

THE BERLIN BOARD OF EDUCATION

THE BULLETIN BOARD

A SUMMARY OF THE MAY 26, 2015 BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

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

Student Presentation – Emma Hart Willard School □ Mr. Clapp has worked collaboratively with the first grade team at Willard School to complete a Technology Enriched Learning Experience (TELE). In this TELE, students published their written research on African animals into an informational text using iPads. The publishing process included typing, recording, and illustrating texts while using multiple iPad apps as support. In addition to using apps, students accessed various texts and online videos to aid in the completion of these projects. Alex Fisher and Caroline Massirio presented their finished eBooks to Board members.

Audience of Citizens □ Ms. Jan Zagorski, of Grandview Avenue, Berlin, addressed the Board concerning the World Language Proposal for Grade 8 at the Catherine M. McGee School.

Personnel □ The Board accepted the retirement of Katharine Shaskus, teacher of grade 4 at Mary E. Griswold School, effective June 30, 2015. The Board thanked her for the twenty-six years of service she has provided to the youth of Berlin and wished her good health and happiness in her retirement years.

Facilities Related Updates – Code Renovations – Berlin High School □ Director of Business Operations Roman J. Czuchta reported that he toured the renovations last week and the administrative wing is set to open by July 1. There will need to be some accommodations made for access to the facility because the parking lot will be torn up. Furniture has been ordered and is ready to be delivered; however, delivery will have to wait as there is no place to put the furniture. With regard to the radio station, the tower is up and the antenna is to be installed by the end of the week. The estimate from the architect for the Hall of Fame display was \$20,000 and the low bid came in at \$158,000, which does not include power. Mr. Czuchta indicated the Board may have to take action, requesting the Public Building Commission proceed with the construction.

World Language Proposal and Changes to Period H – Grade 8, Catherine M. McGee School □ Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction Brian Benigni and McGee administrators shared how the proposed schedule changes to period H will allow all eighth grade students the opportunity to take world language as a core class for the 2015-2016 school year. The Board approved world language as a core class for eighth grade students for the 2015-2016 school year and included grade seven students for the 2016-2017 school year.

Setting of the 2015-2016 Budget □ The Educational Resources Committee and administration presented information for finalizing the Board of Education's Operating Budget for 2014-2015, including recommended areas of reduction to meet the Town Council's approved level of funding. The Board adopted the recommendations of the administration for an operating budget for 2015-2016 in the amount of \$41,452,762.

End-of-Year Curriculum Projects □ Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction Brian Benigni reviewed the various curriculum writing projects that will occur prior to July 1 at the elementary and secondary levels. Summer curriculum hours have been allocated based on the prioritized need for work that must be completed prior to the start of the 2015-2016 school year.

Capstone Update □ Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction Brian Benigni reported tomorrow evening is the first night of the Capstone Exhibition and approximately twenty students will be presenting, which will be videotaped.

Textbook Adoption □ The Board adopted the textbook, *Language Central ELD*, by Jim Cummins, Lily Wong Fillmore, Georgia Garcia and Jill Kerper Mora, published by Pearson, copyright 2013.

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.