

THE BERLIN BOARD OF EDUCATION

THE BULLETIN BOARD

A SUMMARY OF THE MARCH 9, 2015 BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

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

Presentation of the 2014 CABE Communications Award □ Gary Brochu, Connecticut Association of Boards of Education (CABE) Board member, presented the award to the Board. Under the category of websites, the Berlin Public Schools' website was chosen as the winner of the 2014 Award of Excellence for Educational Communications. Mr. Benigni thanked and acknowledged Laura Kulpa, the district's technology integration specialist, the webmasters from each of the schools, and Board member Timothy Oakes.

Board Member Appreciation Month □ Superintendent David B. Erwin recognized March as "Connecticut Board of Education Member Appreciation" month. Each Board member received a gift as a token of appreciation for the time and effort they devote to Board business during the course of the year.

Berlin Bravos □ Berlin Bravos is a program where the Board of Education 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: Colin Peck, grade one student at Griswold School, for working very hard to learn new skills in reading and math and never giving up; Shirley Calafiore, member of the Griswold staff and Griswold UPBEAT Team, for always being willing to go the extra mile to help out at Griswold School; Sharon Malespini and Sharon Swanson for being selected by Hubbard staff as CAS Parent Volunteer Award recipients; Jonathan Talavera, grade four student at Willard, for being incredibly hardworking and always giving his best in all that he does; and David Gagnon, grade five student at Willard School, for learning to be independent during academic tasks, taking responsibility for his learning and actions, and demonstrating perseverance when tasks become difficult.

Facilities Related Updates – Code Renovations – Berlin High School □ Director of Business Operations Roman J. Czuchta reported that the first extension to be on the air broadcasting expires on March 10, 2015; however, another extension has been requested from the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) but he does not expect to hear back for another thirty days. There is an August 26, 2015, deadline to be on the air broadcasting. Mr. Czuchta reported he toured the construction areas and the amount of work that has occurred over a couple of weeks is phenomenal. The floors and carpentry are installed in the science labs and the furniture is on order. An attempted repair was made to the gymnasium floor that was not quite successful and there will need to be some re-sanding and re-finishing to those areas that were damaged. Due to snow melting, there was a leak in one area of a new section of the high school and there have been several leaks in the old sections.

Emma Hart Willard School Re-roofing Project □ The Willard School re-roofing project (State Project Number 007-0066-RR) has been completed according to plans and specifications, and certified complete by Art Simonian, who acted as the building commissioner for the project. The Board accepted the project as complete in order to secure final grant funds and to close the project with the state of Connecticut.

Revision to the 2014-2015 School Calendar □ The Board approved reducing the number of student days (by up to three days) if additional snow days occur in order to maintain the final student day on Thursday, June 18.

Finalizing the Graduation Date for Berlin High School □ The Board approved setting the Berlin High School graduation date for Sunday, June 21, 2015. The ceremony will be held at Central Connecticut State University beginning at 1:30 p.m.

Policy Review/Revision – First Reading □ Shipman & Goodwin LLP recommended revisions to Board policies as a result of the 2014 legislative session. The recommendations were reviewed by the Ad-Hoc Committee for Policy Review/Revision at their meeting on March 9, 2015. Since this was a first reading, no action was required; the second reading/adoption will take place at the April 27, 2015, meeting.

Textbooks for Adoption □ The Board adopted the textbooks, *Java Software Solutions for AP Computer Science, Third Edition*, by John Lewis, William Loftus, and Cara Cocking, published by Addison-Wesley (Pearson), Boston, MA, as the primary textbook for grade 10-12 students in AP Computer Science and *Cracking the AP Environmental Science Exam, 2015 Edition*, by the Princeton Review-Angela Morrow, Ph.D. and Tim Liggett, published by Random House, Inc., New York, NY, as the primary textbook for grade 11-12 students in AP Environmental Science. The textbooks were reviewed by the Textbook Adoption Committee, the Curriculum Council and the Student Achievement Committee.

Mary E. Griswold School Roof Replacement Project □ The Town Council approved an ordinance appropriating funding for the Griswold School roof replacement project. In order to open a project with the state, an ED049 form must be filed. The Board authorized the superintendent of schools to file form ED049 with the state for the project.

Submission of Technology Grant □ The Board approved the submission of an additional technology grant to the Connecticut State Department of Education. If awarded the grant, the state would match 42.86%, up to the amount of the grant requested. We would anticipate that the balance of funds would be available from our operating budget at year end; however, should we not have available funds, the remainder of the funds may be taken from the 2015-2016 budget.

Executive Session – Update Regarding FOIA Complaint □ Superintendent of Schools David B. Erwin updated the Board regarding the FOIA complaint in which the Board is involved.

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The regular meeting scheduled for Monday, March 23, 2015, has been cancelled.

The next regular meeting of the Board of Education will be held on Monday, April 27, 2015, 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.