportunities possible. Each and every student will surpass the New Jersey Core Curriculum Content Standards. To achieve this, the members of the district will focus on:

1. Establishing high standards of excellence for both staff and students
2. Communicating openly and frequently within the district and with the community to foster a trusting relationship
3. Ensuring a safe and orderly environment for staff and students
4. Recognizing that a school district serves as a role model and has the responsibility to encourage high quality character behavior

B. Review District & Board of Education Goals

**2022 - 2023 DISTRICT GOALS**

- **DISTRICT GOAL #1:** Continue to supervise the organization and implementation of articulation meetings with Administrative Teams from Pine Hill, Clementon and Berlin Township for curriculum articulation and sharing of best practices and services. when applicable.
- **DISTRICT GOAL #2:** Continue to supervise the implementation of the district PreK – 8 district curricula and programs to include the creation of classroom for special education students, the move of 4<sup>th</sup> grade to JFK beginning Sept. 2022 and continue the implantation of Pre School expansion as per the NJ Dept. of Education requirements.

**BERLIN TOWNSHIP PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

*West Berlin, New Jersey 08091*

July 27, 2023

Action Meeting Minutes

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**2022 - 2023 BOARD GOALS**

- **BOARD GOAL #1:** Complete all phases of the CSA evaluation process and the Board Self-Evaluation of the for the 2022-2023 school year by the June 30, 2023 deadline as described in NJ Administrative Code and Statute.
- **BOARD GOAL #2:** Develop and implement practices that will promote inter-district participation with the Pine Hill and Clementon School districts at the Board level.
- **BOARD GOAL #3:** Continue to work as a Board of Education to investigate ways to improve communication and interaction with district parents and the community.

C. Safety and Security – JFK –

<u>Type of Drill</u>	<u>Date and Time</u>
Fire	
Safety (Lockout)	6/13/23 @ 2:30pm
Bus Evacuation	

D. Safety and Security – DDE –

<u>Type of Drill</u>	<u>Date and Time</u>
Fire	6/13/23 @ 2:00pm
Safety (Lockout)	6/14/23 @ 1:30pm
Bus Evacuation	

E. Monthly Reports Uploaded to Portal for Review

- Coordinator of Special Services
- Supervisor of Buildings and Grounds
- Technology Coordinator
- Supervisor of Curriculum and Instruction
- JFK Principal
- DDE Principal

F. Discussion Items

1. Motion by Scott Golden, seconded by Stacey Juliano  
RECOMMEND that the Board of Education, on the recommendation of the Superintendent to recognize the Emergency Virtual Remote Learning Plan 2023-2024. *This document was uploaded to the board portal for board review.*  
Motion carried, roll call vote, all present voting “yes”.

**BERLIN TOWNSHIP PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

*West Berlin, New Jersey 08091*

July 27, 2023

Action Meeting Minutes

*“Educating Today for Tomorrow’s Success”*

**9. Personnel**

a. Motion by Scott Golden, seconded by Kimberly Reed

RECOMMEND that the Board of Education, on the recommendation of the Superintendent and School Business Administrator, approve the hiring of staff in accordance pending receipt of sexual misconduct disclosure forms and criminal history background requirements as noted below:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Salary</b>	<b>Date</b>
Alyssa Devlin	Kindergarten Teacher	\$56,422.00, BA/Step 1	9/1/23
Madeline Del Rio	LTS Counselor	\$56,422.00, BA/Step 1, prorated	9/1/23
Ciara Zitter	Pre-School Teacher	\$56,422.00, BA/Step 1	9/1/23
Lauren Perry-Holland	ESL Teacher	\$69,589.00, MA+30/Step 9	9/1/23
Cara Manering	School Bus Aide	\$19,980, prorated (\$16.65/hourly rate)	9/1/23
Debbie Vitorelli	School Bus Driver	\$31,500, prorated (\$26.25/hourly rate)	9/1/23

Motion carried, roll call vote, all present voting “yes”.

b. Motion by Scott Golden, seconded by Kimberly Reed

RECOMMEND that the Board of Education, on the recommendation of the Superintendent, to accept the resignation, with regret, the staff members listed below

- Jarred Sokolowski, effective 7/19/23
- Christopher Yoder, effective 9/22/23 or sooner

Motion carried, roll call vote, all present voting “yes”.

**10. Curriculum and Instruction**

**11. Business and Finance**

Financial Report – Period Ending June 2023

Motion by Kimberly Reed, seconded by Kayla Hanna

RECOMMEND that the Board of Education, on the recommendation of the Superintendent and School Business Administrator, approve the following resolution:

Board Secretary Financial, Revenue and Treasurer’s Reports

- Board Secretary’s Report in accordance with 18A: 17-36 and 18A: 17-9 for the months of June 2023. The Board Secretary certifies that no line item account has been over expended in violation of N.J.A.C. 6A: 23A-16.10 (c) 3 and that sufficient funds are available to meet the District’s financial obligations for the remainder of the fiscal year.
- Treasurer’s Report in accordance with 18A: 17-36 and 18A: 17-9 for the months of June 2023. The Treasurer’s and Secretary’s report are in agreement for the months June 2023.
- Board Secretary in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23A -16.10 (c) 2 certifies that there are no changes in anticipated revenue amounts or revenue sources.
- Board of Education Certification – pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23A – 16.10(c) 4, we certify that after review of the secretary’s monthly financial report (appropriations section) and upon consultation with the appropriate District officials, that to the best of our knowledge no major accounts or funds have been over expended in violation of

**BERLIN TOWNSHIP PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

*West Berlin, New Jersey 08091*

July 27, 2023

Action Meeting Minutes

*“Educating Today for Tomorrow’s Success”*

N.J.A.C. 6A:23A – 16.10 (b) and that sufficient funds are available to meet the District’s financial obligations for the remainder of the fiscal year.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Megan Stoddart, Business Administrator

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Motion carried, roll call vote, all present voting “yes”.

- E. Motion by Keith Jones, seconded by Kayla Hanna  
RECOMMEND that the Board of Education, on the recommendation of the School Business Administrator, approve payment of bills:

**Batch number 60 Amount \$939,276.11 (previously approved on 6/22/23)**

**Batch number 50 Amount \$842,582.61**

Motion carried, roll call vote, all present voting “yes”.

- F. Motion by Kimberly Reed, seconded by Scott Golden  
RECOMMEND that the Board of Education, on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Business Administrator, approve the **June, 2023** listing of substitutes from Source 4 Teachers as follows:

Full Day Substitute (Sub Cert, CE, CEAS, Standard)	\$139.65
Half Day Substitute (Sub Cert, CE, CEAS, Standard)	\$69.82
Full Day Building Based Substitute Teacher	\$159.60
Half Day Building Based Substitute Teacher	\$79.80
Full Day Paraprofessional	\$126.35
Half Day Paraprofessional	\$56.53

*This list was uploaded for the board review.*

Motion carried, voice vote, all present voting “yes”.

- G. Motion by Scott Golden, seconded by Kimberly Reed  
RECOMMEND that the Board of Education, on the recommendation of the Business Administrator, approve the 2022-2023 Cafeteria disbursements for the month of June, 2023 in the amount of \$ 0.00. *This list was uploaded for the board review. A list is on file with the Business Administrator.*

Motion carried, voice vote, all present voting “yes”.

- H. Motion by Keith Jones, seconded by Scott Golden  
RECOMMEND that the Board of Education, on the recommendation of the Business Administrator, approve the 2022-2023 CARE disbursements for the month of June, 2023 in the amount of \$11,170.05. *This list was uploaded for the board review. A list is on file with the Business Administrator.*

Motion carried, roll call vote, all present voting “yes”.

**BERLIN TOWNSHIP PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

*West Berlin, New Jersey 08091*

July 27, 2023

Action Meeting Minutes

*“Educating Today for Tomorrow’s Success”*

I. Motion by Kimberly Reed, seconded by Kayla Hanna

RECOMMEND, that the Board of Education on the recommendation of the Superintendent and the School Business Administrator, approve the following Services Contract:

Department of Human Services	\$2,200.00 for SID #6672108854
Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired	9/1/23-6/30/24

Motion carried, roll call vote, all present voting “yes”.

J. Motion by Kimberly Reed, seconded by Keith Jones

RECOMMEND, that the Board of Education on the recommendation of the School Business Administrator, approve the following out-of-district tuition contracts for the 2023-2024 school year:

**Archbishop Damiano School**

Grade Pre-K, SID #7787523876, yearly rate of \$59,459.40 (July 2023-June 2024)

Motion carried, roll call vote, all present voting “yes”.

**12. Old Business**

**13. New Business**

Committee Updates

Negotiations

BTEA - MOA

BTPSA

Finance – transportation systems roll over; grant submission to ESEA done; IDEA meeting next week

NJSBA

CCESC

Pine Hill Bd of Ed

CCSBA

**14. Public Comments – Open**

Recognition of Citizens – for subjects not appearing on agenda

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. Public participation shall be governed by the following rules as per Regulation 9322:

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July 27, 2023

Action Meeting Minutes

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- F. The presiding officer may:
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  - B. Request any individual to leave the meeting when that person does not observe reasonable decorum;
  - 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 interfere 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 is invited shall be limited to 30 minutes which can be extended due to exceptional circumstances at the discretion of the presiding officer, and will be concluded by 10:00 pm.

Motion by Scott Golden, seconded by Stacey Juliano to open the meeting to the public for the discussion of subjects. Time in: 7:48pm.

**15. Public Comments – Closed**

Motion by Kimberly Reed, seconded by Scott Golden to close the meeting to the public. Time closed: 7:48pm.

**16. Executive Session – In**

Motion by Scott Golden, seconded by Kimberly Reed to go into Executive Session to discuss: personnel, legal, contractual and negotiation issues. Time in: 7:49pm.

- Superintendent Search
- School Security

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.

**BERLIN TOWNSHIP PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

*West Berlin, New Jersey 08091*

July 27, 2023

Action Meeting Minutes

*“Educating Today for Tomorrow’s Success”*

- 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.

**17. Executive Session – Close**

Motion by Brian Davis, seconded by Michele Williams-Oriente to come out of Executive Session. Time out: 9:20pm.

**18. Adjournment**

Motion by Scott Golden, seconded by Brian Davis to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned: 9:20pm.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Megan Stoddart, Business Administrator

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date