

THE BERLIN BOARD OF EDUCATION

THE BULLETIN BOARD

A SUMMARY OF THE NOVEMBER 23, 2015 BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

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

Student Presentation □ The McGee School Jazz Ensemble performed prelude music prior to the start of the meeting. The Jazz Ensemble performers were Bailey Backlaski, Alison Cavanagh, Matt Dennis, Jacob Ferland, Stephen Gendreau, Nate Hansen, Lily Hartel, David Helm, Olivia Kittleman, Jacob Lindsay, Laura Martin, Ryan McGowen, Julia Raynock, Noah Reed, Andrew Roberti, Anna Sarrazin, Gina Scalero, Toby Simard, Tanner Soybel, Dawson Trotman, Matt Uryga, Greg Wadinger, Ben Whitehill, Emily Wisniewski and Sue Wisniewski. Sound Express performed the *National Anthem* and *Don't Laugh at Me*. Sound Express performers were Kylie Bacon, Saige Beatman, Kyla Bedard, Meredith Beers, Danielle Boscolo, Tori Cascone, Samantha Centurelli, Natalia Chorzepa, Alexis Dascher, Josh DeGross, David DeGiorno, Liayziah Douchette, Emily Hyjek, Kylie Jefferson, Isabella Karam, Emily Kobus, Alexa Luth, Julianna Mancini, Laura Martin, Jamie Peterson, Noah Reed, Eryn Riggott, Emily Roche, Dylan Rowland, Emily Rutledge, Dakota Rymarzick, Olivia Salina, Jillian Santana, Laura Sarrazin, Madison Sharpe, Jake Skinner, Tanner Soybel, Katie Terlecky, Dawson Trotman and Paige Varricchio.

Awards & Presentations in Conjunction with American Education Week □ Former Board Members Gary Brochu, Kathryn Bryers, Kristin Campanelli, and Cynthia Kobus were recognized for their service to the Board of Education.

CABE Board of Distinction Award □ CABE believes that Boards of Education and superintendents which exhibit the most effective leadership are characterized by their ability to work together as teams. The CABE Board Recognition Awards are designed to recognize Boards which work effectively in this manner. In order to appropriately recognize those Boards which are truly exemplary, CABE established a second level of awards, the Board of Distinction Award. Only Boards which have achieved level one distinction at least twice in the prior four years are eligible to receive the Board of Distinction Award. At the CABE/CAPSS Conference on November 20, 2015, the Berlin Board of Education was awarded the CABE Board of Distinction Award.

Superintendent's CAPSS (Connecticut Association of Public School Superintendents) Student Awards □ Students were selected for this prestigious annual award based upon criteria such as demonstrated leadership to the school community, community service and service to others, and academic prowess relative to ability. Awards were presented to fifth graders Trista May and Michael Deegan from Griswold School; Molly Jordan and Ian Malespini from Hubbard School; and Alyssa O'Leary and Kyle Pinto from Willard School. Also recognized were eighth graders Nancy Ingenito and Dylan Rowland from McGee School; and seniors Michelle Grieco and Christopher Hauptfeld from Berlin High School. Each student received a special CAPSS diploma.

Introduction of 2016 Building Teachers of the Year and the District Teacher of the Year □ Mr. Erwin recognized the following building Teachers of the Year for 2016: Kristine Jutras from Griswold; Elizabeth Atwood from Hubbard; Elijah Clapp from Willard; Shannon Felix from McGee; and Brendan Rush from Berlin High School. Brendan Rush went on to become the Berlin School District's Teacher of the Year. They each received a copy of Parker J. Palmer's book, The Courage To Teach.

2016 Paraprofessional of the Year □ Mr. Erwin recognized Courtney Caswell, from Emma Hart Willard School, as the 2016 Paraprofessional of the Year.

Support Staff Recognition Awards □ Support staff were selected to be recognized for their outstanding performance and dedication to the students, staff, and parents of the Berlin Public Schools. This year's recipients were Ian Sheldon,

Griswold; Cathy Nielsen, Hubbard; Karen Zenobi, Willard; Ashraf Zaitoun, McGee; Paul Germain, Berlin High; and Susan McNally for the Board of Education Central Office.

“Friend of Berlin Schools” Awards □ The “Friend of Berlin Schools” awards are awarded annually to those volunteers nominated by each school’s administration, PTO or community, and selected by the Board of Education for their outstanding contributions as a volunteer who has devoted time and energy to helping the children and schools in the district. Board Secretary Matt Tencza and Superintendent of Schools David B. Erwin presented awards to this year’s recipients: Gina Munch, Griswold; Kristin Snyder, Hubbard; Ashley Rutledge, Willard; Lucy Micacci-Bantle, McGee; and Shirley Calafiore for Berlin High.

Special Presentation from the Kensington-Berlin Sunrise Rotary Club □ Hannah Lavoie and Steven Miano, members of the Berlin High School Interact Club and the first recipients of the Kensington-Berlin Sunrise Rotary Club’s “The Gift of Words” dictionary project, announced to the Board the Rotary Club’s donation of dictionaries to all third grade students as part of the National Rotary Dictionary Project. This was the ninth year that the Rotary Club generously provided dictionaries to each third grade student. Third grade students Addison Szczesniak from Griswold School, Max Enes from Hubbard School, and Samantha Dunn from Willard School thanked the Rotary Club for the dictionaries.

Annual Election of Officers □ Mr. Timothy Oakes was elected to serve as president and Mr. Matthew Tencza was re-elected to serve as secretary.

Annual Schedule of Regular Meetings □ A motion regarding the Annual Agenda was made. The following Board of Education meeting dates were approved: 2016 – February 8 & 22, March 14 & 28, April 25, May 9 & 23, June 13 & 27, July 11, August 15, September 12 & 26, October 11 & 24, November 28, December 12, and 2017 – January 9 & 23.

Motion for Fiscal Management □ The Board designated a treasurer and assistant treasurers for the Berlin High School Enterprise Fund, the Berlin Public Schools Activity Fund, and the Cafeteria Fund for 2015-2016.

Appointment of Board Legal Counsel for 2015-2016 □ The law firm of Shipman & Goodwin of Hartford was appointed to continue as the Board of Education counsel.

Facilities Related Updates □ Director of Business Operations Eva Gallupe reported on the status of code renovations at Berlin High School: The Public Building Commission’s abatement received final clearance on Sunday, November 22, 2015, and there is no additional abatement at the high school at this time.

Revision to the 2016-17 School Calendar □ The Board approved revising the 2016-17 school calendar to change Thursday, December 22, 2016, to a full day and to make Friday, December 23, 2016, an early dismissal day to be consistent with the CREC Regional Calendar for 2016-17.

Policy Review/Revision – First Reading □ Shipman & Goodwin LLP, suggested revisions be made to Policy 4118.5 – Employee Use of District’s Computer Systems and Electronic Communications, Policy 5141.4 – Reports of Suspected Abuse or Neglect of Children or Sexual Assault of Students by School Employees, Policy 3524.1 – Pesticide Application on School Property, Policy 6146 – Graduation Requirements, Policy 5113 – Student Attendance, Truancy and Chronic Absenteeism, and that new Policy 5142 – Physical Restraint and Seclusion of Students be adopted pursuant to the 2015 legislative session. The revisions and new policy were reviewed by the Ad-Hoc Committee for Policy Review/Revision at their meeting earlier this evening. Since this is a first reading, no action is required; the second reading/approval will take place at the December 14, 2015 meeting.

The next meeting of the Board of Education will be held on Monday, December 14, 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.