

THE BERLIN BOARD OF EDUCATION

THE BULLETIN BOARD

A SUMMARY OF THE FEBRUARY 12, 2018 BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

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

Review and Approval of Security Renovation Project Drawings □ Bryce Sens, from Friar Associates, Inc., reviewed the recommended alterations to be completed at the elementary and middle schools in regards to the security renovation project, as defined in the April 24, 2017 Education Specifications (Statement of Need). The Board approved the recommended alterations as presented.

Personnel - Retirement □ The Board accepted the retirement of Helen Hastings, teacher of Grade 1 at Mary E. Griswold School, to be effective June 30, 2018. The Board thanked Ms. Hastings for the sixteen 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 □ Superintendent Benigni reported that due to legislative changes defining ventilation requirements, the current cooking hoods, in the Family and Consumer Science classroom at Berlin High School, no longer need to be replaced. As a result, the Site and Building budget was reduced by \$100,000. Mr. Tencza reported that the Board has requested a report from the Building Committee on the status of the renovation project and he has made it clear that the Board will not sign off on the project until the Board receives a report that all issues have been resolved.

Effective School Solutions (ESS) Presentation □ Gerry Barone, executive director of Effective School Solutions (ESS), shared a brief overview of the ESS program at Berlin High School and responded to the Board's questions. Mr. Barone discussed ESS as a Tier 3 intervention, the high-risk issues at Berlin High School, the cost analysis, and how ESS is different and why it works.

Approval to Issue RFP for Strategic Planning Study of Berlin Elementary Schools □ Mr. Tencza reported that in line with developing the long-term planning of the district, a feasibility study of the elementary school buildings should be conducted. The study will allow for a consultant to evaluate the buildings to determine maximum efficiencies are in place to support the future of the district. The Board approved issuing the RFP for the strategic planning study of Berlin elementary schools.

Discussion of Posting for Berlin High School Principal □ Superintendent Benigni reported that he anticipates the posting for the Berlin High School principal position will be done by the end of the week, applications will be received for two weeks, and interviews will begin the first/second week of March, with a start date of July 1, 2018. The search committee will consist of a student representative, teachers, parents, Board members, and administrators. Individuals who served on the last search committee will also be invited to participate on the committee.

Adoption of the Proposed Board of Education Budget for 2018-2019 □ The Board of Education spent the last month reviewing and discussing the Superintendent's Proposed Budget for 2018-2019. The Board met on January 23 to review the budget details, including information from presentations by the principals and central office administration. The Board of Education and the Board of Finance held a joint meeting on February 7 to discuss the budget and earlier this evening, the Board held an informational meeting for the public so community members could provide input on the budget prior to approval. The Board approved the Board of Education's 2018-2019 Operating Budget at a level of \$44,872,536, an increase of 4.3%. The Site and Building Budget and the Capital Equipment Budget will be discussed at a special meeting on February 21, 2018, and it is anticipated that they will be adopted. The budget will then be

forwarded to the Town. A complete copy of the Board of Education's Adopted Budget for 2018-2019 will be available on the district's website.

Executive Session □ The Board entered into an executive session to discuss matters of personnel.

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The next regular meeting of the Board of Education will be held on Monday, February 26, 2018, 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, or on the district's website at www.berlinschools.org.