

State of the District

**Dr. Joseph Campisi,
Superintendent**

Overview of the District

- Governance
- Finance
- Facilities
- Personnel
- Instruction & Programming

Governance

Berlin Borough Board of Education

Jocelyn Lewis, President

Kristen Simone

Susan Embrey

Joshua Zagorski

Lisa Kehoe

Rebecca Holland, Vice-President

Jeffrey Greenberg

Jenine Del Palazzo

Brandy Titus

Dan Long, Board Solicitor

Board of the Committee

The Berlin Borough Board Education operates via committees that meet once per month (more if needed).

Each committee has four (4) Board Members:

- Personnel
- Facilities & Finance
- Curriculum & Policy

Committee to Consent Agenda for Action

- The chair of each Board Committee writes a summary after each meeting.
- Using Board Committees creates a Consent Agenda which is the Board Meeting agenda that is posted 48 hours prior to the meeting.
- At the next Regular Board meeting, the chair reports out the action items on the agenda as well as any additional items discussed.
- Then the rest of the Board has the opportunity to ask for discussion on any action items prior to voting.

Finance

- The district has developed budgets that are fiscally responsible while providing a Free Appropriate Public Education that is Thorough and Efficient.
- There were no audit finding or recommendations from our last yearly audit.
- The percentage of the 19-20 General Fund Expended was 95.81% which from 97.74% the previous fiscal year.
- With the availability of funds at the end of the year, we were able to maintain a healthy Fund Balance, keep our Reserves at the appropriate levels, and purchase more of the PPE necessary for us to continue to safely remain reopen as we have done since last September.

Budget

- The Board approved the preliminary budget last night (March 17, 2021) at a Special Board meeting.
- This meeting was needed for us to submit the preliminary budget to the County for their approval.
- The preliminary budget allows us to keep all of our programs, purchase additional programs, and undertake a partial roof renovation project.
- The preliminary budget will also provide taxpayers with a slight decrease in taxes.
- Our current bond will be paid off in 2023, meaning the district will be debt free.

Facilities

- The facilities are in very good condition and continue to be maintained at a high level.
- We have a partial roof replacement that will begin at the end of June and is scheduled to be completed in August.
- We are striving to return to normalcy through Summer PAL, and returning to our CER programs starting in September of 2021.
- We also anticipate a full return to sports and the rest of our co-curricular activities.

Personnel

Staff Breakdown

Certificated Staff	Non-Certificated Staff
89	38
Administrators	Instructional Assistants
Teachers	Lunch/Recess Aides
Child Study Team & Guidance	Secretaries
Nurses	Custodians

Instruction & Programming

- We are working to revise and update our instructional programming and revising the curricula to ensure alignment with the latest NJSL standards.
- We are also seeking the implementation of rigorous professional development as we update our curriculum.
- There will be a motion to approve an updated mathematics curriculum (K-8 & Algebra at the next Board meeting).
- We are also in the process of planning the piloting of a new series and using the sample materials we have received thus far.
- Policy for resource materials has also been received to include articulation with Eastern Regional High School for the purpose of regional alignment.

Learning Acceleration

- We are planning out a summer academy in the areas of:
- Math, ELA, STEAM
- It is expected that a final proposal and implementation plan will be presented in May.
- This program will be fully grant funded through the ESSR II Funds.
- Every effort will be made to provide an opportunity for the summer academy to be part of the PALS summer program.

SEL & Mental Health

- Using more of the ESSR funding we are developing an implementation plan for mental health supports for the students in September of 2021.
- The pandemic has taken a toll on everyone. We want to find the best possible mental health supports for students to have a safe space to express any concerns, fears, or anxiety prior to and during the 2021-2022 school year.

Technology

- Our digital divide has been completely closed.
- We were able to use the first round of CARES funding to securing more iPads and other technology as well as increasing our infrastructure.
- We used many new applications and adapted to the circumstances to provide instruction through technology for both onsite and remote learners.

**Thank you for volunteering as we
embark on our 5 year strategic plan!**