



BLOOMFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION – REGULAR MEETING

Tuesday, February 13, 2018 at 7:00 p.m.

Bloomfield Board of Education

1133 Blue Hills Avenue

Board Room

Attendance: D. Harris, Chair Present
M. R. Walters, Vice Chair Present
D. Bolton, Secretary Absent
R. Ike Present
H. Frydman Present
P. Davis Present *arrived at 7:04 p.m.*

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
E. Pierce, District Grant Specialist
A.M. Cullinan, Curriculum Specialist
D. Greco, Director of Accounting
N. Poplin, Interim Principal, Global Experience Magnet School

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

H. Frydman, welcomed all attendees, in absence of the Secretary. The purpose and process of the Board of Education meeting was stated.

D. Harris asked for a moment of silence to honor the recent passing of Sharon Carter, Executive Administrative Assistant for the Facilities Department at the Board of Education.

4. Consent Agenda

A. Approval of Minutes – Regular Meeting – January 9, 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 January 9, 2018 regular board meeting, as presented.

The motion was passed unanimously.



5. Presentations

A. Student Representative Report – Global Experience Magnet School

The student representative from Global Experience Magnet School (GEMS) shared a presentation with members of the Board of Education.

GEMS will be hosting events in honor of Black History Month on February 27, 2018.

The Student Government (SGA) hosted a Winter Formal for high school students on December 15th and a *Light up the Night* event for middle school students on January 26th. SGA also hosted a Valentines extravaganza day.

The National Honor Society (NHS) induction is on March 15, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. NHS also made Valentine's Day cards for Connecticut Children Medical Center and are hosting a shoe drive for Makuleke Village.

Members of the GEMS Ski Club recently took a ski trip to Mt. Southington.

Upcoming trips include:

- Makuleke Village, Kruger National Park, South Africa from March 20-29, 2018
- China trip from April 2-13, 2018
- Peru trip from July 12-22, 2018
- New Orleans for grade 11 students from March 22-29, 2018

6. Public/PTO Comment

No public comment.

7. Superintendent's Report

A. Bloomfield Public Schools Presents *Annie*, The Musical

Anne Marie Cullinan, Curriculum Specialist shared with the Board of Education and members of the Bloomfield community information regarding the upcoming musical, *Annie*.

The musical will be held on March 15th and 16th at 7:00 p.m. and on Saturday, March 17th at 2:00 p.m. at Bloomfield High School. Tickets are on sale and can be purchased at Bloomfield High School. Posters will be placed at various locations around the town and Duncaster and Seabury will receive an invitation for their residents.

Students have been in rehearsals since December 2017. Act 1 is completed and students are starting to rehearse their lines for the next act. The arts departments from Carmen Arace and the high school are collaborating on this effort. This is the first musical in eighteen years for the district.

8. Old Business

No old business to report.



9. New Business

A. Presentation of Superintendents' Proposed 2018-2019 Budget

James Thompson, Jr., Superintendent presented the 2018-2019 Superintendent's Proposed Budget. The proposed budget aligns to the district's Vision, Theory of Action and four district priorities. The second principle supports and ensures Bloomfield students are prepared for the challenges and opportunities of the 21st Century. This includes reasonable class sizes, extended learning opportunities, quality curriculum, continued staff development and a commitment to providing STEAM opportunities.

Mr. Guzman introduced a summary of the Superintendent's proposed budget and reviewed the major cost drivers.

The overall requested increase is 3.98%. Over Dr. Thompson's eight year tenure, the average increase per year is 1.38%. The first four years, he requested a 0% increase.

Account numbers (01) Certified Salaries, (02) Non-Certified Salaries and (03) Employee Benefits comprise 73% of the total budget. This is typical for a school budget.

The benefits accounts is the key major driver for the budget increase and comprises 2.52% of the 3.98% request. Under benefits, Health Insurance costs will increase by \$594,000 and OPEB will increase by \$332,000 in 2018-2019.

Transportation costs will increase, by contract, in 2018-2019 by \$228,484, which is .55% of the total 3.98% requested increase.

The district will be introducing a new program called Steps to Success providing in-town services to students who are normally outplaced. The district pays a tuition for outplaced students.

There will be special meeting on February 22, 2018 for public comment and Board action on the proposed budget.

Individual workshops have been scheduled for all Board of Education members to review the budget and ask questions.

B. Policies for Initial Reading

1. School Volunteers – 1212

Dr. Bethany Silver, presented a policy regarding school volunteers. This policy was presented to the Policy Committee for a first reading on January 23, 2018. The School Volunteers policy sets some limitations and conditions about who can volunteer in Bloomfield schools. Background checks must be completed on school volunteers.



The policy provides heightened security and consistency across the schools in the district.

2. School Visitors – 1250

The second policy provides guidelines for school visitors. Mr. Guzman pointed out paragraph two, in which the principal has full control of school visitors at their respective schools. The district encourages visitors but proposed policy establishes several considerations.

This policy was also reviewed by the Policy Committee on January 23, 2018.

C. Approval of Budget Transfers

Mr. William Guzman, Chief Operations Officer shared a summary of budget transfers requiring board approval. The transfers being presented were reviewed by the Finance Committee on January 23, 2018.

Policy 3160 indicates that Board approval is required for all salary transfers and other transfers in excess of \$25,000. These transfers, as of January 2018, are to reconcile deficits and balance the accounts.

A motion was made by M. Walters and seconded by R. Ike for the Bloomfield Board of Education to approve the budget transfers as presented to the Finance Committee on January 23, 2018.

The motion was passed unanimously.

D. Vote to approve the tentative agreement between the Bloomfield Board of Education and Bloomfield Administrators Association

Mr. William Joslyn, Human Resource Specialist presented the 3 year contract for the Bloomfield Administrators Association (BAA). A tentative agreement was met with the BAA through mediation process. The agreement is for 3 years (2018-2019, 2019-2020, & 2020-2021). Within this contract, administrators agreed to benefit changes, to eliminate longevity payments and a 2% annual salary increase, over a three-year period. This salary increase is in accord with other districts.

If the Board of Education approves the BAA contract, it will be filed with the Town Clerk's office and the Town Council has 30 days to approve. If it is not approved, it will go through a legislature process and brought to arbitration.

R. Ike asked if there was a discussion of hard zeros in regards to salary increases. Mr. Joslyn noted that there are none in the contract and reiterated that the increases are similar to other districts. He reviewed the contacts of 32 districts and 26 of those districts had higher increases, with an average increase of 6.77% (out of all 32 districts).

The information regarding the settlements is public information.



A motion was made by M. Walters and seconded by R. Ike for the Bloomfield Board of Education to approve the tentative agreement between Bloomfield Board of Education and the Bloomfield Administrators Association for the period July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2021.

The motion was passed unanimously.

10. CABA Updates

Mr. Harris congratulated the girl's high school indoor track team for winning the State Title on Saturday, February 10, 2018. This is their 9th title in a row. The boys track team placed 2nd.

Mr. Donald Harris, Jr. attended the NSB Conference from February 3-6, 2018 in Washington, D.C. He attended an equity workshop and met with Connecticut Legislators and Congressmen Blumenthal and Murphy.

The New Haven Register published an article about the CABA Legislative Agenda (photo featuring Mr. Harris). Some items include diversity in schools and on the Board of Education, and the rising cost of special education.

CABA is hosting a retreat on February 15, 2018 to discuss the issue of school start times.

11. Board Comments

R. Ike attended the National Dignitaries Day at Metacomet Elementary School on Monday, February 12, 2018. He was impressed to see the organization in the classrooms and the reasonable class sizes. Mr. Ike also attend the STEAM Extended day Expo hosted at Metacomet school on January 24, 2018.

H. Frydman thanked the staff for their hard work on the organization of the budget. He also reiterated Mr. Harris' CABA retreat topic of school starts times as an item of public interest and added too much homework as a topic of concern. He noted the following celebrations in February: Presidents' Day, Black History month and Hear Awareness month.

P. Davis also attended National Dignitaries Day at Metacomet Elementary School and was very proud of the students. She also thanked the administration for review of the budget.

M. Walters visited Metacomet yesterday as well. He was very impressed with the character analysis and peer evaluations of the students. Mr. Walters also in attendance at the Winter Concert at Bloomfield High School and praised the performances.

D. Harris commented that he was also in attendance at the National Dignitaries Day on February 12th. He reminder Board members of the CABA Legislative Breakfast on February 15th at 8:30 a.m. and of the Special Board meeting on February 22, 2018 at 7:00 p.m.



12. Adjournment

At 8:12 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