

THE BERLIN BOARD OF EDUCATION

THE BULLETIN BOARD

A SUMMARY OF THE OCTOBER 24, 2016 BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

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

Student Presentation – Mary E. Griswold School □ Mrs. Claire Cloukey, guidance counselor, has been working with a group of fifth graders to plan programs to teach all students about following the Griswold Code of Conduct. These students comprise the SOARS Committee. SOARS stands for Showcasing Outstanding and Respectful Students. The group shared information about the first program that they implemented as well as their plans for the rest of the year. Students on this committee are Shaely Alicea, Glenn Fearn, Madelyn Lazzara, Charles Pinchera, and Matthew Raynock.

Committee Reports/Correspondence to the Board □ Student Achievement Committee: Ms. Angelico-Stetson, committee chairperson, reported that the committee met and held a comprehensive discussion regarding the venue and date for the commencement ceremonies. Correspondence to the Board: The superintendent shared a thank you card received from Joan Schmidt. Mr. Oakes shared his point of view concerning a letter that appeared in the newspaper in which some Town Council members accused the Board, and more specifically him, for not accurately representing what occurred at the September 26, 2016 Board meeting. At the October 11, 2016 Board meeting, Mr. Oakes reported that on September 26, 2016, the Student Achievement Committee met and discussed options for BHS graduation and then made a recommendation to the Board of Education at their regular meeting that same evening and the Board of Education voted on it. The consensus is the Student Achievement Committee had a secret vote during their meeting, which was not the case. Mr. Oakes commented that it is very disconcerting to him, and for the town as a whole, as to how matters are being governed, as it appears matters are not being fully vetted by the Town Council.

Berlin High School Commencement □ The Board approved reversing their previous decision and moved commencement ceremonies back to Welte Hall for the 2017 graduation year and will establish a committee of parents, inclusive of the two Board-appointed student representatives, to further review and discuss the issue of the location and date of commencement subsequent to 2017.

Audience of Citizens □ Many students and parents attended the meeting concerning the change in venue for the high school graduation ceremonies. The following citizens addressed the Board: Krista Hilbie, Nancy Kennure, Allison Formica, Eileen Hebert, Corey Whiteside, John Richards, Susan Bordonaro, Mary Ellen Maloney, and David Kall. The parents noted their appreciation in the Board revisiting the issue and the reversal of their previous decision. They addressed the Board concerning the Student Achievement Committee meeting held this evening as several parents were under the impression the public would be able to participate in the discussion but it was not allowed. They addressed the lack of communication to the community. Several parents indicated their willingness to participate on the committee that will be established to further review and discuss the location and date of commencement subsequent to 2017.

Facilities Related Updates – Berlin High School Code Renovations □ Superintendent Erwin reported the auditorium wood flooring is to be completed tonight; sanding of the stage floor was expected to begin today and the staining is expected to be finished by the end of the week or early next week; carpet and tile are being installed and should be completed this week; the final rows of seats will follow; and painting of railings is to be completed this week. The following work remains without a firm completion date: fabric wrap acoustic panels and wrap perforated metal column

in wood and paint it. There was a plumbing fitting leak below the boiler room and FIP Construction performed the repair and clean up. The sheetrock will be replaced. There was no further damage. Superintendent Erwin suggested the Board discuss a date for the formal ribbon-cutting ceremony.

Report on District Test Results □ Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction Brian Benigni reviewed the results from the spring 2016 testing. The results included the Smarter Balanced (SBA) scores for students in grades 3-8 and 11, 5th and 8th Grade Science CMT, 10th Grade Science CAPT, SAT, ACT and Advanced Placement results. The information shared explained trends in the student performance data, the impact on planning for continuous improvement, professional development offerings and curriculum to be reviewed. These results will also help to determine future resource allocations. School administrative staff, including Francis Kennedy, Salvatore Urso, Matthew Correia, Laurie Gjerpen, Alfred Souza, Barbara Ventura, Kelly Maio, Heather Gish, David Kitzman, Kara Watson and Deb Thibault were also in attendance for the presentation.



As this was Mr. Rasmussen's last meeting, Mr. Oakes thanked him for his assistance, insight, experience, opinions, perspective and for dedicating his time on the Board of Education.

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The next meeting of the Board of Education will be held on Monday, November 28, 2016, beginning at 7:00 p.m., at Catherine M. McGee School, 899 Norton Road, 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, or on the district's website at www.berlinschools.org.