

THE BULLETIN BOARD

A SUMMARY OF THE OCTOBER 23, 2017 BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

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

Student Presentation – Mary E. Griswold School □ Mrs. Danielle Salina, library/media specialist, and students presented a video of their work with makerspace in the Library/Media Center this year. The video highlighted the creativity, innovation, and problem-solving that the program supports and included interviews of students. Student presenters were Paul Klonowski, Grade 2; Jacoby Romeiko, Grade 2; and Isabella Salina, Grade 4.

Committee Reports/Correspondence to the Board □ Report of Student Representatives: Mr. Halkias reported on the events occurring this week for spirit week leading up to the pep rally. Ms. Nappi reported that, prior to her arrival, she was at her volleyball game and her team won. Student Achievement Committee: Ms. Angelico-Stetson, committee chairperson, reported that the committee met concerning wellness and healthy food requirements for classroom celebrations and agreed to bring suggestions to the full Board for further discussion. She reported that a majority of the committee is in agreement of a policy that supports food free celebrations based upon the risks involved. Mr. Tencza recommended that this item be brought back to the Student Achievement Committee for an outline of policy items to be considered and suggested a special meeting to allow for community involvement. Superintendent Erwin recommended that a press release be sent out for the special meeting so the community has ample opportunity to attend. Educational Resources Committee: Mr. Tencza reported that Mr. Cugno is working on a list of groups/people to be involved in the first meeting concerning “pay to participate” in athletics. Mr. Cugno reported that the committee would like to begin working on the budget earlier this year to discuss last year’s budget, this year’s budget, and the format of the budget moving forward. Correspondence to the Board: The superintendent shared thank you cards received from Patty Pires, Amy Kulak, and Donna Bergren and family.

Audience of Citizens □ Mayor Mark Kaczynski praised the student presenters for their amazing presentation. He addressed a recent letter that appeared in the *Berlin Citizen*, as well as comments he has heard from citizens, concerning an agreed upon 20% cut to the Board of Education budget. He wanted to make clear that there have been no discussions between the Board and Town Council concerning a 20% cut to the Board of Education budget.

Report on District Test Results □ Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction Brian Benigni, K-12 Director of Literacy and Social Studies Laurie Gjerpen, and Assistant Principal Kara Watson reviewed the results from the spring 2017 testing and responded to the Board’s questions regarding the presentation. The results included the Smarter Balanced (SBA) scores for students in grades 3-8 and 11, 5th and 8th Grade Science CMT, 10th Grade Science CAPT, SAT, ACT and Advanced Placement results. The information shared explained trends in the student performance data, the impact on planning for continuous improvement, professional development offerings and curriculum to be reviewed. These results will also help to determine future resource allocations.

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The next meeting of the Board of Education will be held on Monday, November 27, 2017, beginning at 7:00 p.m., at Berlin High School, 139 Patterson Way, Berlin. The agenda will be available online at www.berlinschools.org.