

***THE BERLIN BOARD OF EDUCATION***

# ***THE BULLETIN BOARD***

***A SUMMARY OF THE AUGUST 13, 2018 BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING***

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

***Special Presentation*** □ The Board presented David B. Erwin, retired superintendent, with a gift in recognition of his service to the Berlin Public Schools and the state of Connecticut.

***Superintendent's Report: District's Readiness for the Opening of School*** □ Superintendent of Schools Brian Benigni reported that the buildings are in good shape for the opening of school. There remains a vacancy for a special education teacher. Central office is fully staffed and ready to start the school year. Convocation will be held on August 27, 2018; teachers will participate in professional development on August 28, 2018; and the opening day of school is August 29, 2018. Administrators will participate in a joint retreat with Avon, Plainville, and Vernon, at the Connecticut Center for School Change, facilitated by Richard Lemons and Robert Villanova, on August 16 & 17, 2018. The district will hold new teacher orientation on August 22-23, 2018.

***Facilities-Related Updates*** □ Director of Business Operations Jeffrey Cugno reported that he had a cordial and informative meeting with Doug Solek and the chairman of the Public Building Commission concerning the high school and, moving forward, he will receive more information regarding repairs and closeouts. The work being done by the Town and its facility staff is tremendous. A new rug is being installed in the McGee auditorium; a new divider wall is being built on the third floor in the high school; the Willard library is being remodeled; and construction started on the school security vestibule at Willard School.

***Staffing Update*** □ Superintendent Benigni reported that 17 new certified staff members have been hired and there remains a vacancy for a special education teacher.

***Final Financial Report – 2017-2018 Fiscal Year*** □ Director of Business Operations Jeffrey Cugno reported that the 2017-2018 fiscal year ended with a positive, unaudited balance of \$443,590.71. The Board approved returning \$400,000 to the Town of Berlin General Fund and requested that \$43,590.71 be put into the one percent account for school safety initiatives.

***Monthly Budget Report*** □ Director of Business Operations Jeffrey Cugno reported that the district is one month into the 2018-2019 budget and central office staff is working very efficiently to make sure budget line items are monitored and on track as adopted.

***ED-099 - Agreement for Child Nutrition Programs – Change of Authorized Signers*** □ The Board designated Jeffrey Cugno, director of business operations, as an authorized signer of the ED-099 - Agreement for Child Nutrition Programs claims for reimbursement in the absence or incapacity of the superintendent of schools.

***Berlin Bravos*** □ The Board discussed parameters for the Berlin Bravos that set students apart from the normal expectations and the format for recognizing students. The superintendent and assistant superintendent will work with administrators to put together the parameters for Berlin Bravos and student presentations.

***Contract Ratification - Paraprofessionals*** □ Negotiations with Local 1303-276 of Council 4, AFSCME, AFL-CIO (paraprofessionals) were recently completed and a tentative agreement was reached. The Board approved the tentative agreement.

***Superintendent's Evaluation and Contract*** □ The Board authorized the president of the Board to execute the superintendent's contract with revisions.

**The next regular meeting of the Board of Education will be held on Monday, September 10, 2018, in the auditorium at Berlin High School, 139 Patterson Way, beginning at 7:00 P.M. 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).*