

*THE BERLIN BOARD OF EDUCATION*

# *THE BULLETIN BOARD*

*A SUMMARY OF THE APRIL 23, 2018 BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING*

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

**Special Recognition** □ ***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: Tyrese Williams, a Grade 12 student at Berlin High School, for his tremendous growth and maturity in the four years he has been at Berlin High School; Anna Scott, a Grade 8 student at Catherine M. McGee School, for being a well-rounded and hardworking student; and Kyla Smulski, a Grade 8 student at Catherine M. McGee School, for growing more confident in herself and her schoolwork, which has translated into academic and personal success.

**Audience of Citizens** □ The following individuals addressed the Board concerning the Firefighter and Firefighting Leadership courses at Berlin High School that will not be offered to students next year as electives due to low enrollment; the value of the fire service program to the fire departments, town of Berlin and taxpayers; the Technology Education program; Berlin Board of Education core values; class selection process; celebrating all the different students within a building; and Technology Education Teacher Russ Fuller’s impact on students, the town and the fire service program: Paul Sarrazin, Jim Simons, Tyler St. Jarre, Sonny VanBuskirk, Rob Sarmuk, Elizabeth Hayward, Sarah Patel, Mark Swietzer, Taylor Smolicz, Erin Scalora, James Wall, Jeff Pajor, Andy Hrubiec, Richard Valuk, Sal Calvo, and John O’Brien. Mayor Mark Kaczynski addressed the Board concerning a recent PTO meeting at which two members of the Board of Finance presented their town budget. Mark Holmes addressed the Board in support of the budget and Mr. Sam Lomaglio responded to Mayor Kaczynski’s concern about a recent PTO meeting. Richard Paskiewicz remarked that the exchange between Mr. Lomaglio and Mayor Kaczynski at this meeting is the reason why the voters in Berlin rejected making the Board of Education partisan.

**Administrative Resignation** □ The Board accepted the resignation of Eva Gallupe, director of business operations, effective May 1, 2018, and thanked her for her service to the Berlin Public Schools and wished her well in her future endeavors.

**2019-2020 School Calendar** □ The Board adopted the school calendar for 2019-2020. This calendar keeps 3.5 professional development days for goal setting midyear; shifts full-day professional development to occur before the end of February and are linked to long weekends; and has school closing for the year upon completion of 181 student days. Although the school year is shortened by two days, there is a decrease of nine shortened days, which allows for an additional 22.5 hours of instructional time. A copy of the calendar can be found on our website.

**Status of the Board of Education’s Adopted Budget for 2018-2019** □ Superintendent of Schools Brian Benigni noted the annual budget referendum will be held on Tuesday, April 24. The town sent a brief memo, that parents have access to, explaining the different votes and locations.

**Non-renewal of Contracts for Non-tenured Staff** □ The Board voted that the contracts of employment for non-tenured teachers Alexandra Briemann, Sarah Cabata, Jennifer Fritz, Danielle Gemmell, Sarah Kane, Roseanne Modzelewski, Mary Raney and Nancy Thompson not be renewed for the 2018-2019 school year, upon their expiration at the end of the current school year. Some were temporarily hired to cover for regular staff on leave during the 2017-2018 school year and others were non-renewed due to a reduction in force.

**Board of Education Vacancy** □ The Board discussed filling the vacancy on the Board created by the resignation of Frederick Morley, Jr. The vacancy will be posted in the newspaper on May 3, 2018, candidates will be accepted until May 15, 2018, and interviews will take place during the week of May 21, 2018. The Board will appoint the successful candidate to complete the one-year term, ending in November 2018, at the May 29, 2018 Board meeting.

**Facilities Related Updates** □ Director of Business Operations Eva Gallupe reported that the school security vestibules are moving forward and the project can go out to bid. The deadline to submit proposals is the first Thursday in May. The Public Building Commission is still deciding on an architect to determine whether the ductwork at the high school was installed properly. The Public Building Commission is dealing with a lawsuit filed by a vendor against the town.

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

□ □ □

---

*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](http://www.berlinschools.org).*