

THE BERLIN BOARD OF EDUCATION

THE BULLETIN BOARD

A SUMMARY OF THE SEPTEMBER 26, 2016 BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

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

Student Presentation – Catherine M. McGee School □ Mrs. Orabi's French students, Kylie Bacon, Lyla Bennett, Colleen Clark, Alethea Constantine, and Sephora Judkins; and Mrs. Rogers' Spanish students, Emily Czerepuszko, Emily Hyjek, and Julia Oakes, engaged in French and Spanish introductory conversations, sang a French alphabet song and provided reasons why learning a world language is important.

Committee Reports/Correspondence to the Board □ ***Ad-Hoc Committee for Policy Review/Revision:*** Mr. Oakes reported that the Ad-Hoc Committee met prior to the Board meeting and reviewed a number of policies which appear on the agenda for a first reading. ***Student Achievement Committee:*** Ms. Angelico-Stetson reported that the Student Achievement Committee met prior to the Board meeting and discussed moving the graduation ceremonies from Welte Hall Auditorium to the Gibney Gymnasium at Berlin High School, which holds approximately the same amount of people. They also discussed having a simulcast in the auditorium, which would afford students additional tickets. The cost of using the Gibney Gymnasium, at the very least, is half. ***Correspondence to the Board:*** Superintendent Erwin shared correspondence received from the director of the Sheff Office concerning the reductions to the Open Choice Academic and Social Support Grant.

Personnel – Retirement – Mary E. Griswold School – Teacher of Grade 1 □ The Board accepted the retirement of Amy Kulak, teacher of Grade 1 at Mary E. Griswold School, effective June 30, 2017. The Board thanked Ms. Kulak for the 52 years of service she has provided to students and wished her a long, healthy, and happy retirement.

High School Graduation Ceremony □ The Board accepted the recommendation of Principal Kennedy to move the commencement ceremonies from the Welte Hall Auditorium, at Central Connecticut State University, to the Gibney Gymnasium, at Berlin High School, on the 183rd day or last day of school as set by the Board of Education.

Facilities Related Updates – Berlin High School – Code Renovations □ Superintendent of Schools David B. Erwin reported that the choral room opened today and the jazz room is open. The band room and auditorium will follow shortly. Doug Solek reported the auditorium is approximately two weeks behind and should be ready in mid- to late-October. The trailers will be moving out this week and the site will be restored. Superintendent Erwin suggested that the Board discuss a date for the formal ribbon cutting ceremony at its next meeting.

Summer Program Update □ Director of Pupil Personnel Services Linda Holian and Supervisors of Special Education Michelle Zeuschner and Cynthia Martin reported on the ESY program offered to students qualifying for these services. Ms. Zeuschner reported 131 students were recommended to attend summer school and a total of 97 students actually participated. Ten were CHOICE students. Ms. Martin reported that one post-graduate student participated in summer school and four students did work through the Bureau of Rehabilitation Services (BRS). The state has indicated the BRS may not provide jobs this coming summer; therefore, the district may have to look at programming for post-graduate students next summer. There were 18 teachers, 29 paraprofessionals, an occupational therapist, physical therapist, speech therapist, reading teacher, school psychologist, and the board certified behavioral analyst in the program. PE/movement was provided for all elementary and preschool students.

Policy Review/Revision □ **Second Reading/Adoption:** The Board adopted new Policy 9051 – Student Representation on the Board of Education; and revised Policy 6146 – High School Graduation Requirements, as presented. **First Reading:** Shipman & Goodwin LLP recommended three new policies and revisions to many current policies as a result of the 2016 legislative session and the Every Student Succeeds Act. The recommended revisions and new policies were reviewed by the Ad-Hoc Committee for Policy Review/Revision on September 26, 2016. Since this was a first reading, no action was required; the second reading/approval will take place at the October 11, 2016 meeting.

Executive Session □ The Board entered into executive session to discuss a student issue.

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The next meeting of the Board of Education will be held on Tuesday, October 11, 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, or on the district's website at www.berlinschools.org.