



BLOOMFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION – REGULAR MEETING

Tuesday, April 3, 2018 at 7:00 p.m.

Bloomfield Board of Education

1133 Blue Hills Avenue

Board Room

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|--------------------|---------------------------|---------|
| Attendance: | D. Harris, Chair | Present |
| | M. R. Walters, Vice Chair | Present |
| | D. Bolton, Secretary | Present |
| | R. Ike | Present |
| | H. Frydman | Present |
| | P. Davis | Present |

Also Present: J. Thompson, Jr., Superintendent of Schools
 B. Silver, Assistant Superintendent of Accountability and Performance
 S. McCann, Chief Academic Officer
 W. Guzman, Chief Operations Officer
 W. Joslyn, Human Resource Specialist
 S. Simpson, Director of Strategic Communication and Planning
 A.M. Cullinan, Curriculum Specialist
 W. Casper, Director of Facilities
 J. White, Principal on Assignment, Bloomfield High School
 N. Poplin, Interim Principal, Global Experience Magnet School *arrived 7:40 p.m.*

1. Establishment of a Quorum and Call to Order

D. Harris determined a quorum was present and the Bloomfield Board of Education Regular Meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

All rose to recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Opening Statement

D. Bolton, Secretary, welcomed all attendees. The purpose and process of the Board of Education meeting was stated.

4. Consent Agenda

A. Approval of Minutes – Regular Meeting – February 13, 2018

A motion was made by M. Walters and seconded by R. Ike for the Bloomfield Board of Education to approve the minutes from the February 13, 2018 regular board meeting, as presented.

| | |
|---------------------------|---------|
| D. Harris, Chair | Aye |
| M. R. Walters, Vice Chair | Aye |
| D. Bolton, Secretary | Abstain |
| R. Ike | Aye |
| H. Frydman | Aye |
| P. Davis | Aye |



The motion was passed 5-0-1.

B. Approval of Minutes – Special Meeting – February 22, 2018

A motion was made by M. Walters and seconded by R. Ike for the Bloomfield Board of Education to approve the minutes from the February 22, 2018 Special Board of Education meeting, as presented.

The motion was passed unanimously.

5. Presentations

A. Student Representative Report – Bloomfield High School

The student representative from Bloomfield High School (BHS) shared a presentation with members of the Board of Education.

The boys and girls basketball teams made the playoffs and the girls indoor track team won their 9th consecutive Class “S” championship.

The 3rd quarter honor roll dinner and awards ceremony was held on March 6, 2018.

The unified sports team played a basketball tournament at Simsbury High School.

College acceptance letters have been coming in. Students have already been accepted to various schools such as NYU, Cornell University, St. John’s University and the University of Connecticut.

The Life Skills class hosted its own prom on Thursday, March 29, 2018.

Spring sports are beginning at Bloomfield High School. The spring sports are Girls Tennis, Softball, Baseball, Boys Volleyball, Boys and Girls Outdoor Track and Boys and Girls Golf,

Upcoming sports games and events were shared with the Board of Education. The District Arts Festival, *Through the Decades* will be held on April 26, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. at the Bushnell.

B. “Standing Together with our Children for our Children” – March 14, 2018 Events

Mary Kay Rendock, leader of the Teacher of the Year Cohort presented on the March 14, 2018 events in support of Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida.

The seven Bloomfield schools showed support by planning and facilitating age-appropriate activities to be held at 10:00 a.m. for 17 minutes. These activities were led and organized by Teachers of the Year from each school.

In solidarity with other schools across the country, the March 14 events were called “Standing Together with our Children for Our Children.” The activities were



proactive and productive. They were not political in nature, but served as a vehicle to give students a voice and share with them the power of positivity and community.

Students from each of the schools participated in various activities such as reading poems of kindness, representing the 17 victims from Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School, participating in a kindness pledge, and displaying signs of positivity. A video capturing the events of March 14 was shared with the Board of Education.

6. Public/PTO Comment

No public comment.

7. Superintendent's Report

A. Highlights from Bloomfield Public Schools

Dr. James Thompson, Jr., Superintendent of Schools provided an overview of district highlights. He reported that Bloomfield Public Schools hosted its first musical in almost twenty years on March 15, 16 and 17, 2018. The arts departments showcased the musical, Annie. The production included approximately fifty students and was directed by Aubree Bowman with Assistant Directors Shana Crimi and Shane Davis and Musical Director, Frank Quinn.

The district also held its first annual STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math) Day on Saturday, March 17, 2018. In collaboration with the Boys & Girls Club of Hartford, activities were provided for children ages 3-18. Families were invited to participate in an exciting variety of workshops such as an internet safety presentation called "Keeping Your Children Safe on the Internet".

Metacomet Staff Members Donna Reed Mims & Regina Lester Harriat received the 2018 Ella T. Grasso Distinguished Service Award from Eastern Connecticut State University on March 28, 2018. This award recognizes those who are committed to advancing the movement towards gender equity by way of inspiring and impacting the lives of others.

B. Financial Report – March 2018

Mr. William Guzman, Chief Operations Officer presented the finance report for March 2018. He distributed the one-page and six-page financial reports. The district is nine months into the fiscal year and about 2.78% of the budget has not been expended or encumbered.

Mr. Guzman noted that as of today, additional adjustments will need to be made to accounts with deficits.

The Six-Page report page 4, line item 08 Tuition, there is currently a balance of \$384,000. Relative to this, there are currently 248 students attending magnet schools that the district pays tuition in the amount of \$4,300 per child. The district is also responsible for 72 students who also receive special educational services at a cost of about \$8,000 per child, In addition, there are 30 students currently receiving special educational services outside of the school district in outplaced facilities. These



accounts are closely monitored throughout the year.

Mr. Guzman reiterated that Dr. Thompson and Mr. Schenck implemented a budget freeze for all accounts except those that are for instructional purposes, contracts and utilities.

H. Frydman inquired about the deficit in the transportation account, line item 5100. Mr. Guzman noted that this is our first contractual year with our new vendor, Dattco. The cost was estimated when the budget was created and will need to be reconciled to cover pupil transportation.

Mr. Ike inquired if the Residency Officer was also the Director of Security and Mr. Guzman confirmed.

In addition, it was inquired why the overtime support line item, 1290 was over budget. Mr. Guzman noted that the snow has impacted the overtime account. The overtime is closely monitored and requires preapproval from Mr. Guzman.

8. Old Business

A. Policies for a Second Reading

1. School Volunteers – 1212

Mr. William Guzman, Chief Operations Officer presented a policy regarding school volunteers. This policy presented for adoption, sets some limitations and conditions about who can volunteer in Bloomfield schools.

This policy establishes that volunteers must adhere to school rules and regulations. Proper screening must be completed for school volunteers.

It was noted by a Board of Education member that this policy has been discussed at length at the Committee meeting on March 27, 2018 and January 23, 2018.

A motion was made M. Walters and seconded by H. Frydman for the Board of Education to approve the adoption of policy 1212 – School Volunteers.

The motion was passed unanimously.

2. School Visitors – 1250

The second policy provides guidelines for school visitors. Mr. Guzman stated this policy provides guidelines so that school safety is maintained and educational programs are not interrupted by school visitors.

As a result of discussions at the Policy Committee meeting, the policy was amended. The recommendation made was to change the first sentence in paragraph two by adding the word “or” to read as follows: “Visits to individual classrooms during instructional time shall be permitted only with the principals and/or the teacher’s approval”.



Mr. Guzman noted the amendment was reviewed by legal counsel and they confirmed it does not have to go back to the Board of Education as a first reading. In addition, our bylaws Policy 9311 states suggested changes can be included in the second reading.

A motion was made M. Walters and seconded by R. Ike to for the Board of Education to approve the adoption of policy 1250 – School Visitors, as amended.

The motion was passed unanimously.

9. New Business

A. Policy for an Initial Reading

1. Graduation Requirements – 6146

Public Act 17-42 implemented an increase in credit requirements for graduation to become effective for the graduating class of 2022-2023.

This act postpones the 25 credit requirement an additional year and take effect for the incoming freshman class in 2019-2020.

This is a first reading of policy 6146 and has been presented to the Policy Committee on March 23, 2018.

B. Approval of Land Lease Option and Lease Agreement (Solar Farm) and Letter of Intent Regarding Solar Energy Production and Utility Credits

Mr. William Guzman, Chief Operations Officer presented an update on the Board of Education Solar Field project.

The Board attorney specializing in solar projects negotiated the lease agreement and letter of intent and has come to an agreement with the Clean Energy Collective (CEC). The next step in the process is to approve the lease agreement and letter of intent.

When the solar farm process started, it was advised by legal counsel to receive approval from the Town Council in addition to the Board of Education due to the length of the lease. Mr. Guzman noted the Administration is prepared to present the updated agreement to the Town Council.

Mr. Guzman noted this solar farm will provide a reduction in the utility cost to Town of Bloomfield and residents.

Mr. Wayne Casper, Director of Facilities noted that this project is with the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP). Bloomfield is one of three, out of a total of thirteen submissions, awarded a bid.

Out of the energy produced, Bloomfield Public Schools will receive 60% of energy and will buy it at a fixed rate. Of the other 40% produced, 20% will go to low or



moderate income housing in Bloomfield and the other 20% to residents and businesses.

Mr. Frydman inquired about the 20 year lease with options for reopeners. Mr. Casper explained that the possibility for reopeners are not included as it was not a feasible option for the company.

A motion was made by M. Walters and seconded by R. Ike for the Bloomfield Board of Education to approve the Land Lease Option and Lease Agreement (Solar Farm) and Letter of Intent Regarding Solar Energy Production and Utility.

The motion was passed unanimously.

C. 2017-2018 Academic Calendar – Proposed Changes

William Joslyn, Human Resource Specialist presented the proposed academic calendar changes to the Board of Education.

The current last day of school for the district is Friday, June 22, 2018 with the exception of Laurel. Due to an outage in October 2017, Laurel's last day is Monday, June 25, 2018.

The proposal is to eliminate the May 16, 2018 professional development day, making this a regular school day. The professional development day will be moved to Friday, June 22, 2018. The 180 instructional days would then conclude on Thursday, June 21, 2018.

One board member inquired how many contractual days the teachers have. Mr. Joslyn noted certified staff are contracted for 186 days.

H. Frydman inquired about February break. Mr. Joslyn noted the district has not participated in a February recess in many years. The district does recognize Presidents' Day and a professional development day following Presidents' Day.

A board member asked to clarify professional development days. Ms. McCann noted that professional development days are an opportunity for staff to learn new strategies and to improve their practice.

A motion was made by M. Walters and seconded by R. Ike for the Bloomfield Board of Education to approve the revised 2017-2018 academic calendar, as presented.

The motion was passed unanimously.

10. CAFE Updates

Mr. Donald Harris, Jr. will be representing CAFE at the National School Board Conference in San Antonio, TX from April 7-9, 2018.



11. Board Comments

R. Ike attended Town Council meeting discussing school safety. He also attended the Black History Month program and National Honors Society induction ceremony at Global Experience Magnet School. He commended the clerk on the accurate recording of the public comments at the Special Board of Education meeting. He also thanked administration for their follow through on the Conservation Ambassador Program.

H. Frydman echoed Mr. Ike's statements. He added that he is pleased with the budget proposal process of the Board of Education. He also commended the communications of the district in regards to recent incidents and reminded parents to speak with young people.

P. Davis commended families for doing their due diligence, engaging the Board of Education and going through the proper channels. She stated the business of the Board is the children and their purpose is education.

D. Bolton recognized a long-term resident and employee who recently passed away, Carrie Mae King-Hardy. She further stated she appreciates the communication from the Superintendent's office regarding recent incidents and taking concerns seriously.

M. Walters commented on the outstanding Black History Month program at Global Experience Magnet School. He also observed the dance lesson and National Honor Society induction. Mr. Walters was also in attendance at the Rotary Club book donation program. He commented on the wonderful production of Annie and is very proud of the district.

D. Harris commended the hard working young women of the girls Indoor Track Team. He noted an excellent meeting with parents on March 26, 2018 and noted a follow-up meeting to continue dialogue. Mr. Harris was also partook in the Rotary Club book donation at Metacomet Elementary School. He also shared his positive sentiments for the production of Annie and the hard work of the staff to put on this production.

12. Adjournment

At 8:17 p.m. a motion to adjourn was made by R. Ike and seconded by M. Walters.

The motion passed unanimously.

D. Bolton, Secretary

J. Thompson, Ed. D., Superintendent