

THE BERLIN BOARD OF EDUCATION

THE BULLETIN BOARD

A SUMMARY OF THE FEBRUARY 22, 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: Michele Stocking, receptionist at Berlin High School, for her dedication to her work, parents, students and staff; Bethany Pasquale, senior at Berlin High School, for exhibiting superior academic prowess and being an exceptional student; Nathan Paul, grade 7 student at McGee School, for facing the difficulty of having two major injuries, one right after the other and not letting the injuries slow him down or be an excuse to shirk responsibilities; and The Joseph Manzi Foundation for its generosity to McGee School.

Student Presentation – Berlin High School □ Students Nicole Cyr, Hannah Lavoie, and Steven Miano shared their personal experiences as members of the Interact Club. They shared what Interact has done for the community, as well as its international efforts. Advisor Lisa Hatton also discussed the Interact Club and thanked the Board for their support.

Audience of Citizens □ Mr. Richard Paskiewicz, of Ellwood Road, requested the Board adopt a budget which accommodates the needs of the students and not one which may be viewed as just a response to a politically-motivated agenda.

Personnel - Retirement □ The Board accepted the retirement of Sarah Kania, literacy specialist at Emma Hart Willard School, effective at the end of the 2015-2016 school year, and thanked Ms. Kania for the four years of service she has provided to the youth of Berlin and wished her good health and happiness in her retirement.

Consideration of Board Member Serving on CREC Council □ The Board was informed that there is a seat on the CREC Council for a representative from Berlin. The Council meeting schedule was provided to Board members.

Facilities Related Updates – Code Renovations – Berlin High School □ Director of Business Operations Eva Gallupe reported there will be eight additional classrooms in the R10 area turned over at the end of March or beginning of April. A blower on the roof stopped working and it will be one to three days before it is operational to all the affected classrooms. The substantial completion date remains September 30, 2016.

Closeout of the Griswold School Roofing Project □ Director of Business Operations Eva Gallupe reported that all punch list items and warranty paperwork has been completed and received. The Board closed the project as complete and authorized the filing of the final electronic submission with the state.

Open CHOICE Program Participation □ Superintendent David B. Erwin reported there are one hundred and five (105) currently-enrolled students, of which ninety-seven (97) are expected to advance one grade next year. Due to classroom sizes, Mr. Erwin recommended an additional six (6) seats for the 2016-2017 school year. Mr. Erwin provided a breakdown of his recommendation for placement: three (3) seats will be offered in kindergarten (two at Hubbard and one at Willard); one (1) seat will be offered in grade 2 at Hubbard; and two (2) seats will be offered in grade 3 (one at Hubbard and one at Willard). The State Department of Education has requested that the district accommodate siblings wherever possible. All six (6) seats offered are for sibling placements. All Board members approved Mr. Erwin's recommendation.

Adoption of the Proposed Board of Education Budget for 2016-2017 □ The Board of Education spent the last month reviewing and discussing the Superintendent's Proposed Budget for 2016-2017. The Board's Educational Resources Committee met on February 16 and February 22 to review the budget details, including information from presentations by the principals and central office administration. The Board approved the Board of Education 2016-2017 Operating Budget at a level of \$42,637,433, an increase of 2.86%. The Site and Building Budget was approved at a level of \$276,566 and the Capital Budget was approved at a level of \$1,024,018. The budget will now be forwarded to the Town Council. A complete copy of the Board of Education's Adopted Budget for 2016-2017 will be available on the district's website by early next week.

Executive Session - FOIA Complaint Update □ Superintendent David B. Erwin updated the Board regarding the FOIA complaint in which the Board is involved.

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