

THE BERLIN BOARD OF EDUCATION

THE BULLETIN BOARD

A SUMMARY OF THE JANUARY 11, 2016 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 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: Trumpet players Amelia Andruskiewicz, Rose Fas, Joslyn Smulski and clarinetist Alyssa Wenzel, grade four students from Griswold School, for caroling with their instruments at houses in the area to raise money for the VH1 Save the Music Campaign; Ben Mengula, grade 1 student at Hubbard School, for entering first grade with an eagerness and enthusiasm for learning; Emma Lavoie, grade 4 student at Hubbard School, for her academic prowess and for being an exceptional student; Ava Reynolds, kindergartener at Willard School, for being a model student and peer role model since entering the kindergarten program; and Ryan Scaranuzzo, grade 3 student at Willard School, for consistently demonstrating a positive attitude toward his schoolwork and peers.

Audience of Citizens □ Scott Melville, Liza Davis and Denise Garcia (with their children), Tim D'Addabbo, and John McGeever addressed the Board regarding the CIAC report, reinstatement of John Capodice, the treatment students have received and the sanctions against them. Mr. Oakes thanked all for addressing the Board and reported that the Board and the superintendent's office continue to investigate and evaluate this situation.

Personnel □ The Board accepted the resignation of Dan Scavone, districtwide director of athletics, to be effective at the end of the 2015-2016 school year. The Board thanked him for his four years of service to the district and wished him well in his future endeavors.

Facilities Related Updates – Code Renovations – Berlin High School □ Director of Business Operations Eva Gallupe reported the girls' locker rooms and the B-Gym were turned over and in use as of January 4, 2016. There is the potential for twelve additional classrooms to be turned over after the April break, pending the fire marshal's approval. Silver Petrucelli + Associates are now in charge of handling furniture, fixtures and equipment with the Board of Education and Public Building Commission. The substantial completion date of September 30, 2016, is still on target.

Adoption of Textbooks □ The Board adopted the textbooks *Development Through Life: A Psychosocial Approach – 12th Edition*, by B. Newman and P. Newman, published by Cengage Learning, Copyright 2015, and *Earth Science*, by Tarbuck/Lutgens, published by Pearson Education Inc., Copyright 2015.

2016-2017 Superintendent's Proposed Budget Presentation □ Superintendent David B. Erwin presented his proposed 2016-2017 budget to the Board. The proposed budget has an overall increase of \$1,171,659 or 2.83% (with the consideration that the Department 61 proposal is accepted). Salary increases represent the largest driver (2.43%) and the increase in the benefits account represents an additional 0.62% of the increase. The remaining increase (0.79%) comes from contracted services and tuition increases. Mr. Erwin is requesting that a teaching position that had been eliminated for this year be reinstated to meet the functional needs of students at Berlin High School. A .80 speech & language pathologist is being requested due to additional service time necessary for students. A .50 social worker at the elementary level and BLAST paraprofessional are being requested due to student needs. A .50 custodian at Berlin

High School and .40 in-school suspension monitor at McGee School complete the new staff requests. Retirements account for \$100,000 in offsets to new staff and anticipated reductions in staff at the elementary level, due to declining enrollment, provide an additional \$211,809 in offsets. The building-level budgets remain at the same level as the current year – no increases, just maintenance. The Board will meet again on Tuesday, January 12, 2016, and will have individual presentations from the elementary, middle school and high school principals. Site and Building and Capital Requests will also be presented.

The next regular meeting of the Board of Education will be held on Monday, January 25, 2016, 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.