

*THE BERLIN BOARD OF EDUCATION*

# *THE BULLETIN BOARD*

*A SUMMARY OF THE MAY 11, 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 whereby 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 students for their accomplishments: Ava Desmarais, a grade two student at Mary E. Griswold School, for showing tremendous perseverance during the course of second grade; Isabella Yagmin, a grade three student at Mary E. Griswold School, for walking into school each morning with a smile on her face, eager to begin her learning experience for the day; Jackson Rodriguez, a grade two student at Richard D. Hubbard School, for facing a number of physical challenges as a student with muscular dystrophy and approaching every school day with an amazing attitude and working his hardest to complete tasks and address daily expectations to the best of his ability; Dylan Perkins, a grade three student at Richard D. Hubbard School, for demonstrating tremendous growth in exhibiting greater focus and self-control inside and outside of the classroom, which has contributed to his success in third grade; Grace Catalano, a grade two student at Emma Hart Willard School, for working to her full potential each day in all content areas; and Alex Romero, a grade three student at Emma Hart Willard School, for working hard each day to improve his skills in reading and writing.

***Personnel*** □ The Board accepted the retirement of Edmund “Ned” Dunn, teacher of grade five at Emma Hart Willard School, effective June 30, 2015, and expressed their gratitude for his twenty years of service to the district.

***Facilities Related Updates – Code Renovations – Berlin High School*** □ Superintendent of Schools David B. Erwin reported that he met with Principal Kennedy, John Richards and Tom Smith concerning the high school renovation project and reported that office staff and administrators will be relocated out of the building over the summer. The building will be under heavy construction and demolition over the summer and construction will be in full force beginning June 22, 2015. Mr. Erwin reported areas of the high school had elevated temperatures as one of the chillers was down. Mr. Benigni reported the Public Building Commission did approve a change order to allow for air conditioning in the entry way.

***Summer Instructional Program*** □ Supervisor of Special Education Michelle Zeuschner reviewed the extended school-year programs for students with disabilities. Ms. Zeuschner reported there will be two sessions: a five-week program that runs from June 29–July 31 for preschool–grade 5; and a four-week program that runs from July 7–July 30 for preschool–grade 12. The tentative numbers reflect 11 preschool students, 45 students in grades K-5, 25 middle school students, 18 high school students and 7 CHOICE students will participate in the extended school-year programs. The program includes 17 teachers and 31 paraprofessionals. Students also will receive all the special education services they need over the summer, including occupational therapy, physical therapy and speech therapy. There will be a teacher providing PE/movement at the elementary level, a reading teacher will be providing reading instruction and a school psychologist will be in attendance for the summer.

***Discussion/Action Regarding the 2015-2016 Board of Education’s Operating Budget*** □ Superintendent of Schools David B. Erwin reported the Town Council finalized the town budget, which includes the Board of Education. The Board originally requested a 2.68% increase and the Town Council responded with a 1% increase. After the town budget hearing, the Town Council responded with a 2% increase, but due to the failed referendum, the Town Council’s adopted budget allows for a 1.5% increase for the 2015-2016 Board of Education Operating Budget. Areas of reduction will be reviewed and the Educational Resources Committee will meet prior to the next BOE meeting.

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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).*