

THE BERLIN BOARD OF EDUCATION

THE BULLETIN BOARD

A SUMMARY OF THE JANUARY 22, 2018 BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

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

Committee Reports/Correspondence to the Board □ ***Communications Committee***: Mr. Fisher reported that the committee met and had a conversation concerning ways the Board can communicate with the public regarding the budget process, budget drivers and the items in the budget that are discretionary and those that are mandated. The committee also discussed publishing a question and answer Op-Ed, through Superintendent Benigni, containing common questions the public has concerning the budget. ***Educational Resources Committee***: Mr. Oakes reported that the committee met and discussed pay to participate in athletics; the reorganization/utilization assessment of the elementary schools; the high school renovation project; and the reduction of the 2017-2018 budget.

Audience of Citizens □ Gerald Paradis introduced himself to the Board as a member of the Board of Finance and indicated that he looks forward to working with the Board of Education this year as the budget is put together. John Richards, member of the Board of Finance, addressed the Board to clarify a statement made during the Educational Resources Committee report concerning the Board of Finance's position regarding outstanding items for the high school renovation project.

Berlin High School 2018-2019 Program of Studies □ Superintendent Benigni and Berlin High School Interim Principal Barbara Ventura presented to the Board of Education, for its consideration and approval, new course offerings and revisions to the Berlin High School Program of Studies for 2018-2019. Ms. Ventura highlighted each change and responded to questions from Board members. Tyler Boyle, music and vocal teacher at Berlin High School, responded to the Board's questions concerning the changes to the music program. The changes were reviewed and discussed by members of the Student Achievement Committee at their January 8, 2018 meeting. Board members Dennis, Sassu and Miller requested that Mr. Boyle send an email to parents, along with a survey, concerning the changes to the music program. They also requested that Mr. Boyle speak with other districts that have made similar changes and provide the Board with the success of the changes in those districts. The Board approved the new Berlin High School Program of Studies for the 2017-2018 school year as presented; however, in the event that changes are needed, based on the feedback received, an addendum will follow.

Policy Review/Revision – Second Reading/Adoption □ The Board adopted revisions to the following policies, as presented: 1011 – Non-Discrimination (Community), 5141.41 – Reports of Suspected Abuse or Neglect of Adults with an Intellectual Disability or Autism Spectrum Disorder; 5141.4 – Reports of Suspected Abuse or Neglect of Children or Sexual Assault of Students by School Employees; 4112.51 – Employment Checks; 4118.11 – Non-Discrimination (Personnel); 5141.21 – Administration of Student Medications in the Schools; 6146 – High School Graduation Requirements; 5118.1 – Homeless Children and Youth; 5145.4 – Non-Discrimination (Students); 5142 – Physical Restraint and Seclusion of Students; 5125 – Confidentiality and Access to Education Records; and 6146.22 – IDEA – Alternative Assessments.

Discussion of Unfinished Business □ The Board discussed how to keep track and report on the progress of outstanding items. It was the consensus of the Board to have these items appear on the Board's weekly update.

Reduction of the 2017-2018 Budget □ Superintendent Benigni presented recommended reductions to the 2017-2018 Board of Education Budget, for consideration and approval, to meet the total \$400,000 reduction directed by the Town Council. The Board approved the \$400,000 reduction to the current Board of Education Budget as presented.

2018-2019 Proposed Budget Presentation □ The Special Education Budget, Curriculum and Instruction Budget, and District-wide Non-instructional Programs/Athletics Budget were presented to the Board. After an overall review of the budget, the Board announced that they will meet on the next two evenings to further discuss the 2018-2019 Budget. It is anticipated that the budget will be approved at the next regular Board meeting.

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The next regular meeting of the Board of Education will be held on Monday, February 12, 2018, beginning at 7:00 P.M., in the Auditorium at Berlin High School, 139 Patterson Way, 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.