

THE BERLIN BOARD OF EDUCATION

THE BULLETIN BOARD

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

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

Board Member Appreciation Month □ Superintendent Brian Benigni recognized March as “Connecticut Board of Education Member Appreciation” month. Each Board member received a gift as a token of appreciation for the time and effort they devote to Board business during the course of the year.

Berlin Bravos □ Berlin Bravos is a program where the Board of Education 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: Dana Metcalf, grade five student at Griswold School, for working hard to use the Habits of Mind to foster her own personal growth; Jennifer Birrell, school psychologist at Griswold School, for embodying what it means to be part of the Griswold family. She truly does whatever it takes to support students, colleagues, and the community; Brody Andrade, grade two student at Hubbard School, for having a positive impact on all those around him; Kaitlyn Gieras, grade three student at Hubbard School, for being respectful and caring and bringing a bright smile and enthusiasm for learning to the classroom each day; London Mason, kindergartener at Willard School, for transitioning from Alabama and making friends quickly because of her kind and caring disposition; and McKayla DeJesus, grade three student at Willard School, for demonstrating significant academic and social growth since the start of third grade.

Audience of Citizens □ Eric Ferguson addressed the Board concerning the optional class walkout on March 14, 2018, and the email correspondence he received from McGee School Principal Salvatore Urso concerning participating in the National Student Walkout.

Personnel – Retirements □ The Board accepted the retirement of Kathleen (Casey) Downes, teacher of special education at Berlin High School, and Marie (Mame) Little, library/media specialist at Willard School, effective June 30, 2018. The Board thanked Ms. Downes and Ms. Little for the twenty-three years and twenty-seven years (respectively) of service they have provided to the youth of Berlin and wished them good health and happiness in their retirement years.

Facilities Related Updates □ Director of Business Operations Eva Gallupe reported that the Town Council, at its meeting on March 6, tabled the motion to authorize the Public Building Commission to issue a Request for Proposal for wrapping the ductwork at Berlin High School. The Public Building Commission, at its meeting on March 8, decided to hire a consultant to determine whether the ductwork was properly installed. Ms. Gallupe also reported that the security vestibule project can move forward to the bid process; however, although Berlin is on the approved priority list, the General Assembly has not voted on any funding at this time.

School Security □ Superintendent Brian Benigni reported that a Security and Safety Forum will be held on Monday, March 19, 2018, beginning at 7:30 p.m., in the Auditorium at Berlin High School. The forum is being held in conjunction with the police chief, mayor, town manager, deputy fire marshal/director of emergency management, superintendent of schools, and Board of Education. The forum will include a brief introductory slide show followed by a question and answer session with the community. A press release will be sent out regarding the forum.

Proposed School Calendar 2019-2020 □ The Board tabled approval of the proposed school calendar for 2019-2020 to allow Superintendent Brian Benigni to provide three calendar scenarios for the Board to review.

Policy Review/Revision – Policy 3541 - Transportation – Second Reading/Adoption □ A second reading of the revised transportation policy took place and the Board adopted the revised policy as presented.

Budget Update □ Board President Matthew Tencza reported that the Board of Finance and Town Council were meeting this evening to discuss the 2018-2019 budget.

Feasibility Study for Elementary Schools – RFP Outcome □ Superintendent Brian Benigni reported that a total of six proposals were received from Antinozzi Associates; Jacunski Humes Architects LLC; Friar Associates, Inc.; Silver Petrucelli + Associates; QA+M Architecture; and Drummey Rosane Anderson, Inc., and that he, along with Tim Oakes and Eva Gallupe, interviewed the companies on Friday, March 9, 2018. Copies of the proposals were shared with Board members. Based on the interviews and the Board’s discussion, the Board approved entering into a contract with Drummey Rosane Anderson, Inc. for the preparation of a Feasibility/Strategic Planning Study of the Berlin Elementary Schools.

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

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The next regular meeting of the Board of Education will be held on Monday, March 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, and on the district’s website at www.berlinschools.org.