

THE BERLIN BOARD OF EDUCATION

THE BULLETIN BOARD

A SUMMARY OF THE NOVEMBER 26, 2018 BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

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

Board President Matthew Tencza congratulated re-elected Board members Julia Dennis, Adam Salina, and Tracy Sisti.

Student Presentation □ Madrigals Nathaniel Burgos, Tori Cascone, Olivia Dybinski, Abby Ferland, Meghan Fox, Nathaniel Hansen, Danyella Kaplan, Ryan McGowan, Kyle Parisi, Emma Roski, Anna Sarrazin, Jake Skinner, and Dawson Trotman performed the “National Anthem” and flute choir members Julia Bennett, Colleen Clark, Makayla Gorski, Clemens Henning, Caroline Kendrick, Nicole Pinto, Emily Rutledge, and Karly Tomasi, performed “March” from “The Nutcracker” and prelude music prior to the start of the meeting.

Awards & Presentations in Conjunction with American Education Week □ Superintendent’s CAPSS (Connecticut Association of Public School Superintendents) Student Awards - Students were selected for this prestigious annual award based upon criteria such as demonstrated leadership to the school community, community service and service to others, and academic prowess relative to ability. Awards were presented to fifth graders Janalyn Weber and Ryan Lavender from Griswold School; Meghan Snyder and Paolo Cultrera from Hubbard School; and Sandra Carminati and Matteo Modifica from Willard School. Also recognized were eighth graders Laura Munch and Ethan Nelson from McGee School; and seniors Gabriella Pattavina and Connor Recck from Berlin High School. Each student received a special CAPSS diploma.

Introduction of 2019 Building Teachers of the Year and the District Teacher of the Year □ Superintendent of Schools Brian Benigni recognized the following building Teachers of the Year for 2019: Alison Wilson from Griswold; Katie Wasilewski from Hubbard; Jane Ponkos from Willard; Janice Carpenter from McGee; and Tara Gallagher (retired) from Berlin High School. Katie Wasilewski went on to become the Berlin School District’s Teacher of the Year. They each received a copy of Parker J. Palmer’s book, The Courage To Teach.

2019 Paraprofessional of the Year □ Superintendent of Schools Brian Benigni recognized Eric Horton, from Richard D. Hubbard School, as the 2019 Paraprofessional of the Year.

Support Staff Recognition Awards □ Support staff members were selected to be recognized for their outstanding performance and dedication to the students, staff, and parents of the Berlin Public Schools. This year’s recipients were Stacie Whittles, Griswold; Serafina Mangiafico, Hubbard; Dolores Chowanec, Willard; Tracey Tom, McGee; Helen deRito, Berlin High; and Wendy Weed for the Board of Education Central Office.

“Friend of Berlin Schools” Awards □ The “Friend of Berlin Schools” awards are presented annually to those volunteers nominated by each school’s administration, PTO or community, and selected by the Board of Education for their outstanding contributions as a volunteer who has devoted time and energy to helping the children and schools in the district. Board President Matthew Tencza and Superintendent of Schools Brian Benigni presented awards to this year’s recipients: Brierley-Johnson The Florist, Griswold; Christine Harvey, Hubbard; Stacey DeNardo, Willard; Tyler Chamberland, McGee; and Lucy Micacci-Bantle for Berlin High.

Annual Election of Officers □ Mr. Matthew Tencza was re-elected to serve as president and Dr. Kari Sassu was re-elected to serve as secretary.

Annual Schedule of Regular Meetings □ A motion regarding the annual agenda was made. The following Board of Education meeting dates were approved: for 2019 – February 11 & 25, March 11 & 25, April 22, May 13 & 28, June 10, July 8, August 12, September 9 & 23, October 15 & 28, November 25, December 9, and for 2020 – January 13 & 27.

Motion for Fiscal Management □ The Board designated a treasurer and assistant treasurers for the Berlin High School Enterprise Fund, the Berlin Public Schools Activity Fund, and the Cafeteria Fund for 2018-2019.

Appointment of Board Legal Counsel for 2018-2019 □ The law firm of Shipman & Goodwin LLP of Hartford was appointed to continue as legal counsel to the Board of Education.

Personnel - Retirement □ The Board accepted the retirement of Patricia Curcio, teacher of Grade 3 at Mary E. Griswold School, effective at the end of the 2018-2019 school year. The Board thanked her for the 41 years of service she has provided to the youth of Berlin and wished her good health and happiness in her retirement years.

Facilities Related Updates □ Director of Business Operations Jeffrey Cugno reported that the manufacturers and engineers have determined that the valve sizes and functions within the system are the cause of the air conditioning issues at Berlin High School. The recommended solution for the ductwork is to jacket it to protect and seal the system. A change order will be created and we will ask the state for additional funding. Mr. Cugno reported that he continues to request status reports for Berlin High School from the Public Building Commission so the Board can do their due diligence before accepting the project as complete. He also reported that work is being done on the entrance ramps at McGee School to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act requirements; improvements are being made to the walkway at Willard; and the football field will be reseeded in the spring.

Policy Review/Revision – Policy 5141 – Wellness □ Revisions were made to this policy based on an evaluation of the policy by the Connecticut State Department of Education as part of the local school wellness policy review process. Revisions reflect new requirements updating the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010. A first reading of the revised policy took place at this meeting. Since this was a first reading, no action was required; the second reading/adoption will take place at the December 10, 2018 meeting.

Executive Session – Ratification of Contract – Teachers □ Negotiations with the Berlin Education Association (teachers) were recently completed and a tentative agreement was reached. The Board approved the tentative agreement for the period of July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2022.

The next meeting of the Board of Education will be held on Monday, December 10, 2018, beginning at 7:00 P.M., at the Berlin Board of Education, 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.