

THE BERLIN BOARD OF EDUCATION

THE BULLETIN BOARD

A SUMMARY OF THE NOVEMBER 25, 2013 BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

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

Student Presentation □ The McGee School Jazz Ensemble performed prelude music prior to the start of the meeting. The Jazz Ensemble performers are George Bittel, Michelle Cohen, Salvatore Cultrera, Matt Dennis, Damon Eldah, Stephen Gendreau, Evan Graves, Nate Hansen, Emma Hinchcliffe, Natalie Kiczuk, Patryk Kleba, Michael Lamoreaux, Andrew Leary, Charlie Lewis, Brandon Peate, Tanner Parmelee, Michael Parzych, Sam Pennell, Andrew Pulcini, Noah Reed, Aidan Rich, Andrew Roberti, Lauren Salee, Tanner Soybel, Mark Switzer, Ryan Terlecky, Dawson Trotman, Matt Uryga and Jimmy Wicander. Sound Express performed the *National Anthem* and *Build a Bridge*. Sound Express performers were Libby Aroian, Jordan Barber, Lillian Bierwirth, Ashley Bryant, Claire Christiana, Mariel Christiana, Caroline Daigle, A.J. DelGiorno, Olivia Dybinski, Sami Fasciano, Rebecca Ferrero, Amanda Foertsch, Masie Hayes, Nadia Humen, Danyella Kaplan, Patsy Kiniry, Emily Kozon, Kailey Lacasse, Marissa Marquis, Jen Mouser, Sofia Oakes, Morgan O'Connor, Abbie Rochette, Kate Rochette, Leah Rozanski, Lauren Salee, Jake Skinner, Ryan Terlecky, Dawson Trotman, Alina Whiteside, Bo Dehm Wicklund, Sophia Wodatch, Anna Woodin, Lauren Wusterbarth, and Maggie Yacovino.

Awards & Presentations in Conjunction with American Education Week □ Former Board Members Julie Erickson, Kathleen O'Donnell-Moss and John Richards were recognized for their service to the Board of Education.

CABE Board of Distinction Award □ CABE believes that Boards of Education and superintendents which exhibit the most effective leadership are characterized by their ability to work together as teams. The CABE Board Recognition Awards are designed to recognize Boards which work effectively in this manner. In order to appropriately recognize those Boards which are truly exemplary, CABE established a second level of awards, the Board of Distinction Award. Only Boards which have achieved level one distinction at least twice in the prior four years are eligible to receive the Board of Distinction Award. At the CABE/CAPSS Conference on November 15, 2013, the Berlin Board of Education was awarded the CABE Board of Distinction Award. Mr. Erwin congratulated the Berlin Board of Education on being a truly exemplary board.

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 Carly Grega and Trevor Miano from Griswold School; Erica Lavoie and Ryan McGowan from Hubbard School; and Abigail Ferland and Nick Melville from Willard School. Also recognized were eighth graders Marissa Pettinelli and James Christodlous from McGee School; and seniors Tess Repaci and Matthew Heimlich from Berlin High School. Each student received a special CAPSS diploma.

Introduction of 2014 Building Teachers of the Year and the District Teacher of the Year □ Mr. Erwin recognized the following building Teachers of the Year for 2014: Rosemary Goodwin from Griswold; Megan Wesoly from Hubbard; Paula O'Rourke from Willard; Deborah Peck from McGee; and Eileen Thurston from Berlin High School. Paula O'Rourke 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.

Support Staff Recognition Awards □ Support staff 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 Rosemary Vasil, Griswold; MaryAnn Yale, Hubbard; Lisa Crenella, Willard; Lisa Turgeon, McGee; Lisa DiPinto, Berlin High; and Tari-Lynn Joyce for the Board of Education Central Office.

“Friend of Berlin Schools” Awards □ The “Friend of Berlin Schools” awards are awarded 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 Gary Brochu presented awards to this year’s recipients: Lucy Bantle, Griswold; Rebekka Enes, Hubbard; Marcella Boucher, Willard; Theresa and Daniel Lee, McGee; and Donald Dellaquila for Berlin High.

Special Presentation from the Kensington-Berlin Sunrise Rotary Club □ Scott Skates, chairman of “The Gift of Words” project for the Kensington-Berlin Sunrise Rotary Club, announced to the Board the Rotary Club’s donation of dictionaries to all third grade students as part of the National Rotary Dictionary Project. This is the seventh year that the Rotary Club generously provided dictionaries to each third grade student. Third grade students Caitlin Watson from Griswold School, Nathan Snyder from Hubbard School, and Kevin Paventi from Willard School thanked the Rotary Club for the dictionaries.

Annual Election of Officers □ Mr. Gary Brochu was re-elected to serve as president and Ms. Irene Matulis was re-elected to serve as secretary.

Annual Schedule of Meetings □ A motion regarding the Annual Agenda was made. The following Board of Education meeting dates were approved: 2014 - February 10 & 24, March 10 & 24, April 14 & 28, May 12 & 27, June 9 & 23, July 21, August 18, September 8 & 22, October 14 & 27, November 24, December 8, and 2015 – January 12 & 26.

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 2013-2014.

Appointment of Board Legal Counsel for 2013-2014 □ The law firm of Shipman & Goodwin of Hartford was appointed to continue as the Board of Education counsel.

Audience of Citizens □ Ms. Vonda Tencza, of Ridgewood Lane, addressed the Board regarding her concern of the heavy, loud construction at the high school and its impact on student learning and the lack of communication received as a result of a recent incident at the high school concerning a Twitter posting. Mr. John Richards, of Hawthorne Drive, addressed the Board concerning materials he had to return to the Board and share with the Board. Mr. Brochu indicated Mr. Richards may report when Director of Business Operations Roman Czuchta reports on the status of the code renovations at Berlin High School later in the agenda.

Facilities Related Updates □ Director of Business Operations Roman J. Czuchta reported on the status of code renovations at Berlin High School: Mr. Czuchta reported he, along with Mr. Richards, attended the Public Building Commission meeting this evening and the main topic of discussion was the furniture, fixtures and equipment budget (FF&E), which was to go to the state on December 4, 2013 for review and approval. That will not be happening as the FF&E proposal, by means of the architect and the specialist working for the architect, was approximately \$4.8 million, and the budget carried from the Public Building Commission was approximately \$3.9 million. There is a question if what is included in the FF&E budget is truly FF&E or should it be related to construction. The action of the Public Building Commission tonight was to reject the \$4.8 million figure and charge the architect with reassessing items in the proposal to come back with a \$3.9 million budget to move forward with to the state. Mr. Richards provided Board members with a copy of his memorandum dated November 25, 2013 to Jim Ouellette, chairman of the Berlin Public Building Commission, and the FF&E Technology Executive Budget Summary. Mr. Richards reported the Public Building Commission is uncomfortable with sending a proposed list of items forward to the state for review at a value that is higher than they are willing to allocate to fund for FF&E, even though the state’s review and approval does not commit the PBC to the expenditure of any funds, but merely allows for state reimbursement if these approved items are later purchased.

The next meeting of the Board of Education will be held on Monday, December 9, 2013, 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.berlin.k12.ct.us.

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.berlin.k12.ct.us.