

***THE BERLIN BOARD OF EDUCATION***

# ***THE BULLETIN BOARD***

***A SUMMARY OF THE JANUARY 9, 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 where 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: Elizabeth Fitzsimmons, grade four student at Griswold School, for being a role model for her peers and inspiring others to meet the challenges of fourth grade. She is especially helpful to students who struggle socially, as she makes certain to include them in all classroom activities; James Arni, grade two student at Griswold School, for always working to improve himself and be a contributing member of the school; Callie Graby, grade one student at Hubbard School, for consistently being a role model for her peers and always displaying “bucket filling” behavior in the classroom; Ellie Naumann, grade four student at Hubbard School, for consistently exhibiting pride in her work and always putting forth her best effort; and Yahya Nadeem, grade one student at Willard School, for being a role model for his classmates by demonstrating all the traits of Willard Pride.

***Committee Reports/Correspondence to the Board*** □ Student Representatives: Mr. Bordonaro reported the Berlin High School Drama Club had its annual fall performance and reported on recent and upcoming events for the Interact Club, National Honor Society and Upbeat. He reported the BHS unified sports season begins soon with their first home game on January 20, 2017, and students are excited for the Habitat for Humanity field trip to Tennessee. Ms. Nappi reported the junior class has started meeting with their guidance counselors to prepare for college, the second quarter ends this week with mid-terms beginning next week, and preparation has begun for Capstone projects that will be presented at the end of the school year. Communications Committee: Ms. Miller reported that the committee discussed ways to improve communications among the community, the possibility of Board press releases on a regular basis, and dates for Parent Advisory Council meetings and other parent meetings that they may be interested in attending. Student Achievement Committee: Dr. Sassu reported that the committee was presented with an overview of additional offerings and changes to the high school program of studies for 2017-2018. Correspondence to the Board: Superintendent Erwin shared thank-you notes received from Maureen Mullins and Judy Kozikowski.

***Facilities Related Updates – Berlin High School Code Renovations*** □ Director of Business Operations Eva Gallupe reported punch list items are in the process of being completed and there will be a follow-up meeting on January 10 to discuss proposals to fix the ongoing issues with the chiller/heating system. The ribbon cutting ceremony is scheduled for Saturday, February 11, 2017.

***2017-2018 Superintendent’s Proposed Budget Presentation*** □ Superintendent David B. Erwin presented his proposed 2017-2018 budget to the Board. The proposed budget has an overall increase of \$1,952,440 or 4.65%. Salary increases represent the largest driver (1.93%) and the increase in the benefits account represents an additional 1.63% of the increase. Contracted services, tuition and transportation increases also impact the request by 1.13%. There are very minor increases in other areas and, coupled with the modest decrease in utilities, the requested total increase is 4.65%. Mr. Erwin is proposing that two teaching positions at McGee School and one at Hubbard School be eliminated due to declining enrollment. The building-level budgets remain at the same level as the current year – no increases, just maintenance. The Board will meet again on Tuesday, January 10, 2017, and will have individual presentations from

the elementary, middle school and high school principals. Site and Building and Capital requests will also be presented.

**Executive Session** □ The Board entered into an executive session to discuss negotiations with the Food Service Managers and a matter of personnel. After the executive session, the Board took action to approve the tentative agreement reached between the Berlin Board of Education and UPSEU, Local 424 – Unit 57 – Food Service Managers.

**The next regular meeting of the Board of Education will be held on Monday, January 23, 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, or on the district's website at [www.berlinschools.org](http://www.berlinschools.org).*