

*THE BERLIN BOARD OF EDUCATION*

# *THE BULLETIN BOARD*

*A SUMMARY OF THE OCTOBER 14, 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 where we recognize 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 acknowledged the following individuals: Emma Cannon, kindergarten student from Griswold School, for her wonderful effort in class and being kind and helpful to her peers; Zahkius Webb, grade 3 student from Griswold School, for beginning the school year with a positive attitude and working hard in class; Jack Swanson, kindergarten student from Hubbard School, for quickly adapting to classroom rules and routines and setting an example of excellence in behavior and cooperation; Kaeden Garcia, grade 1 student from Hubbard School, for his demonstration of Hubbard Husky Pride and “bucket filling” behaviors which make him a role model for his peers; Matthew Fiske, grade 1 student from Willard School, for making a seamless transition into first grade; and Kyle Pinto, grade 4 student from Willard School, for demonstrating perseverance at all times, especially when things are difficult and for being a strong peer model for his classmates.

**Audience of Citizens** □ Mr. Richard Paskiewicz, of Ellwood Road, a former Berlin Board of Education member and superintendent of schools, reminded the Board that they have a very important job on their hands in filling the position of director of business operations. Mr. Paskiewicz publicly thanked Mr. Czuchta for the ten plus years they worked together. Mr. Paskiewicz praised Mr. Czuchta for being a hard-working, dependable, loyal and trustworthy individual.

**Report on the Status of Renovations at Berlin High School** □ Director of Business Operations Roman J. Czuchta reported a meeting is scheduled with the design team prior to the next Board meeting on Monday, October 27, 2014. Mr. Czuchta went through the building today with FIP Construction and Gilbane Building Company and reported the gym is progressing very nicely. The bleachers are set and the Berlin lettering is on both sides of the bleachers, the new ceilings are going in, new lighting has been installed, the basketball hoops are up, some painting is done, and the floor needs to be refinished and realigned. He has been assured that the gym will be ready November 24, 2014. In addition, the greenhouse will be a fantastic facility once it is up and running. Mr. Czuchta met with Mr. Richards concerning some issues. There are issues with programming the phones and mounting the phones on the wall, and although doors are able to be secured, the cylinders and handles are loosening up. The contractor for the doors is trying to resolve these ongoing issues. Delivery of furniture, fixtures and equipment (FF&E) continues to be an issue. Mr. Richards reported on an issue with chair hardware and that a proposal to update the hardware was made by the manufacturer of the chairs. The manufacturer is on notice to rectify the situation as quickly and fairly as possible. Mr. Richards provided the Board with an update of delivery of FF&E from the two vendors.

**Official 2014-2015 District Enrollment Report** □ Mr. Erwin highlighted the preliminary enrollment as of October 1, 2014. School districts are required each year to report their October 1 enrollment figures to the Connecticut State Department of Education. Mr. Erwin noted enrollment as of October 1, 2014 is 2,898, down 53 students (1.80%) from last year. Enrollment at the high school, middle school and elementary schools was reviewed. Mr. Erwin noted that overall class sizes are favorable at the elementary schools. As of October 1, 2014, the district has 115 students in the Open Choice Program (CHOICE). Eighteen new seats were offered and seventeen were filled. The Board will carry on the discussion in the spring concerning CHOICE students, but it is his opinion that the district has reached its peak level. Preschool is being closely monitored for next year concerning student needs.

**Report on District Test Results** □ Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction Brian Benigni and Principal of Berlin High School Francis Kennedy reviewed the results from the spring 2014 testing. The results included the 5<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade Science CMT, 10<sup>th</sup> grade Science CAPT, SAT, ACT and Advanced Placement results. No assessment data from the spring administration of the Smarter Balanced Assessment Field Test has been made available and we do not anticipate a comprehensive data breakdown by grade level or individual student. The information shared explained trends in the student performance data, the impact on planning for continuous improvement, professional development offerings and curriculum to be reviewed.

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**The next meeting of the Board of Education will be held on Monday, October 27, 2014, beginning at 7:00 p.m., in the Board Meeting Room at the Berlin Board of Education, 238 Kensington Road, Berlin. The agenda will be available online at [www.berlinschools.org](http://www.berlinschools.org).**

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*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](http://www.berlinschools.org). If you no longer wish to receive The Bulletin Board, please send an email to [dbatista@berlinschools.org](mailto:dbatista@berlinschools.org)*