

THE BERLIN BOARD OF EDUCATION

THE BULLETIN BOARD

A SUMMARY OF THE AUGUST 18, 2014 BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

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

Conflict Resolution Protocol □ The Board was provided with an updated conflict resolution protocol intended to be published in the 2014-2015 Athletic Handbook, which the Ad-Hoc Committee to Address Conflict Resolution supports. The committee consisted of 14 members of the community, representing a diverse group of individuals who serve in various capacities in the community and/or school system. The committee met twice for the purpose of reviewing the current conflict resolution protocol and to offer recommendations on how to improve it. After much discussion and input from all members of the committee, unanimous support for the updated conflict resolution protocol was reached. Mr. Brochu requested clarity for the portion of the conflict resolution protocol which states, “1. An athlete and coach should first attempt to resolve any issue.” Mr. Brochu requested clarity as to the issue as there are other processes in place depending on what the nature of the complaint is, i.e., bullying, harassment and abuse.

Superintendent’s Report: District’s Readiness for the Opening of School □ Superintendent of Schools David B. Erwin reported, all in all, the district is in good shape for the opening of school on Wednesday, August 27, 2014. There was some transformer work done at Griswold School on Friday, August 15, 2014. Freshman orientation is scheduled for Monday, August 25, 2014, at the high school. At the request of the leadership of the Berlin Education Association, the Convocation will be kept extremely brief. Karen Pappas, Berlin’s Teacher of the Year for 2015; Ruth Bogden, Berlin’s Paraprofessional of the Year for 2015; and John McNulty, teacher at Berlin High School who will be presented with an award for his 45 years of service, will be speaking at the Convocation. The new teacher reception will be held on Monday, September 8, 2014, in the cafeteria at Berlin High School. Mr. Czuchta reported bus routes have been sent out to the papers, and unfortunately, *The Berlin Citizen* will not publish the bus routes this year but will have a link to follow to the district’s website. The bus routes will be published in *The Herald* on either Thursday or Friday of next week. Mr. Czuchta has received complaints from parents concerning the consolidation of stops and expects more with the start of school.

Staffing Update □ Mr. Erwin reported he received a resignation letter on Friday from a mathematics teacher at Berlin High School and a resignation letter last week from a reading specialist at Griswold. There remains a vacant .50 English teacher position and a .50 business teacher position at the high school. There are two new counselors at the high school, one of whom will not start until September 22, 2014.

Facilities-Related Updates □ Director of Business Operations Roman J. Czuchta reported on the status of facilities projects. **Berlin High School Code Renovations:** Temporary asphalt was put down for additional parking on the Patterson Way entrance for visitors and deliveries. The faculty parking lot is to be paved tomorrow and also a new sidewalk is going in at the front of the building to accommodate drop-offs. The furniture started arriving last Monday and continues to arrive. There are a number of people on site from the suppliers that are assembling the furniture. The B Gym is pretty well emptied and those items have been moved into the new classrooms downstairs and reused or repurposed in the old section of the building. Of concern is the back wall technology piece as parts for that have not yet come in. This will affect the ability to have the phone system up and running; however, Mr. Czuchta does not anticipate any major issues for the start of school. He anticipates receiving the temporary Certificate of Occupancy tomorrow and teachers will be in on Wednesday preparing their classrooms. **Willard and Hubbard School:** The playgrounds at Willard School and Hubbard School are complete. The last two oil tanks in the district at Willard School and Hubbard School were removed and there was some tile asbestos removal at Griswold School.

Final Financial Report – 2013-2014 Fiscal Year □ Director of Business Operations Roman J. Czuchta reported that the 2013-2014 fiscal year ended with a positive, unaudited balance of \$28,173.72. The Board approved returning the balance to the Town of Berlin General Fund.

Superintendent's Evaluation and Contract □ The Board entered into executive session to discuss the superintendent's evaluation and contract.

The next regular meeting of the Board of Education will be held on Monday, September 8, 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.