

THE BERLIN BOARD OF EDUCATION

THE BULLETIN BOARD

A SUMMARY OF THE APRIL 27, 2015 BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

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

Special Recognition – Certificate of Appreciation Award to Former Board Member Stefanie Carbone □ Board President Gary Brochu recognized and thanked Stefanie Carbone for her service to the Berlin Board of Education.

Student Presentation – Richard D. Hubbard School □ A primary focus of the Berlin district has been the purposeful integration and use of technology by students to develop and reinforce 21st century skills. These particular skills, when infused into academic tasks and experiences, cultivate relevant understanding and application of technology to enhance student learning and enrich educational endeavors. Grade 5 students, Rylee Cop, Samantha Ferrero and Marco Marino, accompanied by Deb Lamond, technology teacher and library-media specialist, presented book trailers, created through iMovie, as an example of how technology and literature can be purposefully integrated. This particular project addresses a primary goal of Reader's Workshop, which is developing a love of reading while incorporating many aspects of technology. Students choose a book they connect with, write a script, plan a storyboard, then create a book trailer (which is similar to a movie trailer) using iMovie.

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: Wendy Rawlings, cook manager at Berlin High School, for providing the best quality and service to students and staff; James Karam, a grade 8 student at Catherine M. McGee School, for working to gain independence and truly grow as a learner; and Devon Richards, a grade 8 student at Catherine M. McGee School, for working hard to succeed.

Retirements □ The Board accepted the retirement of Susan Daniels, teacher of social studies and Russian at Berlin High School; Deborah Peck, teacher of integrated language arts at Catherine M. McGee School; and Donna Logan, teacher of kindergarten at Mary E. Griswold School, effective June 30, 2015. The Board thanked Ms. Daniels for the forty-one years of service she has provided to the youth of Berlin, Ms. Peck for the thirty years of service she has provided to the youth of Berlin, and Ms. Logan for the twenty-nine years of service she has provided to the youth of Berlin and wished them good health and happiness in their retirement years.

Mary E. Griswold School Roof Replacement Project □ The Board approved the final plans and specifications, schematic drawings, and professional cost estimates for the total roof replacement at Mary E. Griswold School, as recommended by the Building Committee. They will now be forwarded to the State Bureau of School Facilities for review.

Facilities Related Updates – Code Renovations – Berlin High School □ Director of Business Operations Roman J. Czuchta reported the science labs are open and the teachers are absolutely pleased with the new facilities and the ability to have a lab in each of the classrooms. Preparation for the next phase, the administrative wing, has begun. John Richards has been hired as a temporary employee, effective today through June 30, 2015, for the coordination of the furniture purchases and the next piece that will be dealt with over the summer. In response to Mr. Brochu's question concerning the issue of cooling the entry way, Mr. Czuchta reported there is an owners' meeting tomorrow and he will speak with the architect as to why cooling the entry way was omitted.

Status of the Board of Education's Adopted Budget for 2015-2016 □ Superintendent of Schools David B. Erwin reported the Town Council reinstated 1%, approximately \$408,000, which will allow the Board to preserve programs and staff critical to students. The annual Budget Referendum will be held on April 28.

Non-renewal of Contracts for Non-tenured Teachers □ The Board voted that the contracts of employment for non-tenured teachers Shannon Gottsman, teacher of kindergarten at Emma Hart Willard School, and Thomas Sheridan, teacher of ILA at Catherine M. McGee School, not be renewed for the 2015-2016 school year, upon their expiration at the end of the current school year. Ms. Gottsman was given a one-year contract for the 2014-2015 school year due to a childrearing leave and Mr. Sheridan's position is being eliminated due to budget cuts.

Summer Reading Program □ K-12 Literacy Coordinator Debra Thibault and Library-Media Specialist at Catherine M. McGee School Laurie Averill provided an overview of the summer 2015 reading program. At their recommendation, the Board adopted the summer reading book, *Swindle*, by Gordon Korman.

Policy Review/Revision □ The Board adopted two new policies and revisions to existing Board policies as a result of the 2014 legislative session, as suggested by Shipman & Goodwin LLP.

Teacher and Administrator Evaluation Plans for 2015-2016 □ The Board approved the new Teacher and Administrator Evaluation Plans for 2015-2016, as presented by Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction Brian Benigni. The updated plans meet all requirements outlined by the Connecticut State Department of Education, and the administrator plan utilizes the Connecticut System for Educator Evaluation and Development (SEED) model as the base framework. The plans will now be submitted to the Connecticut State Department of Education for their review.

School Calendars □ 2014-2015 School Calendar - The Board approved the reduction of the final three student days at Berlin High School to allow for construction. The last student day at Berlin High School will be on Monday, June 15, 2015, which will be an early release day. 2015-2016 School Calendar – The Board approved changing the early release professional development day from Wednesday, May 25, 2016, to Wednesday, May 11, 2016. 2016-2017 School Calendar – The Board adopted the 2016-2017 School Calendar. The calendar is based on recommendations made by the CREC Uniform Regional Calendar Committee and the State Task Force. The Uniform Regional School Calendar is a state initiative based on legislation and is mandatory beginning with the 2016-2017 school year.

Executive Session □ The Board entered into executive session to discuss a personnel matter and a pending claim and litigation regarding an FOIA complaint.

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.