

*THE BERLIN BOARD OF EDUCATION*

# *THE BULLETIN BOARD*

*A SUMMARY OF THE FEBRUARY 13, 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: Nickolaos Halkias, Grade 12 student at Berlin High School, for balancing service with diligence to produce desirable results; Steven Miano, Grade 12 student at Berlin High School, for demonstrating academic focus while participating in myriad co-curricular activities; Connor Reed, Grade 7 student at Catherine M. McGee School, for giving his best effort each day to be successful; and Mason Michaud, Grade 7 student at Catherine M. McGee School, for being a motivated, engaged, and hard-working young man who has very high expectations for himself.

***Student Presentation*** □ On October 28, 2016, during spirit week, students in Ms. Miller's AP Studio Art class took on the challenge of painting a character from Tim Burton's "The Nightmare Before Christmas" movie onto a BHS student model of their choice. Each artist was given a Tyvek suit to paint on for the challenge. Face paint was used on faces and hands. The students involved were: Gabriel Dombrowski, painting Jack Goodwin as "The Mayor"; Annalise Gormley, painting Xander DeVoe as "The Scientist"; Noah Neault, painting Jacob Neault as "Jack Skellington"; Donny Roski, painting Emma Roski as "Sally"; and Jillian Balaban, photographer and backdrop painter. The characters were on display in the cafeteria during all lunch waves and students and staff voted on character design and performance art. On Thursday, December 22, 2016, they did something similar and kicked off the holidays by taking on the challenge of painting various winter animation characters. The students involved were: Gabriel Dombrowski, painting Jack Goodwin as "Snow Miser"; Annalise Gormley, painting Xander DeVoe as "Abominable Snowman"; Noah Neault, painting Jacob Neault as "Grinch"; Donny Roski, painting Emma Roski as "Heat Miser"; Hannah Schulz, painting/sculpting Quin Burns as "Frosty"; and Jillian Balaban, photographer and backdrop painter. The characters were on display in the cafeteria during all lunch waves to spread holiday cheer while students and staff voted on character design and performance art. Short videos of these activities and the video that inspired these events were shown.

***Audience of Citizens*** □ Rebecca and Gregory Starr, of Hudson Street, Berlin, addressed the Board in support of the Effective School Solutions program. They shared their experiences with the program and requested that the Board continue to support this program.

***Personnel - Retirement*** □ The Board accepted the retirement of Mary Cottle Smeallie, teacher of art at Richard D. Hubbard School, to be effective June 30, 2017. The Board thanked Mrs. Smeallie for her eleven years of service to the youth of Berlin and wished her good health and happiness in her retirement. Mr. Oakes thanked Mrs. Smeallie for taking the lead on the "Art Around Town" project.

***Facilities Related Updates – Code Renovations – Berlin High School*** □ Director of Business Operations Eva Gallupe reported that 95% of the heating and cooling system issues have been resolved and weekly meetings continue to discuss the ongoing issues. There is an attempt to meet with the manufacturer and commissioning agent to understand why one of the DOAS units is not coming online. Mr. Erwin noted his appreciation of the presence of the Board members at the Berlin High School ribbon-cutting ceremony.

**Adoption of the Proposed Board of Education Budget for 2017-2018** □ The Board of Education spent the last month reviewing and discussing the Superintendent's Proposed Budget for 2017-2018. The Board met on January 26 to review the budget details, including information from presentations by the principals and central office administration. The Board held an informational meeting for the public so community members could provide input on the budget prior to approval. The Board approved the Board of Education's 2017-2018 Operating Budget at a level of \$43,932,664, an increase of 4.7%. The Site and Building Budget was approved at a level of \$585,700 and the Capital Budget was approved at a level of \$679,102. The budget will now be forwarded to the Town Council. A complete copy of the Board of Education's Adopted Budget for 2017-2018 will be available on the district's website.

**Personnel Matter** □ The Board approved the superintendent's recommendation to extend family sick leave to an employee.

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**The next regular meeting of the Board of Education will be held on Monday, February 27, 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).*