

***THE BERLIN BOARD OF EDUCATION***

# ***THE BULLETIN BOARD***

***A SUMMARY OF THE FEBRUARY 23, 2015 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 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: Jordyn Tabury, grade 12 student at Berlin High School, for devoting a generous amount of her time to helping Berlin High School; Zoe Allard, teacher of special education at Berlin High School, for always being ready to take that extra step to offer assistance, engage in active problem solving, and implement strategies and interventions on behalf of any student; and Dawson Trotman and Jeff Bengiovanni, students at McGee School, for being role models to other students at McGee School.

***Student Presentation – Berlin High School*** □ Grade 12 students Emily Lombardo and Alex Humen briefly explained their completed senior Capstone projects and grade 11 students Jamie Kasulis and Max Muller explained their recent mid-year computer science programming projects, fulfilling a key requirement for the new AP computer science course.

***Facilities Related Updates – Code Renovations – Berlin High School*** □ Director of Business Operations Roman J. Czuchta reported that the installation of the antenna for the radio station has again been delayed due to the cold weather. The contractor does not wish to cut the roof open, which is required for the installation of the antenna, because there is a concern that, with the cold weather, they will not be able to reseal the roof once the antenna is installed and therefore, create the potential for damage to the gym floor as well as a possible void to the warranty. There is a March 10 deadline with the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to be on the air broadcasting. Chris Wolfe is working with the consultant for the radio station and putting together the paperwork for another extension from the FCC. Former Mayor Adam Salina has contacted Congressman John Larson's office to work through his office in an attempt to receive an extension from the FCC. The high school had a very positive site visit on February 13, 2015, from Dr. Adrian Wood from the Office of Civil Rights (OCR). The reason for the visit was to see how the work is progressing and how the accessibility issues are being addressed. Dr. Wood was very impressed with the work done to date.

***Revision to the 2015-2016 School Calendar*** □ In order to allow more time to accommodate summer construction at Berlin High School, Gilbane Building Company and the Public Building Commission requested that the district extend the summer vacation. The Board approved revising the 2015-2016 school calendar to have school begin, at BHS only, on Monday, August 31 and that three days be removed from the school year for Berlin High School students (reducing the year from 183 to 180 days). All other schools would begin as originally scheduled on Wednesday, August 26.

***Adoption of the Proposed Board of Education Budget for 2015-2016*** □ The Board of Education spent the last month reviewing and discussing the Superintendent's Proposed Budget for 2015-2016. The Board's Educational Resources Committee met on February 23 to review the budget details, including information from presentations by the principals and central office administration. The Board approved the Board of Education 2015-2016 Operating Budget at a level of \$41,934,911, an increase of 2.68%. The Site and Building Budget was approved at a level of \$933,700 and the Capital Budget was approved at a level of \$737,351. The budget will now be forwarded to the Town Council. A complete copy of the Board of Education's Adopted Budget for 2015-2016 is available on the district's website.

***Mary E. Griswold School Roof Replacement*** □ Director of Business Operations Roman J. Czuchta provided Board members with the budget cost estimates and schematic drawings for a full roof replacement at Mary E. Griswold School. In accordance with Section 8-11-4 of the Charter, the Board of Education requested \$1,511,470 from the Town

Council, as recommended by the Public Works Department (the Building Committee), for final plans and specifications, architectural fees and construction costs for the roof replacement at Mary E. Griswold School, in accordance with the Statement of Need dated March 24, 2014.

***Open CHOICE Program Participation*** □ Superintendent David B. Erwin reported there are one hundred and twelve (112) currently-enrolled students, of which one hundred and five (105) will advance one grade next year. Due to classroom sizes, Mr. Erwin recommended an additional nine (9) seats for the 2015-2016 school year. Mr. Erwin provided a breakdown of his recommendation for placement: one (1) seat will be offered at Griswold in kindergarten; one (1) seat will be offered at Willard in grade 1; one (1) seat will be offered at Hubbard in grade 2; one (1) seat will be offered at Hubbard in grade 4; two (2) seats will be offered at McGee in grade 6; one (1) seat will be offered at McGee in grade 8; and two (2) seats will be offered at Berlin High School in grade 9. The State Department of Education has requested that the district accommodate siblings wherever possible. Included in these numbers are three (3) sibling seats. All Board members approved Mr. Erwin's recommendation.

***Executive Session - FOIA Complaint*** □ Attorney D. Charles Stohler updated the Board regarding the FOIA complaint in which the Board is involved.

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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).*