

THE BERLIN BOARD OF EDUCATION

THE BULLETIN BOARD

A SUMMARY OF THE MAY 12, 2014 BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

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

Berlin Bravos □ Berlin Bravos is a program whereby 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 students for their accomplishments: Victoria Pietrucha, a grade five student at Mary E. Griswold School, for her exceptional commitment to the DARE Program; Jack Salerno, a grade two student at Mary E. Griswold School, for his hard work which has resulted in significant growth in all areas of the curriculum; Julie Kielbowicz, a grade two student at Richard D. Hubbard School, for being a well-rounded and hardworking student who goes above and beyond on a daily basis; Kevin Daley, a grade three student at Richard D. Hubbard School, for having a focused attitude, giving 100% effort towards his academics and demonstrating exceptional role model behavior for his peers; Martina Burgio, a grade five student at Emma Hart Willard School, for making significant gains in her computational skills throughout the school year; and Hunter DiMauro, a grade one student at Emma Hart Willard School, for demonstrating a strong work ethic each day and making incredible progress since September. The Board also recognized the district's reading recovery teachers, Cathy D'Amato from Hubbard School, Kristine Jutras from Griswold School, and Maura Sullivan from Willard School, for working tirelessly this year to ensure that reading recovery was implemented with fidelity.

Personnel □ The Board accepted the resignation of Pamela Hamad, assistant principal at Catherine M. McGee School, effective June 30, 2014, and expressed their gratitude for her five years of service to the district. The Board accepted the letters of intent to retire, effective June 30, 2014, from Susan Lipka and Diane Cleary, teachers of special education at Berlin High School and thanked them for their 36 years of service and 11 years of service, respectively, to the youth of Berlin and wished them good health and happiness in their retirement years.

Facilities Related Updates – Code Renovations – Berlin High School □ Director of Business Operations Roman J. Czuchta reported that another planning/logistics meeting was held and the focus of the meeting was the furniture, fixtures and equipment (FF&E) package and the various components to open successfully in late August. He has been informed, through Tom Smith, that the latest from the state is the FF&E package will, at least, be reviewed and hopefully approved by the end of this month to allow the start of purchasing items for the opening of the school year. The manufacturers have indicated the lead time for furniture is anywhere from eight to nine weeks. Phase I will not be completed until the beginning of July, after which a temporary, partial certificate of occupancy will be needed from the fire marshal and building official which, according to the Public Building Commission, may not happen until late July. Approximately one-third of the staff parking area will be lost so there was another proposal to put in a second driveway off of Patterson Way, into what will be left of the staff parking area, to provide an off ramp to Patterson Way, which will divert bus traffic into the new loading zone in front of the gymnasium. This may impact the number of parking passes issued to students for the upcoming semester.

Discussion/Action Regarding the 2014-2015 Board of Education's Operating Budget □ Mr. Brochu reported that as a result of the annual budget referendum, held on Tuesday, April 29, 2014, the Board of Education's Operating Budget was reduced \$190,000 by the Town Council. Mr. Erwin and Ms. Matulis reported that the Town Council is allowing the Board of Education to decide which accounts will be reduced; however, the Town Council has requested that, in the event the Board accepts reductions to the Capital Equipment and Site and Building accounts, they be approved at tonight's meeting. The Board approved reducing the Capital Equipment and Site and Building accounts by \$32,500 each.

The next regular meeting of the Board of Education will be held on Tuesday, May 27, 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.