

THE BERLIN BOARD OF EDUCATION

THE BULLETIN BOARD

A SUMMARY OF THE OCTOBER 10, 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 we recognize 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 acknowledged the following individuals: Reagan Watson, Grade 5 student from Griswold School, for consistently demonstrating strong character, integrity and empathy, and encouraging her classmates to be their personal best; Brayden Bak, Grade 4 student from Griswold School, for consistently demonstrating a strong work ethic and a high level of compassion toward his classmates; Ryan Starr, kindergarten student from Hubbard School, for being a hard working student who gives 100% effort, always completes tasks in a conscientious manner, and takes pride in his daily responsibilities and accomplishments; and Franyaret Rivera, Grade 5 student from Hubbard School, for being a kind-hearted student who has a unique, special gift of making every person around him feel better.

Committee Reports/Correspondence to the Board □ Correspondence to the Board: Superintendent Erwin shared correspondence received from Vicki Muggleston and others from the Transition Academy.

Old Business □ Transportation Policy: This matter was referred to the Ad-Hoc Committee for Policy Review/Revision. The committee will meet prior to the October 23, 2017 Board of Education meeting and will provide an update to the full Board at its meeting on October 23, 2017. School Liaisons: The Communications Committee will meet to discuss school liaisons once the new Board is seated. BOE Retreat Work – Continuation: This matter will be discussed again once the new Board is seated. Wellness and Healthy Foods: The Student Achievement Committee is scheduled to meet after the Board of Education meeting this evening.

New Business □ Athletics – Pay to Participate Discussion: Because of the uncertainty with the state budget, Mr. Tencza indicated that in order for the Board to continue doing its job, there needs to be further research and discussion concerning available options to maintain its educational, athletic and extra-curricular services. The Board referred the matter of “Pay to Participate” to the Educational Resources Committee for review and additional discussion and requested that the committee report back to the full Board no later than at the January 8, 2018 meeting.

Audience of Citizens □ Residents Mark Sweitzer, Jan Zagorski, Michelle Lallier, and Mayor Mark Kaczynski addressed the Board concerning paying to participate in athletics and the impact it may have on the district. Mayor Kaczynski acknowledged that central office leadership has met with the Interim Town Manager and Finance Director regarding a contingency plan for when the state budget is passed and noted his appreciation of the Board’s hard work. Mr. Tencza thanked all for their comments and conveyed that the Board will conduct further research to see if “Pay to Participate” is a viable consideration and would want community input before any decisions are made.

Facilities Related Updates □ Director of Business Operations Eva Gallupe reported that the McGee boys’ locker room project is complete.

Official 2017-2018 District Enrollment Report □ Mr. Erwin highlighted the enrollment as of October 1, 2017. School districts are required each year to report their October 1 enrollment figures to the Connecticut State Department of Education. Mr. Erwin noted enrollment, as of October 1, 2017, is 2,781, down 11 students (.39%) from last year. Enrollment at the high school, middle school and elementary schools was reviewed. As of October 1, 2017, the district has

92 students in the Open Choice Program. Superintendent Erwin noted that enrollment at the elementary schools remains favorable with average class sizes of 20.08 students at Griswold; 19.18 students at Hubbard; and 19.68 students at Willard. The average kindergarten class has 15 students at Willard; 18 students at Hubbard; and 17 students at Griswold.

Executive Session □ The Board entered into executive session to discuss a contract matter. Also in attendance were Mr. Erwin, Mr. Benigni, and Ms. Parsons.

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The next meeting of the Board of Education will be held on Monday, October 23, 2017, beginning at 7:00 p.m., in the Board Meeting Room, at the Berlin Board of Education, 238 Kensington Road, Berlin. 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, or on the district's website at www.berlinschools.org.