

Town of Berlin

Department of Economic Development

February 16, 2021

Chairwoman Joan Veley
Town of Berlin Planning & Zoning Commission
240 Kensington Road
Berlin, CT 06037

RE: Prism Autism Education & Consultation

Dear Chairwoman Veley and Commission Members:

I am writing as the Economic Development Commission discussed Prism Autism Education and Consultation at our February meeting last week. We had a nice discussion with Rebecca Giamatti, Rachel Coburn and Attorney Gregg Burton. They gave an overview of the work that Prism does at their Farmington location and how they plan to have a very novel and vital school at the location of Moreland Hill School.

The Commission had a number of questions and seemed to be very happy with the potential of having a specialized school for those with autism in Berlin. They did make a motion to recommend Prism for the property at 166 Lincoln Street as:

- It is an economic driver, will create good jobs, may provide positive press to the Town of Berlin through their work, their methods are cutting edge and that it will be used as a school which is not seen in many places in Connecticut or the Northeast.

The motion was approved 6 votes to 0 with none abstaining.

I was able to visit their location in Farmington a few weeks ago as I was curious to learn more about what they are looking to do and how they presently operate. I was impressed as they had different classrooms for different age children. But, it was not your traditional classroom as some children with autism cannot sit in a chair for many hours at a time. It was set up so that the children there were able to work in areas where they were most in need, whether it be vocalization, tactile work or more traditional desktop learning.

As a father of a son with autism, I know firsthand how organizations like Prism can and have helped my family and my son. I believe they will be a great addition to Berlin.

Sincerely,


Christopher Edge

Economic Development Director

Visit our Web Site <http://www.town.berlin.ct.us>

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