

***THE BERLIN BOARD OF EDUCATION***

# ***THE BULLETIN BOARD***

***A SUMMARY OF THE FEBRUARY 26, 2018 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 the BOE recognizes 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 of Education acknowledged the following individuals: Hannah Smolicz, grade eleven student at Berlin High School, for being a vital member of the BHS DECA Chapter; Nathan Spencer, grade ten student at Berlin High School, for being a sincere and hardworking young man with a desire to succeed that drives his achievement; Ashley Rusch, grade seven student at McGee School, for approaching her studies with enthusiasm and determination; and Kailee DeMaio, grade seven student at McGee School, for being an inspiring young lady who, no matter what the circumstances, works hard and maintains a positive attitude and composure.

***Student Presentation – Berlin High School*** □ A highlight for the month of January was Berlin High School's "The Truth About Hate" assembly on Wednesday, January 24. In concert with the Anti-Defamation League, Kelly Maio, Ana Nascimento, Amanda Portal, and the Unity Team, led by Brianna Lennehan, created a wonderful opportunity for staff and students to work together. This opportunity provided students with information regarding the origins of hate and a deeper understanding of how stereotyping, jokes, name-calling, and rumors are all seeds that can turn into prejudice, discrimination and hate. The program is designed to help students understand how these issues affect their daily lives and the role they can play in challenging prejudice. The day began as a whole school meeting in the gym, followed by small break-out sessions, and a return to the gym to recap the day's events. Brianna Lennehan, Grade 12 student, presented an overview of the program and a short video was shown that recapped the Anti-Defamation League and the impact of the presentation.

***Open Choice Program Participation*** □ Superintendent Brian Benigni reported there are 91 currently-enrolled Open Choice students, of which 81 are expected to advance one grade next year. Mr. Benigni recommended an additional 67 seats for the 2018-2019 school year. Mr. Benigni provided a breakdown of his recommendation for placement: 6 seats will be offered in kindergarten at Willard; 3 seats will be offered in Grade 1 at Hubbard; 4 seats will be offered in Grade 2 at Hubbard; 2 seats will be offered in Grade 3 at Griswold; 5 seats will be offered in Grade 4 at Willard; 8 seats will be offered in Grade 5 (4 at Griswold and 4 at Willard); 12 seats will be offered in Grade 6 at McGee; 6 seats will be offered in Grade 7 at McGee; 3 seats will be offered in Grade 8 at McGee; 15 seats will be offered in Grade 9 at Berlin High School; and 3 seats will be offered in Grade 10 at Berlin High School. The State Department of Education has requested that the district accommodate siblings wherever possible. Included in these numbers are 5 seats for sibling placements. A short video was shown in which Choice students shared how their lives have changed since coming to school in Berlin. All Board members approved Mr. Benigni's recommendation.

***Policy Review/Revision – First Reading – Transportation Policy*** □ At the Ad-Hoc Committee for Policy Review/Revision meeting on January 8, 2018, it was recommended that the transportation policy be returned to Shipman & Goodwin LLP for further review and edit. Shipman & Goodwin LLP made some edits and returned the revised policy for a first reading. The revised policy was reviewed by the Ad-Hoc Committee for Policy Review/Revision at their meeting on February 26, 2018. Since this was a first reading, no action was required; the second reading/adoption will take place at the March 12, 2018 meeting.

***Executive Session*** □ The Board entered into an executive session to discuss a personnel matter.

**The next regular meeting of the Board of Education will be held on Monday, March 12, 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](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).*