

*THE BERLIN BOARD OF EDUCATION*

# *THE BULLETIN BOARD*

*A SUMMARY OF THE MAY 8, 2017 BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING*

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

***Berlin Bravos*** □ Berlin Bravos is a program whereby 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 for their accomplishments: Devon Moscaritolo, a grade one student at Mary E. Griswold School, for not letting some struggles stop him from working closely with his teachers to continue to grow and achieve; Zachary Kumm, a grade five student at Mary E. Griswold School, for setting a good example for other students in a quiet way; Leah Prendergast, a grade two student at Richard D. Hubbard School, for being an inspiration to each and every member of the school community; Grace Ramirez, a grade four student at Emma Hart Willard School, for her kindness, academic determination, and efforts to show her Willard Pride; and Ava Reynolds, grade one student at Emma Hart Willard School, for demonstrating a readiness for learning each day.

***Unified Sports Program*** □ The Board recognized the Unified Sports Program at Berlin High School. Berlin High School was selected as a Banner Unified Champion School for 2016-17. The Banner Unified Champion School Program is part of the Special Olympics National School Recognition Program for schools to be acknowledged for their achievements with inclusion of students with disabilities and for their successful partnership with Special Olympics. Berlin High School's Unified Sports Program began in 1996. Coached by Marie Siegal (who has coached all 21 years) and Donna Salwocki, our Unified Sports Program includes students with disabilities and their non-disabled peers who participate in soccer, basketball, and track throughout the school year. Berlin High School was recognized by both Special Olympics Connecticut and the Connecticut Interscholastic Athletic Conference as a school that has demonstrated commitment to inclusion of students with disabilities by fully adopting the following three components: a Special Olympics Unified Sports Program; inclusive youth leadership; and whole school engagement in the inclusion of students with disabilities. Connecticut is only one of three states where this level of achievement is available for this year. As part of the recognition, the banner will be displayed in the Berlin High School Gibney Gymnasium with a sticker denoting this year's honor and hopefully many years to come.

***Audience of Citizens*** □ Tim Thurston addressed the Board concerning the RFP for the outsourcing of the school food services program to an independent, third-party food service management company. He offered insights on his experiences in dealing with these groups over the years and noted the current food service staff's commitment to their work and the overall well-being of the students. He suggested the Board look at other options, such as regional directors and a two-tier system, to economize the program.

***Personnel*** □ The Board accepted the retirement of Sheila Riley, teacher of kindergarten at Emma Hart Willard School, effective June 30, 2017, and thanked her for the 33 years of service she has provided to the youth of Berlin and wished her good health and happiness in her retirement years.

***Facilities Related Updates*** □ Director of Business Operations Eva Gallupe reported that on April 16, 2017, the high school sustained a leak which wiped out the radio station. Over the next couple of weeks, the radio station will be temporarily set up and, over the summer, work will be done to bring it back to where it was prior to the leak and be ready for the start of the new school year.

***2017-2018 Board of Education's Operating Budget*** □ Superintendent of Schools David B. Erwin reported the Town Council adopted the Board of Education's Operating Budget, and a few weeks ago he provided Board members with

his recommendations to meet the Town Council's reduction. Due to resignations and retirements, three individuals will be notified that they will be brought back. Assistant Principal Greer has taken a position with the Wethersfield Public Schools, which will help ease the administrative reorganization. Mr. Tencza plans to speak with the Communications Committee to address how the Board can better communicate the budget process to the public.

**BOE Retreat – June 8 and 10** □ The Board tentatively scheduled their retreat for June 8 and 10.

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**The next regular meeting of the Board of Education will be held on Monday, May 22, 2017, 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](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–Peck Memorial Library, and on the district's website at [www.berlinschools.org](http://www.berlinschools.org).*