

THE BERLIN BOARD OF EDUCATION

THE BULLETIN BOARD

A SUMMARY OF THE SEPTEMBER 24, 2018 BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

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

Student Presentation – Catherine M. McGee School □ Teacher Kevin Cormack and the McGee Morning News Crew spoke about the McGee Morning News, a daily, live, multimedia presentation of the school's daily housekeeping and sports announcements. Students spoke about the roles that they perform to make the daily news happen and how each role fits into the overall production. Students also spoke about how the McGee Morning News fits within the Habits of Mind and how being a part of the McGee Morning News has affected them individually in the areas of self-confidence, self-advocacy and assertiveness. Mr. Cormack discussed the technology used daily and how students interact with the technology. Student presenters were Andrew Black, Justin Charron, Kevin Corteville, McKenna Dalek, Paris Lange, and Gregory Swan.

Committee Reports/Correspondence to the Board □ Report of Student Representatives: Jenna Smalley reported members of Upbeat and the Interact Club volunteered at the Berlin Fair; local author Mary-Ann Tirone Smith visited the high school today; and on Friday, September 21, 2018, the choruses combined to perform via live stream for United Nations Peace Day. Mr. Halkias reported an increased number of college admission representatives have been visiting the high school; the Berlin High School band and chorus will perform at the Hartford Wolf Pack game on Friday, October 5, 2018; and alumni from the Class of 1968 will tour the high school for their 50th class reunion. ***Committee Report – Student Achievement:*** Dr. Sassu reported that the Student Achievement Committee met earlier this evening concerning the District Continuous Improvement Plan for 2018-2019 and a report will be made later in the agenda.

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. Included in their report was the expanded criteria that must be considered when determining a child's eligibility for the program; recommending extended school year on an IEP; services students may receive in the program; and the overall purpose of the program. Ms. Holian reported 125 students were recommended to attend summer school and a total of 112 students actually participated. There were 11 teachers, 32 paraprofessionals, 3 speech and language pathologists, 2 registered behavior technicians, an occupational therapist, physical therapist, reading teacher, school psychologist, movement teacher, board certified behavior analyst, and 2 nurses in the program serving PK-Grade 5 students.

NEASC Update □ Berlin High School Principal Eileen Eustis, along with Berlin High School Steering Committee members Patricia Pires and Laurie Pieciewicz, updated the BOE on the NEASC visit taking place on October 28-31, 2018. The update included an explanation of the primary goal of a NEASC visit, why the accreditation process is important, the seven standards, the self-study committees, the self-study process, the accreditation visit schedule, and the celebrations. A copy of the self-study report was provided to Board members.

Permanent Single Agreement (ED-099) to Participate in the Child Nutrition Programs □ Under advisement of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), the Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) has revised the Permanent Single Agreement (ED-099) to Participate in the Child Nutrition Programs. The new agreement is more robust in its language to outline the responsibilities of both the CSDE and the school food authority as they pertain to each USDA Child Nutrition Program currently available. The Board took action to execute this new agreement and designate Brian J. Benigni, superintendent of schools, as the authorized person to sign claims for reimbursement and

designate Jeffrey P. Cugno as the authorized person to sign claims for reimbursement in the absence or incapacity of the superintendent of schools.

Facilities Related Updates □ Director of Business Operations Jeffrey Cugno reported that he sent a letter to Brian Pskowski, chairman of the Public Building Commission, requesting information related to the BHS project status, specifically, the current condition of the roofing, air conditioning system, piping and ductwork that has been installed on the exterior of the building, punch list items and schedule for completion, latest project budget summary, and projected schedule for closeout and audit of the project. He also noted the new carpet in the McGee auditorium.

District Continuous Improvement Plan 2018-2019 □ Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction Erin McGurk presented a draft of the District Continuous Improvement Plan for 2018-2019 to the Board. She provided an overview of the district goals/areas of focus and the four categories of the plan: learning environments, learning partnerships, leveraging digital, and pedagogical practices, including the action/strategies, timeline, person(s) responsible and result indicators.

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The next meeting of the Board of Education will be held on Tuesday, October 9, 2018, beginning at 7:00 P.M., in the auditorium at Berlin High School, 139 Patterson Way. 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.