

THE BERLIN BOARD OF EDUCATION

THE BULLETIN BOARD

A SUMMARY OF THE APRIL 28, 2014 BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

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

Student Presentation – Richard D. Hubbard School □ Throughout the course of the year, kindergarten learners at Hubbard School have been engaged in activities and tasks focused on development and reinforcement of the foundational literacy skills and strategies through the Reader’s Workshop model. Mrs. Ali Lacroix, Mrs. Katie Wasilewski, Ms. Ali Dunn and their kindergarten learners modeled partner reading games that were learned during Columbia training sessions. Kindergarten presenters were Grace Foster, Alyssa Napolitano, Kylie Prytko, Cody Skypek, Meghan Snyder, and Grace Wood.

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: Patricia Pires, school counselor at Berlin High School, for taking the lead on many counseling and school-wide projects; Gabriella Strain, a grade 11 student at Berlin High School, for embodying a creative and active citizenship in her interactions at Berlin High School; Matt Letendre, a grade 8 student at Catherine M. McGee School, for being an amazing student who is always polite and respectful to everyone he comes in contact with; Robert (Robbie) Daniels, a grade 7 student at Catherine M. McGee School, for showing a level of maturity and self-awareness that has impressed his teachers; Nadia Humen, a grade 7 student at Catherine M. McGee School, for being an amazing young lady who works extremely hard every day to achieve greatness in all of her classes; and Olivia Biscoglio, a grade 6 student at Catherine M. McGee School, for being a hardworking, dedicated student who takes a great deal of pride in her assignments.

Retirement – Teacher of World Language – Berlin High School □ The Board accepted the retirement of Margaret DeJohn, teacher of World Language at Berlin High School, effective June 30, 2014. The Board thanked her for the thirty 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 provided Board members with the executive summary for the facilities assessment the Board and Town requested. Mr. Czuchta, along with the architect, anticipates presenting this to the Board in May. Mr. Czuchta provided Board members with the latest update from Gilbane Building Company for the two-week period ending Friday, April 11, 2014, and reported that the project continues to progress. We have not received approval from the state for furniture, fixtures and equipment (FF&E), which has started to be a concern as time is running out to order materials and furniture to have on site for distribution to classrooms for the opening of the school year. A meeting is scheduled for Friday, May 2, 2014, concerning the moves from existing classrooms to the new facilities and also to discuss what to do with current furniture. Mr. Czuchta reported that there has been discussion about making Patterson Way a one-way street while school is in session, as sections of the parking area will be lost which will affect traffic flow patterns at the high school.

Status of the Board of Education’s Adopted Budget for 2014-2015 □ Superintendent of Schools David B. Erwin reported on the status of the Board of Education’s Adopted Budget for 2014-2015. The budget referendum is scheduled for April 29, 2014.

Non-renewal of Contract for Non-tenured Teacher □ The Board voted that the contract of employment for non-tenured teacher Allison Curran, teacher of special education at Mary E. Griswold School, not be renewed for the 2014-

2015 school year, upon its expiration at the end of the current school year. Ms. Curran was given a one-year contract for the 2013-2014 school year due to a childrearing leave/resignation.

Summer Reading Program □ Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction Brian Benigni and K-12 Literacy Coordinator Debra Thibault provided an overview of the summer 2014 reading program and recommended the adoption of the summer reading books, *Sparrow Hawk Red*, *Petey*, *Touching Spirit Bear*, and *Red Midnight*, by Ben Mikaelson.

Textbook Adoption □ The Board adopted the textbook, *American Government Institutions & Policies 14th Edition* by James Wilson, John Dilulio, and Meena Bose, published by Cengage Learning, Stamford, CT. This textbook will be the primary text for grade 11 and 12 students in AP US Government & Politics. The textbook was reviewed by the Textbook Adoption Committee, the Curriculum Council and the Student Achievement Committee.

The next regular meeting of the Board of Education will be held on Monday, May 12, 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.