

***THE BERLIN BOARD OF EDUCATION***

***THE BULLETIN BOARD***

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

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

***Board President Matthew Tencza congratulated re-elected Board members Timothy Oakes and Kari Sassu and welcomed new Board members Richard Aroian and Frederick Morley, Jr. Mr. Tencza also welcomed Boy Scout Troop 44 to the meeting.***

***Student Presentation*** □ Flute players Mariel Christiana, Michelle Cohen, Clemens Hanning and Karly Tomasi performed the “National Anthem” and “Allegro from Grand Trio No. 1 in E Minor.” They also performed prelude music prior to the start of the meeting.

***Special Presentation*** □ Chris Edge, Berlin’s economic development director, introduced himself and gave a brief overview of what he does, including his work to help Berlin in three distinct ways: 1) inform students of the expectations in the workforce with the assistance of Junior Achievement; 2) make students and parents aware of the opportunities in Berlin, particularly in non-traditional industries; and 3) to help Berlin firms find ready, willing and able individuals to be part of the knowledge workforce.

***Awards & Presentations in Conjunction with American Education Week*** □ Former Board Members JoAnn Angelico-Stetson and Robins Evans were recognized for their service to the Board of Education.

**Superintendent’s CAPSS (Connecticut Association of Public School Superintendents) Student Awards** □ Students were selected for this prestigious annual award based upon criteria such as demonstrated leadership to the school community, community service and service to others, and academic prowess relative to ability. Awards were presented to fifth graders Karolina Carlone and Hiram Sepulveda from Griswold School; Madelyn Carlson and Max Enes from Hubbard School; and Samantha Dunn and Christian Riccitelli from Willard School. Also recognized were eighth graders Olivia Salina and Michael Vignone from McGee School; and seniors Danielle Tagluocop and Jacob Giuliano from Berlin High School. Each student received a special CAPSS diploma.

**Introduction of 2018 Building Teachers of the Year and the District Teacher of the Year** □ Mr. Erwin recognized the following building Teachers of the Year for 2018: Jason Miller from Griswold; Heather Sita from Hubbard; David Sirois from Willard; Paula Brown from McGee; and Katie Amenta from Berlin High School. Katie Amenta went on to become the Berlin School District’s Teacher of the Year and a semi-finalist at the state level. They each received a copy of Parker J. Palmer’s book, The Courage To Teach.

**2018 Paraprofessional of the Year** □ Mr. Erwin recognized Sheryl Desroches, from Richard D. Hubbard School, as the 2018 Paraprofessional of the Year.

**Support Staff Recognition Awards** □ Support staff members were selected to be recognized for their outstanding performance and dedication to the students, staff, and parents of the Berlin Public Schools. This year’s recipients were Kari Searle, Griswold; Krystal DeMarco, Hubbard; Suzanne Mercier, Willard; Lisa Turgeon, McGee; Officer Steve Kostka, Berlin High; and Wendy Rawlings for the Board of Education Central Office.

**“Friend of Berlin Schools” Awards** □ The “Friend of Berlin Schools” awards are presented annually to those volunteers nominated by each school’s administration, PTO or community, and selected by the Board of Education for their outstanding contributions as a volunteer who has devoted time and energy to helping the children and schools in the district.

Superintendent of Schools David B. Erwin presented awards to this year's recipients: Deborah Kasper, Griswold; Anne Henriques, Hubbard; Katie Niemiec, Willard; Missy Ferland, McGee; and Carmen Bittel for Berlin High.

**Annual Election of Officers** □ Mr. Matthew Tencza was re-elected to serve as president and Dr. Kari Sassu was re-elected to serve as secretary.

**Annual Schedule of Regular Meetings** □ A motion regarding the annual agenda was made. The following Board of Education meeting dates were approved: for 2018 – February 12 & 26, March 12 & 26, April 23, May 14 & 29, June 11, July 9, August 13, September 10 & 24, October 9 & 22, November 26, December 10, and for 2019 – January 14 & 28.

**Motion for Fiscal Management** □ The Board designated a treasurer and assistant treasurers for the Berlin High School Enterprise Fund, the Berlin Public Schools Activity Fund, and the Cafeteria Fund for 2017-2018.

**Appointment of Board Legal Counsel for 2017-2018** □ The law firm of Shipman & Goodwin of Hartford was appointed to continue as the Board of Education counsel.

**Audience of Citizens** □ Mr. Sam Lomaglio, chairman of the Board of Finance, indicated that the Board of Finance would like to have a representative attend the negotiations for the teachers' contract in the spring. He also requested that the Board of Education and the Board of Finance speak with the Speaker of the House concerning unfunded mandates. Mr. Ken Ross, committee chair of Boy Scout Troop 44, addressed the Board concerning the criteria used in the selection of individuals for the awards presented this evening. Superintendent Erwin indicated that the awards are part of the Connecticut Association of Public School Superintendents (CAPSS) Superintendent/Student Award Recognition Program and are based upon leadership that students exhibit that goes above and beyond their school work and the students' characteristics and capabilities beyond what needs to be done academically.

**Personnel - Retirement** □ The Board accepted the retirement of Janet Lamontagne, reading consultant at Catherine M. McGee School, effective January 1, 2018, and thanked her for the ten years of service she has provided to the youth of Berlin and wished her good health and happiness in her retirement years.

**Facilities Related Updates** □ Director of Business Operations Eva Gallupe reported that at the last meeting of the Public Building Commission, a few members indicated a desire to close out the Berlin High School project as it stands; however, Ms. Gallupe reported punch list items, the heating and cooling system, and the cooking hoods in the Family and Consumer Science area remain outstanding. Superintendent Erwin recommended that the Board not accept the project as complete.

**Executive Session – Ratification of Contract – Head Custodians** □ Negotiations with the Berlin Association of Head Custodians were recently completed and a tentative agreement was reached. The Board approved the agreement for the period of July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2020.

**The next meeting of the Board of Education will be held on Monday, December 11, 2017, beginning at 7:00 P.M., in the Amphitheater at Berlin High School, 139 Patterson Way. 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).*