

THE BERLIN BOARD OF EDUCATION

THE BULLETIN BOARD

A SUMMARY OF THE DECEMBER 9, 2013 BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

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

Special Student Presentation – Berlin High School Madrigal Singers □ The Berlin High School Madrigal Singers performed under the direction of Kathryn Crabb, BHS music teacher. They have earned both silver and gold awards at music festival competitions and perform in period costumes. The group is chosen by audition and features many of the most talented young vocalists from Berlin High School. Singers were Kayleigh Barber, Lauren Baretta, Kathleen Bosse, Henry Courchaine, Noah Gilbert, Ethan Hansen, Chris Hauptfeld, Skyler Korn, Megan Leary, Courtney Nelson, Greg Parisi, Richie Schlichting, Ally Schulz, Ben Shemeth, Natalie Souza, Carolyn Stickel, Gabby Strain, Danna Szymanski, Megan Waldrop and Megan Wilcox.

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: Noah Bergren, student from Berlin High School, for exemplifying the traits of altruism, diligence, dependability and competence. He consistently volunteers his time and lends his expertise to make Berlin High School and the community better places; Sally Grady, social worker at Berlin High School, for seizing opportunities to help students individually and collectively, while helping to make new school programs successful; Laurie Averill, library/media specialist, and Janet Lamontagne, reading consultant, at Catherine M. McGee School for their hard work, expertise, and interest in the Summer Reading Program.

Audience of Citizens □ David Dorau, of Church Street, requested consideration be given during the budget process to the daily compensation paid to substitute teachers.

Facilities Related Updates □ Director of Business Operations Roman J. Czuchta reported on the status of code renovations at Berlin High School: The budget for furniture, fixtures and equipment (FF&E) has been sent back to Silver/Petrucelli + Associates for review, and they have come back with some tentative numbers, but the numbers are nowhere near the \$1 million reduction. The Ad Hoc Renovation Committee is scheduled to meet with Silver/Petrucelli + Associates and Gilbane Building Company on Monday, December 16, 2013, regarding FF&E. Tom Smith of Gilbane Building Company has not provided the final date FF&E needs to go to the state so that when the classrooms are completed furniture will be in the rooms. Mr. Czuchta reported, if the rooms are completed at the beginning of April, he does not anticipate having equipment in place at that time. Over the weekend, there was some additional asbestos removal and the start of some PCB removals, which will continue through the rest of this week with clearances before the start of school next week. Notice was sent out a week ago to parents informing them that this was to occur and advising them of the procedures and precautions taken to ensure the areas were secure and fully contained. Mr. Czuchta met with FIP Construction and Gilbane Building Company regarding the concerns raised by staff, students and parents to mitigate the disruption to class time. Mr. Czuchta reported FIP Construction has been given the school's full schedule of testing dates so they are aware that at certain times certain areas of the building cannot be disturbed. FIP Construction did work a second shift while they were doing the retaining wall outside the science areas to again lessen any concerns regarding odors, specifically diesel fumes, in the building.

Update on the Senior Capstone □ Laurie Nelson, Berlin High School Capstone coordinator; high school administration; and Brian Benigni, assistant superintendent for curriculum and instruction, presented the requirements for the 2013-2014 Senior Capstone Project which is a graduation requirement for all seniors.

The next meeting of the Board of Education will be held on Monday, January 13, 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.