

*THE BERLIN BOARD OF EDUCATION*

# *THE BULLETIN BOARD*

*A SUMMARY OF THE FEBRUARY 27, 2017 BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING*

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

***Student Presentation – Berlin High School*** □ For the newest AP Computer Science class offered at Berlin High School, AP Computer Science Principles, Mr. Cwirka’s students had to create a personal website about themselves and present it to the class. The students had to create the website from the ground up, come up with a custom design and layout for their site, and include a minimum of four unique pages into their site. This class is about web development, where the students learn three programming languages at once (HTML, CSS, and Javascript), and combine all three to make their finished product. Seniors Sumara Ali and Michelle Tsun went above and beyond expectations and produced professional-quality work which they shared with the Board.

***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 Leo Veleas for being a staple in the Berlin Athletic Program for the last 33 years, 30 of which have been as the head varsity baseball coach. He has been a pillar of integrity and is revered by the entire coaching staff. Over his illustrious career, he won 5 state championships and has been a runner-up 5 times and has won 15 conference championships as well. Among his many accolades, he has been the New Haven Register Coach of the Year, the Connecticut Coaches Association Coach of the Year, and was nominated twice for National Coach of the Year. He has been inducted into the Connecticut State Coaches Hall of Fame and, more recently, the Berlin High School Hall of Fame. Last April, he won his 500<sup>th</sup> game while at Sage Park. It is evident from the more than 70 student-athletes who have gone on to play college baseball (two to the major leagues) that he has built and continues to build a winning tradition for the Berlin Public Schools.

***Personnel - Retirement*** □ The Board accepted the retirement of David Scannell, library/media specialist at Berlin High School, effective at the end of the 2016-2017 school year, and thanked Mr. Scannell for the thirty-six years of service he has provided to the youth of Berlin and wished him good health and happiness in his retirement.

***Facilities Related Updates – Berlin High School Code Renovations*** □ Director of Business Operations Eva Gallupe updated the Board concerning the heating and cooling system. The hot water will be drained out of the system so that it can be balanced and commissioned properly. Meetings are held every two weeks to make sure this item moves forward.

***Open Choice Program Participation*** □ Superintendent David B. Erwin reported there are 94 currently-enrolled Open Choice students, of which 81 are expected to advance one grade next year. Due to classroom sizes, Mr. Erwin recommended an additional 23 seats for the 2017-2018 school year. Mr. Erwin provided a breakdown of his recommendation for placement: 6 seats will be offered in kindergarten (3 at Griswold, 2 at Willard and 1 at Hubbard); 5 seats will be offered in Grade 6 at McGee; and 12 seats will be offered in Grade 9 at Berlin High School. The State Department of Education has requested that the district accommodate siblings wherever possible. Included in these numbers are 2 seats for sibling placements. All Board members approved Mr. Erwin’s recommendation. Messrs. Erwin and Benigni will attend a meeting next week to voice their concerns about the program and the resources necessary to address the needs of students.

**The next regular meeting of the Board of Education will be held on Monday, March 13, 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).*