

***THE BERLIN BOARD OF EDUCATION***

# ***THE BULLETIN BOARD***

***A SUMMARY OF THE OCTOBER 13, 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 we recognize 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 acknowledged the following individuals: Gabriella Morell, grade 2 student from Griswold School, for working extremely hard to make gains in reading and for facing each day with a positive attitude and a willingness to try her best; Gabriela Blanco, grade 4 student from Griswold School, for starting this year on the right foot by working hard each and every day; Sarah and Erik Hanson, kindergarten students from Hubbard School, for having a very smooth transition into kindergarten; Kaya Rutkowski, grade 5 student from Hubbard School, for consistently demonstrating role model behavior for her peers; Jadalyse Collado, grade 4 student from Willard School, for working hard to improve her reading comprehension as well as her overall participation in class; and Willie David, grade 5 student from Willard School, for starting the school year ready to work.

***Next Generation Science Standards Presentation*** □ Mary Salerno, science department supervisor at Berlin High School, on behalf of the State Department of Science Education, gave an informational presentation on Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS). She began her presentation by stating that the timelines she was presenting have not yet been detailed or formally accepted by the State Board of Education or the Connecticut General Assembly. She presented the stages, the proposed five-year implementation timeline (2014-2019), reasons why the Connecticut science standards should be upgraded, the goals of science education, how NGSS standards differ from previous science standards, core disciplinary ideas, crosscutting concepts, a comparison of Connecticut inquiry standards to NGSS practices, information on making transitions and how lessons will be learned, the contrast between traditional and NGSS assessment questions, professional learning, cost considerations, state-led systems of professional learning and a district “to do” list.

***NORESCO – Presentation on Solar Energy Project with the Town of Berlin*** □ As part of the business continuity within the town of Berlin, an energy savings performance contract is being proposed. NORESKO has performed an energy assessment of the buildings for both the town and public schools. John DiModica and Keith Hanlon, from NORESKO, reviewed the process encountered to develop an investment grade audit, the proposed program, savings, measures to be included townwide and schoolwide, and the proposed implementation. A not-to-exceed price for the designated scope of work will be presented for approval at the Town Council meeting on October 20, 2015.

***Facilities Related Updates – Berlin High School Code Renovations*** □ Director of Business Operations Eva Gallupe reported there was a meeting today concerning the auditorium and the lighting in the auditorium, and there are no major disruptions in that regard. With regard to furniture, fixtures and equipment, the prefabricated casework for phase I of the technology education building has been installed. The Ergonomics’ contract for the T1 network has been signed and is scheduled to be installed tomorrow. Mr. Brochu reported that the Public Building Commission is waiting for direction from the Board regarding the Hall of Fame display cabinets. The Board will look to schedule a meeting with the Ad-Hoc Committee and a representative from the Hall of Fame Committee to discuss the current situation.

***Official 2015-2016 District Enrollment Report*** □ Mr. Erwin highlighted the preliminary enrollment as of October 1, 2015. School districts are required each year to report their October 1 enrollment figures to the Connecticut State Department of Education. Mr. Erwin noted enrollment as of October 1, 2015, is 2,863, down 35 students (1.19%) from last year. Enrollment at the high school, middle school and elementary schools was reviewed. As of October 1, 2015, the district has

103 students in the Open Choice Program (CHOICE), although 115 seats were offered. Mr. Erwin indicated the Board will carry on the discussion in the spring concerning CHOICE students.

**Report on District Test Results** □ Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction Brian Benigni reviewed the results from the spring 2015 testing. The results included the Smarter Balanced (SBAC) scores for students in grades 3-8 and 11, 5<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade Science CMT, 10<sup>th</sup> grade Science CAPT, SAT, ACT and Advanced Placement results. The information shared explained trends in the student performance data, the impact on planning for continuous improvement, professional development offerings and curriculum to be reviewed. These results will also help to determine future resource allocations. School administrative staff, including Francis Kennedy, Salvatore Urso, Matthew Correia, Laurie Gjerpen, Alfred Souza, Heather Gish, David Kitzman, Natalie Hammond, Kara Watson and Deb Thibault, was also in attendance for the presentation.

**Policy Review/Revision – Second Reading/Adoption** □ The Board approved revisions to policies as a result of the recent legislative session, as recommended by Shipman & Goodwin LLP.

**Extension of Sick Leave for Employee** □ The Board approved the superintendent’s recommendation to extend sick leave for an employee.

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**The next meeting of the Board of Education will be held on Monday, October 26, 2015, beginning at 7:00 p.m., in the Board Meeting Room at the Berlin Board of Education, 238 Kensington Road, Berlin. The agenda will be available online at [www.berlinschools.org](http://www.berlinschools.org).**

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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).*