

THE BERLIN BOARD OF EDUCATION

THE BULLETIN BOARD

A SUMMARY OF THE OCTOBER 27, 2014 BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

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

Student Presentation – Mary E. Griswold School □ Students in Ms. Spinella's fifth grade class have been impressive with their work in reading at the start of this school year. In their first unit in Reading Workshop, students studied characters and focused on building theories not only about the main character, but about all of the characters in the story. Students took on the ambitious work of learning that authors convey ideas through the characters in their stories. Students drew upon all of the work they have done in previous years around thinking deeply about their characters (considering what a character holds close and characters' complexities) to deepen their abilities to infer, interpret, and talk and write well about reading. Throughout the unit, students also worked hard to back up their thinking with quotes and exact details from the text. Student presenters were Lyla Bennett, Hailey Nims, Jacob Smalley, Madison Symolon, and Nicole Swan.

Audience of Citizens □ Ms. Jan Zagorski, of Grandview Avenue, Berlin, spoke in response to an inquiry made by Board Member Oakes earlier in the meeting, and provided the Board with her opinion as to why students taking the fitness test stop after completing 37 sit-ups. Mr. John Richards, of Hawthorne Drive, Berlin, addressed the Board as a follow-up to the meeting he attended with the design team held prior to tonight's Board meeting.

Facilities Related Update – Berlin High School Code Renovations □ Director of Business Operations Roman J. Czuchta reported a meeting was held this morning with the contractor for the doors, along with the maintenance staff, concerning the situation with the locks and items not working properly and indicated these issues are being addressed. At a meeting tomorrow, he will bring up moving forward with a third party to serve as a representative to deal with the phone issues. Furniture, fixtures and equipment issues will continue to be addressed this week and throughout the weekend. In response to a question regarding the status of the gym, Mr. Czuchta responded that the gym will be ready November 24, 2014.

Contract Ratification – Association of Berlin Administrators □ Negotiations were recently completed between the Berlin Board of Education and the Association of Berlin Administrators and a tentative agreement was reached. The Board approved the tentative agreement.

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The next meeting of the Board of Education will be held on Monday, November 24, 2014, beginning at 7:00 p.m., at Catherine M. McGee School, 899 Norton Road, Berlin. 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. If you no longer wish to receive The Bulletin Board, please send an email to dbatista@berlinschools.org.