

*THE BERLIN BOARD OF EDUCATION*

# *THE BULLETIN BOARD*

*A SUMMARY OF THE JANUARY 28, 2019 BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING*

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

***Committee Reports/Correspondence to the Board*** □ ***Report of Student Representatives:*** Miss Smalley reported that midterms ended today and the second semester began. The spotlight games of the week are boys swimming vs Southington on February 1; boys ice hockey vs Northeastern on February 2; and girls basketball vs Maloney on February 7. ***Educational Resources Committee:*** Mr. Oakes reported that the committee met last week to review the budget and prepare for tonight's discussion. ***Communications Committee:*** Ms. Dennis reported that the committee met on January 16, 2019, along with Assistant Superintendent McGurk, to discuss the direction of the committee.

***Audience of Citizens*** □ Mr. John Richards provided members of the Educational Resources Committee, Director of Business Operations Jeff Cugno, and Superintendent Benigni with spreadsheets outlining the Town of Berlin Ten Year Capital Improvement Plan. He summarized the schedule of meetings for development of the budget and provided a handout suggesting a joint Board of Finance/Board of Education meeting on February 20, 2019. He requested to be allowed a few minutes during the budget discussion to discuss how to approach capital requests.

***Policy Review/Revision – First Reading*** □ The Board conducted a first reading of Policy 6146 – High School Graduation Requirements, which was revised as a result of legislative changes that modify the number of credits and course distribution requirements for students. All changes will be effective with the graduating class of 2023. This policy was reviewed by the Ad-Hoc Committee for Policy Review/Revision at their meeting on January 28. Since this was a first reading, no action was required; the second reading/approval will take place at the February 11 Board meeting.

***Communications to the Public*** □ Board members discussed communications to the public through the use of the weekly education column in the *Berlin Citizen*, Facebook and Twitter accounts, and other social media. *The Bulletin Board* is not very well subscribed to so it will be discontinued.

***2019-2020 Proposed Budget – Discussion*** □ The Board discussed certain budget items based on questions presented to the superintendent following the January 23, 2019 Board meeting. Items discussed included the increase in Pupil Personnel Services' administrative salaries due to contract and reserve for merit increases; the increase of 5.00 FTE certified salaries for Pre-K at Willard School; salary increases due to new positions (non-certified staff: part-time secretary at Central Office, recess and lunch paraprofessionals at the elementary schools, director of nutrition and head custodian at Berlin High School; certified staff: counselor and a part-time internship leadership coordinator at Berlin High School; and the increase in stipends at Berlin High School); dollar difference for equipment at the elementary schools; proposed Information Technology and Security budgets; and renovations of two lower level classrooms and one office at Willard School. Mr. Richards reviewed the Town of Berlin Ten Year Capital Improvement Plan for Fiscal Years 2018-2028, from the town finance director and the Ten Year Capital Committee, highlighting those items that were retained in the plan (such as security cameras for the various schools, security vestibules and a new roof at Willard School), forecast items, and excluded items (such as the Willard classroom renovations). Mr. Richards suggested the Board determine where site and building and capital items are best placed, either in the Board's operating budget or in the Town's Ten Year Capital Improvement Plan. Mr. Tencza requested that the Educational Resources Committee meet to discuss the documents received from Mr. Richards.



The next regular meeting of the Board of Education will be held on Monday, February 11, 2019, beginning at 7:00 P.M., in the Auditorium at Berlin High School, 139 Patterson Way, Berlin. The agenda will be available online at [www.berlinschools.org](http://www.berlinschools.org).



*This is the final edition of The Bulletin Board. Information that would be provided in each edition can be found in the official minutes from Board meetings which 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).*

*Please look for the Board's weekly education column in the Berlin Citizen.*