

THE BERLIN BOARD OF EDUCATION

THE BULLETIN BOARD

A SUMMARY OF THE JANUARY 13, 2014 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 the BOE recognizes 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 of Education acknowledged the following individuals: Julia Wanke, a grade three student from Mary E. Griswold School, for her contributions to her class. She came to Griswold in kindergarten speaking only one language and now is fluent in two languages. She is a great citizen and is always helping out; Kylie Bacon, a grade four student from Mary E. Griswold School, for her work with Chance A.N.D. Rescue Group, a rescue group dedicated to saving dogs that were abandoned in Connecticut. Her support of the program earned a \$50 grant from Community Kids because of her persistence and ability to communicate their needs; Drew Demers, a grade one student from Richard D. Hubbard School, for showing tremendous growth and particular commitment to being the best first grader he can be in terms of academics, behavior and character development. He loves to learn and is incredibly thoughtful and creative; Jacob Wagner, a grade four student from Richard D. Hubbard School, for his commendable initiative and independence. He increasingly takes responsibility and is often a driving force when working with others, propelling discussion, dialogue and student understanding. He is always willing to support other students and provide guidance if they need help. His initiative is apparent within and outside the classroom; Johnathon Morris, a grade five student from Emma Hart Willard School, for working extremely hard this year and accomplishing a great deal of work; and Olivia Parciak, a grade one student from Emma Hart Willard School, for being a spirited first grader with lots of energy and working hard to harness her energy into her schoolwork.

Personnel – Retirement □ The Board accepted the retirement of Janet Root, teacher of grade 2 at Emma Hart Willard School, effective at the end of the 2013-2014 school year. The Board thanked Ms. Root for her twenty-six years of service to the youth of Berlin and wished her happiness and good health in her retirement.

Facilities Related Updates – Code Renovations – Berlin High School □ Director of Business Operations Roman J. Czuchta reported the project continues to progress. There was an issue over the holiday with water damage in the building due to some drains that were not properly covered. FIP Construction took ownership of the problem and repaired the damages to make sure the school opened as scheduled after the winter break. Silver/Petrucelli + Associates submitted their first report concerning the potential reductions to the furniture, fixtures and equipment budget. On January 21, 2014, Mr. Czuchta, Mr. Erwin, Mr. Kennedy and Mr. Richards will meet to review the report.

Report on SBAC Readiness □ Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction Brian Benigni, K-12 Literacy and Social Studies Coordinator Debra Thibault, and K-8 Math Coordinator Kara Watson, reported on the district's readiness for the Smarter Balanced Assessment. This report included a brief overview of the steps being taken to ensure all students and staff are adequately prepared for the Smarter Balanced Field Assessment to be administered this spring. This administration will replace the CMTs and CAPT, except in the area of science, and will offer an opportunity for calibration to occur prior to the 2015 administration of the Smarter Balanced Assessment.

Policy Review/Revision – First Reading □ Shipman & Goodwin LLP recommended revisions to Board policies and administrative regulations as a result of the 2013 legislative session. The recommendations were reviewed by the Ad-Hoc Committee for Policy Review/Revision at their meeting on January 13, 2014. Since this was a first reading, no action was required; the second reading/adoption will take place at the January 27, 2014 meeting.

2014-2015 Superintendent's Proposed Budget Presentation □ Superintendent David B. Erwin presented his proposed 2014-2015 budget to the Board. The proposed budget has an overall increase of \$1,198,117 or 2.97%. Mr. Erwin noted state revenue projections for Educational Cost Sharing (ECS) for 2014-2015 have not yet been set by the legislature. He noted the gap between Berlin's per pupil spending and the state average pupil spending is \$424. Mr. Erwin is requesting a technology specialist and Capstone Coordinator at Berlin High School to address the comprehensive organizational tasks necessary to implement the Capstone. Two additional paraprofessionals have been requested to meet the needs of some of our preschool students as they move into our new BLAST program, and a Director of Facilities for the district is proposed to provide a dedicated person to assist with our daily operational needs. The cost of additional work time requested in the existing schedules of our part-time physical therapist and speech/language pathologist to support student IEPs and a request for a .5 math support teacher at Hubbard to meet student needs will be offset by the reductions in staffing at Griswold School, savings realized through retirements and funds from our CHOICE Grant. The Board will meet again on Tuesday, January 14, 2014, and will have individual presentations from the elementary, middle school and high school principals. Site and Building and Capital Requests will also be presented.

The next regular meeting of the Board of Education will be held on Monday, January 27, 2014, at the Berlin Board of Education, beginning at 7:00 P.M., in the Board Meeting Room, 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 offices, the Town Clerk's office, the Berlin Public Library, or on the district's website at www.berlinschools.org.