

THE BERLIN BOARD OF EDUCATION

THE BULLETIN BOARD

A SUMMARY OF THE MARCH 27, 2017 BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

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

Student Presentation - Upbeat □ Upbeat coordinators gave a presentation about their houses and what they accomplished so far this year. Student presenters were Kara Boninsegna – Sports and Health, Hero, and Willard House; Bridget Fox – McGee, Griswold, and Senior Citizen House; Haley Hauptfeld – AAE, Rescue, and BHS Unified House; Theo Reed – Entertainment, Hospital, and Lions and Mitchell House; and Zoe Zimmer – GEM, Hubbard, and Big Vin House.

Audience of Citizens □ Patricia Labadia addressed the Board, as a parent and a paraprofessional at McGee School, concerning the cuts that are being considered to the exploratory and sports programs at the middle and high schools. For the benefit of the students, she requested that the Board reconsider and re-evaluate these cuts to the budget.

Personnel – Retirement – Emma Hart Willard School □ The Board accepted the retirement of Sharon Roeder, speech-language pathologist at Emma Hart Willard School, effective June 30, 2017. They thanked Ms. Roeder for the twenty-three years of service she has provided to the youth of Berlin and wished her good health and happiness in her retirement years.

Establishment of Berlin High School Graduation Date (effective after April 1) □ Berlin High School graduation is held on the Sunday following the 180th day of school. The Board set the Berlin High School graduation date for Sunday, June 18, 2017. The ceremony will be held at Central Connecticut State University beginning at 1:30 p.m.

Discussion of Study to Reconfigure/Close Hubbard Elementary School □ The Board tabled considering a study to present options for the continued utilization or the closure of Hubbard School; and took action to direct the superintendent and staff to study and present options for the reconfiguration of the elementary schools in preparation for the 2018-19 school year and beyond.

Budget Update □ Mr. Tencza reported the letter to Councilman Evans went out as did a letter to parents. The letters contained possible ways to reduce the Board of Education budget to meet the budget proposed by the Town Council. He stated that since the letters were sent out, some of the options have changed as the superintendent has been working with administrators to come up with different configurations in the best interest of students. Superintendent Erwin reported the Town Budget Public Hearing will be held on Tuesday night and the Town Council will have to adopt its budget by April 5, 2017. It will then go to referendum. Superintendent Erwin proposed the Board hold a special meeting on April 10, 2017, to vote on the possible ways to reduce the budget and take action to direct the administration to plan for the cutbacks. Non-tenured teachers impacted by the cuts will need to receive letters prior to May 1. Mr. Tencza reported security cameras (\$45,000) and replacement of broken lockers in the boys' locker room at McGee (\$46,000) have been moved to the Site and Building budget, and the renovation of lower level classrooms and the PPS office space at Willard (\$110,000) and a new phone system at McGee (\$125,000) have been eliminated.

Executive Session □ The Board entered into an executive session to discuss a transition location for special education and the transportation contract.

Transportation Contract □ The Board voted to extend the transportation contract with The New Britain Transportation Company through June 30, 2022, as negotiated.



The next regular meeting of the Board of Education will be held on Monday, April 24, 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.

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, and on the district's website at www.berlinschools.org.