

***THE BERLIN BOARD OF EDUCATION***

***THE BULLETIN BOARD***

***A SUMMARY OF THE OCTOBER 9, 2018 BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING***

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

***Student Presentation – Berlin High School*** □ Interact Club Advisor Lisa Downey and Interact Club members Siobhan Dornfried, Matthew Lavoie, Onariya (Cherry) Manomaiphan, Gabriella Pattavina, and Camila (Cami) Villagran provided a presentation on the activities of the Interact Club, as well as their experiences traveling to the World Affairs Seminar in Wisconsin and abroad. Interact is Rotary International’s service club for students at Berlin High. It was founded in 2012 and is sponsored through the New Britain-Berlin and Kensington-Berlin Rotary clubs. Interact allows members to expand their international understanding and goodwill beyond the borders of Berlin, CT. The Rotary Youth Exchange Program allows members to travel abroad and experience other cultures. Currently, Interact has a member studying in Finland for the 2018-2019 school year. Over the summer, Interact also sent a member to Italy for a short-term exchange. Members who cannot travel can host exchange students in their home. Recently, five Berlin families have generously hosted exchange students from Chile and Thailand. Members can also participate in the annual World Affairs Seminar in Wisconsin to develop leadership skills and network with students from around the globe on real-world issues. Eleven members have flown to the World Affairs Seminar at no cost and were hosted by Carrol University over the past four years.

***Committee Reports/Correspondence to the Board*** □ ***Report of Student Representative:*** Alexander Halkias shared that next week is spirit week at Berlin High School, with the fall pep rally to be held at the end of the week and the homecoming game against RHAM; PSAT testing will occur on Wednesday for all students except seniors who can attend the optional career workshop; and the All-Night Graduation Committee has opened an apparel store for Berlin High School attire.

***Facilities Related Updates*** □ Superintendent of Schools Brian Benigni reported that other than an acknowledgment that Jeffrey Cugno’s correspondence to the chairman of the Public Building Commission Brian Pskowski was received, there has been no response.

***Official 2018-2019 District Enrollment Report*** □ Superintendent Benigni highlighted the district enrollment as of October 1, 2018. School districts are required each year to report their October 1 enrollment figures to the Connecticut State Department of Education. Mr. Benigni noted enrollment, as of October 1, 2018, is 2,787, an increase of 6 students from last year. Enrollment at the high school, middle school and elementary schools was reviewed. As of October 1, 2018, the district has 130 students in the Open Choice Program. Superintendent Benigni noted that enrollment at the elementary schools remains favorable with average class sizes of 20 students at Griswold; 20 students at Hubbard; and 20.33 students at Willard. The average kindergarten class has 18.25 students at Willard; 18 students at Hubbard; and 16 students at Griswold.

***Approval of District Continuous Improvement Plan 2018-2019*** □ A draft of the District Continuous Improvement Plan 2018-2019 was presented to the Board at their September 24 meeting. The Board approved the plan as presented.

***Discussion – Completion of Berlin High School Renovation Project*** □ Mr. Tencza reported that the Board continues to have discussions concerning the status of the high school renovation project and continues to hear that outstanding issues remain with the condition of the roof, wrapping of the ductwork, and a potential mold issue from plumbing joints leaking in the ceiling. Although a letter was sent to the Public Building Commission (PBC), there has been no response. The PBC requested a report from Consulting Engineering Services concerning the ductwork; however, the Board has not seen the report. The Board discussed hiring a third party to determine if the ductwork was installed properly. Superintendent Benigni noted that if the ductwork outside the building is acceptable, based on the plans and specifications the Board signed

off on, then the liability rests with the Board of Education. The Board will await the response from the PBC as well as receipt of the report prepared by Consulting Engineering Services before moving forward with a third party review.

*Prior to adjournment, Mr. Tencza noted the invitation to meet with the team from New England Association of Schools and Colleges on Sunday, October 18, 2018, and indicated it is important that the Board be present.*

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**The next meeting of the Board of Education will be held on Monday, October 22, 2018, beginning at 7:00 p.m., in the Gymnasium, at the Mary E. Griswold School, 133 Heather Lane, Kensington. The agenda will be available online at [www.berlinschools.org](http://www.berlinschools.org).**

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*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](http://www.berlinschools.org).*