

THE BERLIN BOARD OF EDUCATION

THE BULLETIN BOARD

A SUMMARY OF THE SEPTEMBER 11, 2017 BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

The Berlin Public Schools □ 238 Kensington Road □ Berlin, CT 06037 □ (860) 828-6581

Board President Matthew Tencza introduced student board representatives Jasmine Nappi, Grade 12, and Alexander Halkias, Grade 11.

New Staff Orientation 2017 □ Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction Brian Benigni reported on the New Teacher Orientation Program that took place on August 22-24, 2017. Included in the discussion was a summary of the seminar sessions and feedback from the teachers regarding the orientation and their introduction to the Berlin Public Schools. Director of Human Resources Denise Parsons reported on the Substitute Teacher Social.

Facilities Related Updates – Summer Maintenance/Project Updates – District □ Director of Facilities Doug Solek reported on the status of facilities projects and summer work. Mr. Solek reported his staff was involved with lighting upgrades to the tennis courts at Berlin High School, demolition of the boys' locker room at McGee, and closeout of work items, punch list items, and maintenance items for the renovation project at Berlin High School. Progress was made on the mechanical systems, electrical, lighting, doors and hardware at BHS. Over the next two months, Griswold School will get a new receiving door and a new door will be installed on the high school roof for access to the mechanical room. The radio station has been rebuilt and a couple of punch list items remain. The speakers are scheduled to be installed in the hallway next week. Staff assisted with the building needs for the YMCA Transition Academy. There were a total of 467 work orders that were completed during the summer months at the schools.

Berlin High School Statement of Core Values and Beliefs About Learning Revision and the NEASC Accreditation Self-Study Timeline □ Berlin High School Principal Francis Kennedy and members of the BHS Steering Committee presented the revised Berlin High School Statement of Core Values and Beliefs about Learning and apprised the Board of its progress and future steps concerning the Berlin High School New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC) Accreditation Self-Study, in preparation for the decennial visit from the Committee on Public Secondary Schools, scheduled from Sunday, October 28, 2018 through Wednesday, October 31, 2018. The Board approved the revised Berlin High School Statement of Core Values and Beliefs about Learning.

Summer Program Update □ Director of Pupil Personnel Services Linda Holian and Supervisors of Special Education Michelle Zeuschner and Cynthia Martin reported on the ESY program offered to students qualifying for these services. Dr. Zeuschner reported 115 students were recommended to attend summer school and a total of 95 students actually participated. There were 13 teachers, 32 paraprofessionals, an occupational therapist, physical therapist, speech therapist, reading teacher, school psychologist, and two nurses in the program. PE/movement was provided for all elementary and preschool students. Ms. Martin reported that the Bureau of Rehabilitation Services (BRS) provided employment opportunities over the summer for post-graduate students. Dr. Zeuschner

reported the cost for the summer program was \$4,443 for the nurses; \$107,646 for staff; and \$66,800 for transportation.

Policy Review/Revision □ A first reading was done on revisions to a policy regarding student discipline and a policy regarding attendance, truancy, and chronic absenteeism. Since this was a first reading, no action was required; the second reading/adoption will take place at the September 25, 2017 meeting.

Transition Academy Student Bank Accounts □ Supervisor of Special Education-Secondary Cindy Martin informed the Board that the purpose of transition programs is to ensure that students learn the skills necessary to become independent adults and to be competitively employed to the greatest extent possible. In order to learn independent living skills, leisure skills, and employment skills, students need to learn banking, budgeting, and how to manage money. She proposed, through guidance from the consultant on transition for the Bureau of Special Education, that students have individual bank accounts that we fund with a monthly stipend. These accounts would allow students to manage their money and budget for community experiences, transportation (city buses, Uber, etc.), and meal planning. The funds will replace the “pay” that was used in the past. The Berlin Transition Academy will hold the debit cards when not in use so that the students can use them for programmatic needs, rather than personal needs. Ms. Holian reported that \$8,500 has been allocated for these accounts, the same amount that was allocated for the work study program last year. The Board approved opening joint bank accounts with the Transition Academy students and Board of Education.

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The next regular meeting of the Board of Education will be held on Monday, September 25, 2017, at the Berlin Board of Education, beginning at 7:00 P.M., in the Board Meeting Room, 238 Kensington Road. The agenda will be available online at www.berlinschools.org.

The Bulletin Board provides a summary of Board of Education meetings. Official minutes from Board meetings are available at the Board of Education office, the Town Clerk's office, the Berlin–Peck Memorial Library, or on the district's website at www.berlinschools.org.