

THE BERLIN BOARD OF EDUCATION

THE BULLETIN BOARD

A SUMMARY OF THE FEBRUARY 24, 2014 BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

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

Student Presentation □ Berlin High School is quite proud of the work students have recently done during Advisory to increase student awareness of mean behavior, to educate students on reporting mean behavior and to encourage students to create more allies in school. Derrica Reid, Courtney Nelson, Jess Jha, Ben Kall, Evan Hilbie and Kayla Cervoni presented a recent advisory lesson. This lesson was developed by Derrica Reid (grade 10) and Courtney Nelson (grade 11), with the input of their Unity Team Advisor, Katie Cormier. Both students presented the lesson to the BHS Advisory Team (Evelisa Mayette, Sheila King, Deb Ramirez, Patty Pires, Ruth Kidwell, Laurie Nelson, Jean Borrup and Amanda Gagnon). Since it aligned with the school's vision for a safe school climate, the students presented the lesson to 9th grade students.

Full-Day Kindergarten Update □ The elementary principals, accompanied by kindergarten teachers, gave an overview of the full-day kindergarten program since we are now beyond the half-way point in the year. The presentation included the results of the parent survey that was sent to all Berlin kindergarten families.

Update/Approval of Changes in the Teacher Evaluation Plan based on Flexibility □ Brian Benigni, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction, updated the Board on the proposed changes to the Teacher Evaluation Plan for the remainder of the 2013-2014 school year. These changes were prompted by the recent approval of flexibility options by the State Board of Education. All proposed changes have the support of all administrators and have been unanimously approved by the Professional Growth and Evaluation Committee. The proposed changes maximize the use of time for administrators while providing opportunities for reflective practice for teachers through written and verbal feedback. The BOE approved the updated plan; it will now be submitted to the State Department of Education for acceptance.

Open CHOICE Program Participation □ Superintendent David B. Erwin reported there are one hundred and five (105) currently-enrolled students that will advance one grade next year. Due to classroom sizes, Mr. Erwin recommended an additional nine (9) seats for the 2014-2015 school year. Mr. Erwin provided a breakdown of his recommendation for placement: one (1) seat will be offered at Griswold in kindergarten; three (3) seats will be offered at Hubbard in grades 1 & 2; one (1) seat will be offered at Willard in kindergarten; three (3) seats will be offered at McGee in grade 7; and one (1) seat will be offered at Berlin High School in grade 9. The State Department of Education has requested that the district accommodate siblings wherever possible. Included in these numbers are four (4) sibling seats. All Board members approved Mr. Erwin's recommendation.

Facilities Related Updates – Code Renovations – Berlin High School □ Director of Business Operations Roman J. Czuchta reported that the focus of the administration has been completing the furniture, fixtures and equipment (FF&E) listing and getting the information to Silver/Petrucci + Associates so they can produce a final listing to present to the Public Building Commission for approval and then move forward to a plan completion test (PCT) meeting with the state. Silver/Petrucci + Associates, at a minimum, is two weeks away from being ready with a revised listing to present to the Public Building Commission and there is concern that there will not be new furniture for the beginning of school next year. Mr. Brochu reported on an email received from Chairman Jim Ouellette, and it appears, at this point, the Public Building Commission is accepting a net list of \$4.138 million and agreeing to “add alternate” the remaining items of the Board's list, which is largely laptops and computers, with some understanding that if there is money available at the end of the project it would be used for this. The Public Building Commission has not voted on this. Mr. Czuchta reported there continues to be some issues with the indoor air quality. A handful of staff members have filed workers' compensation notifications concerning the perceived air quality issues, which are being reviewed by the

district's insurance company. The school was paid a visit from The Connecticut Department of Labor's Division of Occupational Safety and Health (CONN-OSHA) on Thursday, February 21, 2014, as a result of a complaint filed concerning conditions at the school. Mr. Czuchta's understanding is that CONN-OSHA was more than satisfied with the actions taken to date to ensure a safe environment not only for the staff but also the students.

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The next regular meeting of the Board of Education will be held on Monday, March 10, 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 office, the Town Clerk's office, the Berlin Public Library, or on the district's website at www.berlinschools.org.