

THE BERLIN BOARD OF EDUCATION

THE BULLETIN BOARD

A SUMMARY OF THE MARCH 10, 2014 BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

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

Connecticut Board of Education Member Appreciation Month □ Superintendent David B. Erwin recognized March as “Connecticut Board of Education Member Appreciation” month. Each Board member received a gift as a token of appreciation for their work on behalf of students and staff.

Berlin Bravos □ Berlin Bravos is a program where the Board of Education 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: Madeline Fusco, grade one student at Griswold School, for her hard work and exceptional effort; Karissa Deegan, grade five student at Griswold School, for her hard work, dedication to her learning, and her outstanding classroom citizenship; Doreen Letendre and Kristin Snyder for being selected by staff as CAS Parent Volunteer Award recipients; Michael Muscatello, grade four student at Willard, for his great work ethic; and Sarah Kania, literacy specialist at Willard School, for truly caring about the instructional practice that occurs within the school.

Personnel – Notice of Retirement □ The Board accepted the retirement of Angela Griswold, school psychologist at Emma Hart Willard School, effective June 30, 2014. The Board thanked her for the thirty-five years of service she has provided to the youth of Berlin and wished her good health and happiness in her retirement years.

Facilities Related Updates – Code Renovations – Berlin High School □ Director of Business Operations Roman J. Czuchta reported he and Berlin High School Principal Francis Kennedy were charged to approve a logo for one of the walls in the cafeteria, which they both found to be busy. They have asked the Public Building Commission to take a credit for the logo and then purchase frames and display cases to display student art and awards in that cafeteria space. A letter is being sent to staff and parents regarding additional asbestos removal occurring over the weekend. Mr. Czuchta received communication from Tom Smith, of Gilbane Building Company, that there is a plan completion test (PCT) meeting tentatively scheduled with the state for March 28, 2014. Silver/Petrucci + Associates will be making a presentation to the Public Building Commission on Thursday, March 13, 2014, of their recommendations and updated numbers for furniture, fixtures and equipment (FF&E), and assuming the Public Building Commission approves the recommendation of the architect, it will move forward to the Board for consideration at the March 24, 2014 Board meeting. It appears that the Public Building Commission will be accepting a net list of approximately \$4.1 million and agreeing to “add alternate” the remaining items of the Board’s list, which is largely technology, with an understanding that if there is money available at the end of the project this is what it would be used for.

Early Dismissal Days - 2014-2015 School Calendar □ The Student Achievement Committee met on March 10, 2014, to discuss additional early dismissal days for professional development and afternoon and evening conferences for the 2014-2015 school year. Report card dates were also added. The Board approved the revisions to the 2014-2015 school calendar as presented.

Executive Session – Receipt and Discussion of Attorney Report Regarding Claim Concerning Board Member’s Alleged Conduct □ At the February 10, 2014 Board meeting, the Board authorized the superintendent of schools, in coordination with the secretary of the Board, to engage legal counsel to advise the Board with respect to a claim concerning a Board member’s alleged conduct. The Board contracted with Attorney D. Charles Stohler of Carmody Torrance Sandak & Hennessey, LLP. Attorney Stohler conducted an investigation, and as a result of his fact findings,

delivered an attorney-client privileged report to the Board. After reviewing the report, the Board returned to open session and accepted the recommendations submitted by Attorney Stohler.

The next regular meeting of the Board of Education will be held on Monday, March 24, 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.