

B. Committee Report – Ad-Hoc Committee for Policy Review/Revision

Mr. Oakes reported the Ad-Hoc Committee for Policy Review/Revision did meet prior to tonight's meeting to review the wellness policy for the district and revisions have been made to the policy as part of the local school wellness policy. Tonight is a first reading, and the second reading and approval will take place at the December 10, 2018 meeting

C. Correspondence to the Board

Mr. Tencza thanked the students, teachers and administrators for all their efforts with the NEASC visit. Mr. Tencza indicated the presentation was outstanding, students did a fantastic job and the Board looks forward to receiving the report.

IV. AWARDS & PRESENTATIONS IN CONJUNCTION WITH AMERICAN EDUCATION WEEK

A. Superintendent's CAPSS (Connecticut Association of Public School Superintendents) Student Awards

The administration and staff selected ten students to receive the Connecticut Association of Public School Superintendents (CAPSS) Superintendent/Student Award Recognition Program, "Certificate of Excellence" award. Students are selected for this prestigious annual award based upon criteria such as demonstrated leadership to the school community, community service and service to others, and academic prowess relative to ability. Building Principals and Superintendent Benigni presented the CAPSS awards this year to fifth graders Janalyn Weber and Ryan Lavender (absent) from Griswold School; Meghan Snyder and Paolo Cultrera from Hubbard School; and Sandra Carminati and Matteo Modifica from Willard School. Also recognized were eighth graders Laura Munch and Ethan Nelson from McGee School and seniors Gabriella Pattavina and Connor Reck from Berlin High School. Each student received a special CAPSS diploma and a book store gift card.

B. Introduction of the 2019 Building Teachers of the Year and the District Teacher of the Year

Superintendent Benigni recognized the following building Teachers of the Year for 2019: Alison Wilson from Griswold; Katie Wasilewski from Hubbard; Jane Ponkos from Willard; Janice Carpenter from McGee; and Tara Gallagher (retired and absent) from Berlin High School. Katie Wasilewski went on to become the Berlin School District's Teacher of the Year. They each received a certificate of recognition, a book store gift card and a copy of Parker J. Palmer's book, The Courage To Teach.

C. Introduction of the 2019 Paraprofessional of the Year

Superintendent Benigni recognized Eric Horton, from Richard D. Hubbard School, as the 2019 Paraprofessional of the Year. Eric has been a paraprofessional in the district for two years. He moved from McGee to Hubbard and quickly learned and adapted to his new role. He handles stressful situations by maintaining his composure and appropriately following protocols. He is always flexible and uses good judgement. Eric welcomes new challenges and is an asset to the special education team. Eric was honored for his dedication and excellence at the Statewide Paraeducators as Partners

Conference and was nominated for the 2019 Anne Marie Murphy Paraeducator of the Year award. He was presented with a certificate of recognition and a book store gift card.

D. Support Staff Recognition Awards

Superintendent Benigni recognized support staff members for their outstanding performance and dedication to the students, staff, and parents of the Berlin Public Schools. This year's recipients were Stacie Whittles, Griswold; Serafina Mangiafico, Hubbard; Dolores Chowaniec, Willard; Tracey Tom, McGee; Helen deRito, Berlin High; and Wendy Weed for the Board of Education Central Office. They each were presented with a certificate of appreciation and recognition along with a book store gift card.

E. "Friend of Berlin Schools" Awards

The "Friend of Berlin Schools" awards are awarded annually to those volunteers nominated by each school's administration, PTO or community, and selected by the Board of Education for their outstanding contributions as a volunteer who has devoted time and energy to helping the children and schools of the Berlin Public Schools. Superintendent Benigni and President Tencza recognized this year's recipients: Brierley-Johnson The Florist, Griswold; Christine Harvey, Hubbard; Stacey DeNardo, Willard; Tyler Chamberland, McGee; and Lucy Micacci-Bantle for Berlin High. They each were presented with a certificate of appreciation and recognition along with a book store gift card.

From 8:09 p.m. until 8:28 p.m., a short recess was held for refreshments and to informally meet the award recipients, their family and friends.

V. REORGANIZATION

A. Annual Election of Officers

The election of officers was conducted in accordance with State Statute 10-218. Elections shall be in open session. Board of Education past practice has been that elections are carried out using signed ballots. Also, according to Policy 9050, officers shall be elected from the Board, "...by majority vote of those Board members present and voting."

1. President: Dr. Sassu nominated Matthew Tencza. Ms. Dennis seconded the nomination.

Superintendent Benigni collected the signed ballots and announced that Mr. Tencza was unanimously affirmed, 9-0.

2. Secretary: Mr. Oakes nominated Dr. Kari Sassu. Ms. Miller seconded the nomination.

Superintendent Benigni collected the signed ballots and announced that Dr. Sassu was unanimously affirmed, 9-0.

B. MOTION for Annual Schedule of Regular Meetings

Board members were provided with a memo regarding proposed Board of Education meeting dates, in accordance with Policy 9085.

Moved by Ms. Dennis, seconded by Dr. Sassu, to approve the Annual Schedule of Regular Meetings in accordance with Policy 9085.

FAVOR: ALL
MOTION CARRIED: 9:0; including President Tencza

C. MOTION for Fiscal Management

Approval of designees for the purpose of signing checks for the Berlin High School Enterprise Fund, Berlin Public Schools Activity Fund, and the Cafeteria Fund is necessary, in accordance with Policy 9046.

1. **Moved by Dr. Sassu, seconded by Mr. Oakes, that Jeffrey Cugno be designated treasurer of the Berlin High School Enterprise Fund, the Berlin Public Schools Activity Fund, and the Cafeteria Fund.**

FAVOR: ALL
MOTION CARRIED: 9:0; including President Tencza

2. **Moved by Dr. Sassu, seconded by Mr. Oakes, that Tari-Lynn Joyce, Deborah Batista and Doreen Guy be designated assistant treasurers of the Cafeteria Fund.**

FAVOR: ALL
MOTION CARRIED: 9:0; including President Tencza

3. **Moved by Dr. Sassu, seconded by Mr. Salina, that each principal and the Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction be designated assistant treasurers of the Berlin Public Schools Activity Fund.**

FAVOR: ALL
MOTION CARRIED: 9:0; including President Tencza

4. **Moved by Dr. Sassu, seconded by Ms. Dennis, that Eileen Eustis, Barbara Ventura, Kelly Maio, and Denise Parsons be appointed assistant treasurers of the Berlin High School Enterprise Fund.**

FAVOR: ALL
MOTION CARRIED: 9:0; including President Tencza

D. Appointment of Board Legal Counsel for 2018-2019

In accordance with Board Policy 9055, legal counsel to represent the Board of Education for the next year, 2018-2019, should be selected at this time.

Moved by Mr. Salina, seconded by Ms. Miller, that the law firm of Shipman & Goodwin of Hartford be appointed to continue as the Board of Education counsel for the 2018-2019 year and that they should be so informed.

In response to Mr. Tencza's inquiry if the district has considered other legal counsel, Superintendent Benigni responded that other counsel may offer a reduced rate but eventually the rate will increase and Shipman & Goodwin are very responsible and handle matters in an expeditious fashion.

FAVOR: ALL
MOTION CARRIED: 9:0; including President Tencza

VI. AUDIENCE OF CITIZENS

Nothing to report.

VII. PERSONNEL

Retirement – Mary E. Griswold School – Teacher of Grade 3

Superintendent Benigni presented Patricia Curcio's letter of intent to retire as teacher of Grade 3 at Mary E. Griswold School, at the end of the 2018-2019 school year.

Moved by Mr. Aroian, seconded by Ms. Dennis, to accept the retirement of Patricia Curcio, teacher of Grade 3 at Mary E. Griswold School, effective June 30, 2019. Also to thank her for the forty-one years of service she has provided to the youth of Berlin and to wish her good health and happiness in her retirement years.

FAVOR: ALL
MOTION CARRIED: 9:0; including President Tencza

VIII. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Approval of Minutes – Regular Meeting of October 22, 2018

B. Monthly Budget Report – Period ending October 31, 2018

C. Request for Leave of Absence – Teacher of Grade 2 – Mary E. Griswold School

Cynthia Argazzi, teacher of Grade 2 at Mary E. Griswold School, requested an unpaid leave of absence from November 13, 2018 through December 31, 2018, for health reasons.

Moved by Ms. Dennis, seconded by Mr. Aroian, to approve the consent agenda as presented.

FAVOR: ALL

MOTION CARRIED: 9:0; including President Tencza

IX. NEW BUSINESS

A. Facilities Related Updates

Director of Business Operations Jeffrey Cugno reported on his meeting with Doug Solak this date. Mr. Cugno reported the manufacturers and engineers have determined the valve sizes and functions within the system are the cause of the air conditioning issues. Mr. Cugno reported the recommended solution for the duct work is to jacket the duct work to protect and seal the system. A change order will be created and will ask the State for additional funding. Mr. Cugno reported he continues to request from the Public Building Commission status reports for the Berlin High School so the Board can do their due diligence before accepting the project.

Mr. Cugno reported work is being done on the entrance ramps at McGee Middle School to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements; improvements are being made to the walkway at Willard; and the football field will be reseeded in the spring.

B. Policy Review/Revision – Policy 5141 – Wellness – First Reading

Revisions have been made to this policy based on an evaluation of the policy by the Connecticut State Department of Education as part of the local school wellness policy review process. Revisions reflect new requirements updating the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010. This policy was reviewed by the Ad-Hoc Committee for Policy Review/Revision at their meeting earlier this evening. Since this is a first reading, no action is required; the second reading/approval will take place at the December 10 meeting.

C. Ratification of Contract – Teachers (executive session anticipated)

Negotiations with the Berlin Education Association (teachers) were recently completed and a tentative agreement was reached. It is recommended that the Board approve the tentative agreement.

At 8:49 p.m., a motion was made by Mr. Oakes, seconded by Dr. Sassu, to go into Executive Session to discuss the ratification of the teachers' contract and to invite Superintendent Benigni and the Director of Human Resources.

FAVOR: ALL

MOTION CARRIED: 8:0:1; including President Tencza; Mr. Salina abstaining

In attendance for Executive Session were Board members Aroian, Dennis, Fisher, Miller, Oakes, Sassu, Sisti and Tencza. In addition, Superintendent Benigni and Denise Parsons were present.

At 9:36 p.m., the Board returned to Open Session.

Negotiations with the Berlin Education Association (teachers) were recently completed and a tentative agreement was reached. It is recommended that the Board approve the tentative agreement.

Moved by Mr. Oakes, seconded by Ms. Dennis, to approve the tentative agreement reached between the Berlin Board of Education and the Berlin Education Association (teachers).

FAVOR: ALL
MOTION CARRIED: 8:0; including President Tencza

X. ADJOURNMENT

At 9:38 p.m., a motion was made by Ms. Miller , seconded by Mr. Aroian , to adjourn.

FAVOR: ALL
MOTION CARRIED: 8:0; including President Tencza

Respectfully submitted,

Kari Sassu, Ph.D., Secretary, Berlin Board of Education