

THE BERLIN BOARD OF EDUCATION

THE BULLETIN BOARD

A SUMMARY OF THE APRIL 25, 2016 BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

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

Student Presentation – Richard D. Hubbard School □ Third graders worked diligently on an informational writing unit that involved becoming an expert on a specific topic about a country. The topics for each country included school and work, geography and weather, food and clothing, and family life and interests. At the onset of the unit, students analyzed the structure of nonfiction texts and noted the most important ideas from multiple sources (books, websites, etc.). Students utilized Google documents to organize their bulleted notes and transfer them to outline format. From this outline, a text structure organized in main idea and detail form was composed. Students crafted detailed paragraphs as experts on specific topics in their chosen countries. Topic sentences, transition words and conclusion sentences facilitated organization and fluency of their informational paragraphs. Students worked with group members to create Google Slides including images, headings, and a bibliography. Teachers Meg Wesoly and Emily Merrigan accompanied student presenters Madelyn Carlson, Zuzanna Dabek, Lanie Ferguson, Charlie Henriques, Alex Jorge, Aleksia Kume, Emma Radoncic and Samyra Shillingford.

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: Karen Crawford, school counselor at Berlin High School, for her exemplary work ethic, character, and compassion; Courtney Scalero, a grade 12 student at Berlin High School, for being a role model; Ashley Alkas, a grade 8 student at Catherine M. McGee School, for continually demonstrating the qualities and characteristics of a student that exemplifies the ideals of McGee School; and the coaches and participants of the McGee Spartan Unified Sports Team for competing valiantly and displaying extraordinary sportsmanship in their first two tournaments of the season. Leading the Spartans at the tournaments were athletes Aubrey Bissonette, Kolby Kuszek, Evan Labickas, Donny Plummer, and Grace Taylor; student team partners Morgan Arute, Tyler Cloutier, Aiden Cote, Logan Galvan, Jewel Garcia, Kailey Hurlburt, Emma Johnston, and Madison Symolon; and co-coaches Mike Eagle and Bryan Plona.

Retirements □ The Board accepted the retirement of John McNulty, teacher of Biology at Berlin High School, and Nicholas Pepe, teacher of social studies at Catherine M. McGee School, effective June 30, 2016. The Board thanked Mr. McNulty for the forty-seven years of service he has provided to the youth of Berlin and Mr. Pepe for the thirty-two years of service he has provided to the youth of Berlin and wished them good health and happiness in their retirement years.

Presentation on Bus Routes □ Peter Agostini, president of New Britain Transportation, requested consideration for consolidated bus stops for consistency and safety concerns. Before approving, the Board requested they have an opportunity to review the consolidated stops.

Richard D. Hubbard School Roof Replacement □ The Board approved the final plans and specifications for the total roof replacement at Richard D. Hubbard School, as recommended by the Building Committee. They will now be forwarded to the State Bureau of School Facilities for review.

Summer Reading Program □ K-12 Literacy and Social Studies Coordinator Debra Thibault provided an overview of the summer 2016 reading program.

Facilities Related Updates – Berlin High School Code Renovations □ Director of Business Operations Eva Gallupe reported the substantial completion date remains September 30, 2016; however, there is an area in the building that has not yet been built. There are a couple of classrooms which may not be opened until September 9. A contingency plan is in place. During the April break, new classrooms were opened and 300 of the worst chairs were replaced. The chair vendor has now chosen to switch plastic vendors; therefore, all of the chairs will be replaced over the summer.

Release of Land Easement □ In 1978, the Board of Education was granted an easement at Worthington Ridge and Wilbur Cross Highway (through Deming Road) for the purpose of school transportation. Currently, the area is zoned for commercial development and the portion of Worthington Ridge that abuts property on Wilbur Cross Highway will be turned into a cul-de-sac negating any reason for the easement. The Board voted to release the land easement at Worthington Ridge and Wilbur Cross Highway (through Deming Road) to the property owners.

Status of the Board of Education’s Adopted Budget for 2016-2017 □ Superintendent of Schools David B. Erwin reported that the Town Council has reduced the budget an additional \$50,000. At Superintendent Erwin’s request, the Board will wait until after the referendum to make any decisions. The Board is scheduled to lose \$352,000 of its Education Cost Sharing funding.

Non-renewal of Contracts for Non-tenured Teachers □ The Board voted that the contracts of employment for non-tenured teachers Kathryn Bryers, Nicole Cole, Jessica Cyr, Daniel Donovan, Hilary Graham, Katherine Loubier, Dan Ostasiewski, Adam Rosten, and Rick Silva not be renewed for the 2016-2017 school year, upon their expiration at the end of the current school year. All were temporarily hired to cover for regular staff on leave during the 2015-2016 school year.

Textbook Adoption □ The Board adopted the textbook, *Common Core Progress Mathematics*, by William H. Sadlier, published by Sadlier School, 2014. This textbook will be used by students in grades 6-8.

Policy Review – First Reading – Policy 4418.3 – Sudden Cardiac Arrest Awareness for Intramural and Interscholastic Athletics □ The Board conducted a first reading of this new policy which was developed to codify certain statutory requirements for coaches and school districts relating to obtaining a signed informed consent form regarding sudden cardiac arrest developed by the state prior to each athletic season and other related responsibilities. Since this was a first reading, no action was required; the second reading/adoption will take place at the May 9, 2016 meeting.

Adjustment to the 2015-16 School Calendar □ The Board approved Superintendent Erwin’s recommendation to reduce the final two student days for students in grades PK-8. The last day for students in grades PK-8 will be Friday, June 10, 2016, which will be the 181st student day and will be a full day. PK-8 teachers will have professional development activities on Monday and Tuesday, June 13 and 14. The last day for students at Berlin High School will remain Tuesday, June 14, 2016, which will be the 180th student day and will be an early dismissal day.

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The next regular meeting of the Board of Education will be held on Monday, May 9, 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–Peck Memorial Library, and on the district’s website at www.berlinschools.org.