

THE BERLIN BOARD OF EDUCATION

THE BULLETIN BOARD

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

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

Student Presentation – Emma Hart Willard School □ Kristin Vernon, W.E.L.L coordinator and art teacher, provided an overview of the Willard Enrichment Learning Lab after-school program. The popular enrichment program offers a range of courses, taught by certified and paraprofessional staff, to hundreds of our students over two, ten-week sessions. Students Samantha Dunn, grade 1; Emily Kobus, grade 4; and Alex Spinali, grade 3, shared their experiences with the Board of Education.

Personnel □ The Board accepted a letter of retirement from Suzanne Weber, computer integration specialist at Emma Hart Willard School, to be effective June 30, 2014. The Board thanked Mrs. Weber for the twenty-nine years of service she has provided to educating the youth of Berlin and extended their best wishes for a happy and healthy retirement.

Facilities Related Updates – Code Renovations – Berlin High School □ Director of Business Operations Roman J. Czuchta reported there was a tour of the high school on Friday, March 21, 2014, and the project is progressing well. There will be a meeting on March 25, 2014, to discuss site logistics for the coming summer, preparing for different traffic patterns and entering and exiting the building.

Educational Specifications (Statement of Need) – Total Roof Replacement – Mary E. Griswold School □ The Board approved the Educational Specifications (Statement of Need) for a total roof replacement project at Mary E. Griswold School, dated March 24, 2014, as presented by Director of Business Operations Roman J. Czuchta. The Educational Specifications will now be forwarded to the town manager for action.

Report on Status of the 2014-2015 Board of Education Budget □ Superintendent of Schools David B. Erwin reported the Town Council reduced the operating budget by \$391,000, which brings the Board's recommendation down to 1.72%. The Town Council is aware they cannot give specific areas of cuts; however, they have delineated what cuts they believe the Board should make. They have recommended the Berlin High School Capstone Coordinator, District Facilities Director, one of the soccer coaches at McGee and one of the paraprofessionals the Pupil Personnel Services Department is requesting be cut from the Board's operating budget. The Town Council also cut \$90,000 from the Board's operating budget due to declining enrollment. There were members of the Town Council that wanted a no tax increase budget, which would mean an additional reduction of approximately \$416,000. The Educational Resources Committee will schedule a meeting to discuss, with the administration, where to reduce the operating budget for a 1.7% increase and see what a 0% increase budget would look like.

Deposit into the Non-Lapsing Fund □ The projected 2013-2014 CHOICE Grant shows a balance of \$111,822 in uncommitted funds. The Board approved the recommendation of administration and the Educational Resources Committee that these funds be deposited into the Board's Non-Lapsing Fund to be used for security improvements at Berlin schools.

TEAM Update □ Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction Brian Benigni provided the Board with an overview of this year's Teacher Education and Mentoring (TEAM) process and answered questions from the Board regarding his presentation.

Committee Concerning Athletic Protocols and Handbook □ The Board authorized the superintendent to establish an ad hoc committee to review athletic protocols, including but not limited to communications and conflict resolution, and make recommendations to the administration.

Amendments to the 2013-2014 School Calendar □ The Student Achievement Committee met on March 10, 2014, to discuss amending the 2013-2014 school calendar due to the five days school was not in session to date. The Board approved the committee's recommendation to reduce the number of student days from 183 to 182. This would make the tentative last student day June 18. Teachers would work through June 20 but would have an additional day of professional development on June 19. This time will compensate for the cancelled professional development afternoon on January 22. Obviously, any additional closings would alter this calendar.

CREC Council Representative □ Mr. Brochu reported there currently is a vacancy on the CREC Council and if any Board member is interested in serving on the Council, they should send him an email.

Contract Ratification – Custodians □ The Board approved the tentative agreement reached between the Berlin Board of Education and the UE Local 222, CILU #90 (Custodians).

The next regular meeting of the Board of Education will be held on Monday, April 14, 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.