

***THE BERLIN BOARD OF EDUCATION***

***THE BULLETIN BOARD***

***A SUMMARY OF THE NOVEMBER 28, 2016 BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING***

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

***Board President Timothy Oakes introduced student board representatives Jasmine Nappi, Grade 11, and Steven Bordonaro, Grade 12. This is the first time students have been representatives on the Board.***

***Student Presentation*** □ The McGee School Brass Ensemble and Sax Quartet performed prelude music prior to the start of the meeting. The Brass Ensemble performers were Brendan Malcarne, Ryan McGowan, Ben Roe, Toby Simard, Alex Tzetzto, and Sue Wisniewski. Members of the Sax Quartet were Alison Cavanagh, Alethea Constantine, Lillian Hartel, and Joseph Manzi. The Spartan Singers performed the “National Anthem” and “Imagine.” The Spartan Singers were Julia Arcila, Kylie Bacon, Tori Cascone, Amber Cistulli, Isaac Cortes, Liayziah Doucette, Abby Ferland, Emma Labickas, Eryn Riggott, Olivia Robertson, Emily Roche, Olivia Salina, Laura Sarrazin, Kyla Smulski, and Katherine Terlecky.

***Awards & Presentations in Conjunction with American Education Week*** □ Former Board Member William Rasmussen was recognized for his service to the Board of Education.

**CABE Board of Distinction Award** □ CABE believes that Boards of Education and superintendents which exhibit the most effective leadership are characterized by their ability to work together as teams. The CABE Board Recognition Awards are designed to recognize Boards which work effectively in this manner. In order to appropriately recognize those Boards which are truly exemplary, CABE established a second level of awards, the Board of Distinction Award. Only Boards which have achieved level one distinction at least twice in the prior four years are eligible to receive the Board of Distinction Award. At the CABE/CAPSS Conference on November 19, 2016, the Berlin Board of Education was awarded the CABE Board of Distinction Award.

**Superintendent’s CAPSS (Connecticut Association of Public School Superintendents) Student Awards** □ Students were selected for this prestigious annual award based upon criteria such as demonstrated leadership to the school community, community service and service to others, and academic prowess relative to ability. Awards were presented to fifth graders Madison Stec and Jack Salerno from Griswold School; Emma Lavoie and Calvin DeLude from Hubbard School; and Angela Gross and Elijah Burgos from Willard School. Also recognized were eighth graders Ashley Wenzel and Samuel Turgeon from McGee School; and seniors Kara Boninsegna and Steven Bordonaro from Berlin High School. Each student received a special CAPSS diploma.

**Introduction of 2017 Building Teachers of the Year and the District Teacher of the Year** □ Mr. Erwin recognized the following building Teachers of the Year for 2017: Danielle Salina from Griswold; Nancy DeBlasio from Hubbard; Dara Flom from Willard; Michael Eagle from McGee; and Casey Downes from Berlin High School. Dara Flom went on to become the Berlin School District’s Teacher of the Year. They each received a copy of Parker J. Palmer’s book, The Courage To Teach.

**2017 Paraprofessional of the Year** □ Mr. Erwin recognized Wendy Falck, from Berlin High School, as the 2017 Paraprofessional of the Year.

**Support Staff Recognition Awards** □ Support staff were selected to be recognized for their outstanding performance and dedication to the students, staff, and parents of the Berlin Public Schools. This year’s recipients were Anna Kipphut, Griswold; Miriam Ithier, Hubbard; Maureen Mullins, Willard; John Arroyo, McGee; Wendy Rawlings, Berlin High; and Christopher Moccio for the Board of Education Central Office.

**“Friend of Berlin Schools” Awards** □ The “Friend of Berlin Schools” awards are presented annually to those volunteers nominated by each school’s administration, PTO or community, and selected by the Board of Education for their outstanding contributions as a volunteer who has devoted time and energy to helping the children and schools in the district. Superintendent of Schools David B. Erwin presented awards to this year’s recipients: Dawn Steimer, Griswold; Jennifer Favara, Hubbard; Sherry Rice, Willard; Gina Munch, McGee; and Joanne Humen for Berlin High.

Superintendent Erwin also presented all award recipients with the General Assembly Official Citation introduced by Representative Joe Aresimowicz, 30<sup>th</sup> District; Majority Leader Representative Catherine F. Abercrombie, 83<sup>rd</sup> District; and Senator Terry B. Gerratana, 6<sup>th</sup> District. The Connecticut General Assembly offered its sincerest congratulations and the entire membership extended its very best wishes on this memorable occasion and expressed the hope for continued success.

**Special Presentation from the Kensington-Berlin Sunrise Rotary Club** □ Hannah Lavoie and Nicole Cyr, members of the Berlin High School Interact Club, on behalf of Scott Skates, chairman of the Kensington-Berlin Sunrise Rotary Club’s “The Gift of Words” dictionary project, announced to the Board the Rotary Club’s donation of dictionaries to all third grade students as part of the National Rotary Dictionary Project. This was the tenth year that the Rotary Club generously provided dictionaries to each third grade student. Third grade students Julia Kowalewska from Griswold School, Alyssa Walker from Hubbard School, and Grace Buchholz and Matteo Modifica from Willard School thanked the Rotary Club for the dictionaries.

**Annual Election of Officers** □ Mr. Matthew Tencza was elected to serve as president and Dr. Kari Sassu was elected to serve as secretary.

**Annual Schedule of Regular Meetings** □ A motion regarding the annual agenda was made. The following Board of Education meeting dates were approved: 2017 – February 13 & 27, March 13 & 27, April 24, May 8 & 22, June 12, July 10, August 14, September 11 & 25, October 10 & 23, November 27, December 11, and 2018 – January 8 & 22.

**Motion for Fiscal Management** □ The Board designated a treasurer and assistant treasurers for the Berlin High School Enterprise Fund, the Berlin Public Schools Activity Fund, and the Cafeteria Fund for 2016-2017.

**Appointment of Board Legal Counsel for 2016-2017** □ The law firm of Shipman & Goodwin of Hartford was appointed to continue as the Board of Education counsel.

**Facilities Related Updates** □ Director of Business Operations Eva Gallupe reported the project has reached substantial completion with minor punch list items remaining.

**Textbook Adoption** □ The board adopted the textbook, “*They Say, I Say*”: *The Moves That Matter in Academic Writing*, by Gerald Graff and Cathy Birkenstein and published by W. W. Norton & Company New York/London, copyright 2014.

**Revision to the 2017-2018 School Calendar** □ The Board approved revising the 2017-2018 school calendar to change the date of the Berlin Fair from September 29 to September 15.

**Executive Session – Pending Claim and Litigation – FOIA Complaint** □ The Board discussed a pending claim and litigation regarding an FOIA complaint.

**The next meeting of the Board of Education will be held on Monday, December 12, 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](http://www.berlinschools.org).**