

THE BERLIN BOARD OF EDUCATION

THE BULLETIN BOARD

A SUMMARY OF THE MAY 22, 2017 BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

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

Student Presentations – Emma Hart Willard School □ Blast Program: Ali Curran and Megan Syta shared an overview of the BLAST Program (Berlin Learning and Succeeding Together). The BLAST Program is a districtwide program servicing students from preschool through Grade 5 at Willard School. The staff shared how the program works on a daily, weekly, and monthly basis through a brief video presentation. Student presenters Emmanuel Abayomi, Julia Blair, Ava Cleland, Gabby Dhanraj, Brandon Humphries, Brianna Kelly, Thomas Kiernan, Hudson Sassu-Martin, Patrick Serafin, Caitlyn Sinnott and Taylor Wilcox shared their favorite part of the BLAST Program. ***Technology:*** Willard School showcased how they incorporate video technology into their curriculum. Elijah Clapp, technology integration specialist for Willard School, spoke about how video can be used to help students improve their speaking and listening skills. Jack Mullally, first grade, and Aurora Logan, fourth grade, presented examples of how they have used video in their schoolwork this year.

Special Presentation – Art Awards □ The district recently held its annual art show at The New Britain Museum of American Art. Many pieces of student artwork were on display. The following artists were recognized for their award winning artwork: Superintendent’s Choice – “Winter Woods” by Maisie Hayes, Grade 10; Assistant Superintendent’s Choice – “Movie Night” by Lauren Ferraguto, Grade 11; Griswold Principal’s Choice – “Fall Leaves” by Julia Palmese, Grade 5; Hubbard Principal’s Choice – “Winter in Blue” by Sara Guzzardi, Grade 5; Willard Principal’s Choice – “The Train Station Express” by Alliana Wicik, Grade 5; McGee Principal’s Choice – “Dictionary Illustration: Jellyfish” by Makayla Gorski, Grade 8; and Berlin High School Principal’s Choice – “Running Love” by Annalise Gormley, Grade 12.

Audience of Citizens □ Susan Kozlowski addressed the Board concerning the situation with the radio station and drainage issues within the high school; Kimberly Downes addressed the Board concerning the high school auditorium not being as impressive as she thought it would be. She questioned the size, viewing and the removal of seats for the pit band; and Mary Ellen Maloney recommended Board members attend Mr. BHS in the future.

Personnel - Retirements □ The Board accepted the retirement of Gail Dwyer, teacher of family and consumer science at Catherine M. McGee School, effective June 30, 2017. The Board thanked her for the twenty-seven years of service she has provided to the youth of Berlin and wished her good health and happiness in her retirement years. The Board also accepted the retirement of Carol Batorski, literacy specialist at Richard D. Hubbard School, effective June 30, 2017. The Board thanked her for the thirty-one years of service she has provided to the youth of Berlin and wished her good health and happiness in her retirement years.

Summer Instructional Program □ Supervisors of Special Education Michelle Zeuschner and Cindy Martin reviewed the extended school-year programs for students with disabilities. These programs are based on PPT recommendations for specific students and provide students with an opportunity to maintain their learning over the summer vacation. There will be two sessions: a five-week program that runs from June 26–July 28 for preschool through Grade 5; and a four-week program that runs from July 5–July 28 for preschool through Grade 12. Students also will receive all the special education services they need over the summer, including occupational therapy, physical therapy, speech therapy, additional reading services and counseling. There will be a teacher providing PE/movement at the elementary level. The tentative numbers for students that will participate in the extended school-year programs are fairly consistent with those from last year. The number of teachers has been reduced as the secondary level is being

consolidated as some students do not consistently attend. CREC has indicated that it does not have the funds to pay for transporting Choice students this year so the district will be responsible for the cost of their transportation.

Executive Session - Unaffiliated Administrators' Contracts and Personnel Not Covered by Collective Bargaining □

The Board approved changes to the contracts for the Director of Business Operations, Director of Human Resources, Director of Pupil Personnel Services, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction, and personnel not covered by collective bargaining.

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The next regular meeting of the Board of Education will be held on Monday, June 12, 2017, at Berlin High School, beginning at 7:00 P.M., in the Library/Media Center, 139 Patterson Way, Berlin. 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.