

THE BERLIN BOARD OF EDUCATION

THE BULLETIN BOARD

A SUMMARY OF THE OCTOBER 15, 2013 BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

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

Berlin Bravos □ Berlin Bravos is a program where we recognize students, staff, parents, and volunteers who have had a significant achievement, gone well above and beyond, or have overcome a significant challenge or obstacle. The Board acknowledged the following individuals: Gabby Foster, grade 5 student from Griswold School, for knowing the only way to improve is to continue to challenge herself academically; Liz Hines, special education teacher, and Jay Miller, kindergarten teacher, from Griswold School, for being patient and supportive individuals as they waited (and waited) for their classrooms to be completed, working well into the evenings and on weekends to make it work; Brooke Walker, kindergarten student from Hubbard School, for being the living definition of what it means to be a great citizen, student and friend; Ryan Sweitzer, grade 5 student from Hubbard School, for his outstanding transition to 5th grade; Jaiden Perduta, grade 2 student from Willard School, for being a hardworking and enthusiastic student; and Allison Sweeney, grade 4 teacher from Willard School, for recognizing that one of her students was displaying signs of choking and acting quickly to apply the Heimlich maneuver, removing the obstruction so the student was able to breathe again.

Audience of Citizens □ Cynthia Kobus, of Fairview Drive, praised Kara Watson for the amazing job she did at Family Math Night. She also acknowledged the amazing job done by the UPBEAT students.

Personnel □ Retirement - The Board accepted the retirement of Pamela Kiniry to be effective June 30, 2014. Ms. Kiniry is a teacher of integrated language arts at Catherine M. McGee School. The Board thanked her for her 20 years of service to the youth of Berlin and wished her happiness and good health in her retirement.

Facilities Related Updates □ Director of Business Operations Roman J. Czuchta reported on the status of facilities projects. Code Renovations – Berlin High School: The latest update from Gilbane Building Company for the two week period ending Friday, October 4, 2013, was distributed to Board members. A planning session is scheduled for October 16 to discuss the roofing of areas that are currently not occupied, which is scheduled to start on Monday, October 21, 2013. There is one small section of the building that will be reroofed that is occupied and arrangements are being made with Principal Kennedy for when this will occur. Today, Mr. Erwin sent a letter to the state, along with a copy of a letter that will go out to parents and staff tomorrow, concerning some minor asbestos removal, which is anticipated to occur Friday evening. Over the last month, Mr. Czuchta has attended two meetings on the indoor air quality issues in the building and acknowledged FIP Construction, Gilbane Building Company and the Public Building Commission because they have been extremely responsive to these issues. Mr. Erwin reported there was a third indoor air quality meeting held on Saturday, October 5, 2013, with Town Manager Denise McNair, Mayor Adam Salina and Public Building Commission Chairman Jim Ouellette present. Mr. Czuchta reported that the plan completion test (PCT) meeting with the state for furniture, fixtures and equipment (FF&E) has been moved to November 1, 2013, and it is his understanding that there may be a request made by Silver/Petrucelli + Associates to meet with the Board prior to the actual approval of FF&E. A FF&E meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 22, 2013, at the high school. Willard School Roof: The project is 100% complete and we are in the process of getting the final inspections from the manufacturer of the product. Kindergarten Modifications: Griswold School and Willard School are 100% complete, including the replacement of the tile at Willard that was off in color. The bathroom stall doors at Hubbard School are scheduled to be installed this week, and upon completion, Hubbard School will be 100% complete.

Official 2013-2014 District Enrollment Report □ Mr. Erwin highlighted the preliminary enrollment as of October 1, 2013. School districts are required each year to report their October 1 enrollment figures to the Connecticut State Department of Education. Mr. Erwin noted enrollment as of October 1, 2013 is 2,951, down 30 students (.96%) from last year. Enrollment at the high school, middle school and elementary schools was reviewed. Pre-school had a decrease in enrollment of 1 student from last year. Willard's kindergarten enrollment is a little higher than anticipated; however, class sizes are still favorable at the elementary schools. As of October 1, 2013, CREC magnet school enrollment is 87 students and CHOICE enrollment is 117 students (with three students outplaced).

Report on District CMT and CAPT Results □ Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction Brian Benigni and Principal of Berlin High School Francis Kennedy reviewed the results from the spring 2013 testing. The results included Connecticut Mastery Test (CMT), Connecticut Academic Performance Test (CAPT), Advanced Placement (AP), Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) score, and American College Testing (ACT) results. In addition to the grade-level results, a cohort analysis of the CMT and longitudinal studies of CMT, CAPT, SAT and AP assessments was presented. Mr. Benigni explained how this student performance data will impact planning for continuous improvement, professional development, and curriculum review.

Student Assessment, Accountability and Educator Evaluation Flexibilities □ The Berlin Public Schools have elected to have all students take the Smarter Balanced Assessment Pilot in the areas of math and literacy in the spring of 2014. This assessment will replace the traditional Connecticut Mastery Assessment and requires a change in the newly adopted teacher and administrator evaluation plans. Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs) will be linked to local standardized assessments instead of state standardized assessments as currently required in the new evaluation plan. The Board adopted the proposed change to the evaluation plans for the 2013-2014 school year.

Policy Review/Revision – First Reading – Policy 1330 – Use of School Facilities □ Shipman & Goodwin, LLP, recommended that this policy be revised to explicitly reference the Boy Scouts of America Equal Access Act. The law prohibits schools from discriminating against the Boy Scouts of America with respect to the use of facilities. The recommended revisions were reviewed by the Ad-Hoc Committee for Policy Review/Revision at their meeting on October 15, 2013. Since this was a first reading, no action was required. The second reading/approval will take place at the October 28, 2013 meeting.

Superintendent's Evaluation □ The Board approved the superintendent's evaluation and authorized the Board president to finalize the superintendent's contract.

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The next meeting of the Board of Education will be held on Monday, October 28, 2013, beginning at 7:00 p.m., in the Board Meeting Room at the Berlin Board of Education, 238 Kensington Road, Berlin. The agenda will be available online at www.berlinschools.org.

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