



BLOOMFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION – REGULAR MEETING

Tuesday, January 9, 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	Present
	R. Ike	Present
	H. Frydman	Present
	Q. Johnson	Absent
	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
E. Pierce, District Grant Specialist
A.M. Cullinan, Curriculum Specialist
L. Eells, Principal, Wintonbury Early Childhood Magnet School
P. Guzzo, Principal, Laurel Elementary School
J. Poglitsch, Principal, Metacomet Elementary School
S. Williams, Principal, Carmen Arace Intermediate School
T. Ellis, Principal, Carmen Arace Middle School
N. Poplin, Interim Principal, Global Experience Magnet School
D. Moleti, Principal, Bloomfield High 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

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 – December 12, 2017

A motion was made by M. Walters and seconded by R. Ike for the Bloomfield Board of Education to approve the minutes from the December 12, 2017 regular board meeting, as presented.



The motion was passed unanimously.

5. Presentations

A. Recognition of the Teacher of the Year – Shannon Buzzell

Dr. Thompson recognized Bloomfield’s Teacher of the Year 2017-2018, Ms. Shannon Buzzell from Laurel Elementary School. Dr. Thompson shared that he was invited to the State of Connecticut, Teachers of the Year Celebration on Wednesday, November 14, 2017 to recognize educators who have made an impact on the lives of young people. Dr. Thompson thanked Ms. Buzzell for her contributions to the children and families Bloomfield.

B. Student Representative Report – Bloomfield High School

The student representatives from Bloomfield High School shared a presentation with members of the Board of Education.

Julian Stanford, a former Bloomfield High School graduate, who plays for the New York Jets, donated 150 turkeys to the homeless. Mark Coley, a senior, has signed with the University of Rhode Island on a baseball scholarship in the fall.

The holiday concert held at the First Congregational Church in Bloomfield, CT was well supported by the Bloomfield Schools and community. All proceeds from the concert will go to a field trip to Philadelphia in April 2018.

The representatives attended the Connecticut Association of Boards of Education (CABE) along with GEMS and students from various districts. Discussed at the conference were enhancing the school community, community outreach and student involvement. Dr. Thompson was awarded the Superintendent of the Year award at the conference.

Quarter 1 Honor Roll students who scored the benchmark for PSAT/SAT in math and or reading were celebrated. There were 300 students who were awarded for their accomplishments.

Jamie Lincoln Smith spoke to students regarding his acting career and why he chose this path. His discussion was very encouraging and inspiring to the Bloomfield High School students.

EASTCONN STEM bus was on campus for students to learn and talk about forensic sciences.

Some recent and upcoming events at BHS included the Winter Sports, Track & Field, Boys & Girls basketball, and Indoor track & field. There will be a fundraiser for the Junior Class of 2019, to be held at Ron-A-Roll, Vernon, CT on Sunday, January 14, 2018 from 4-7:30pm, \$20 fee. Midterms are scheduled from January 23-26, 2018.

R. Ike inquired about the Student Council. The representatives informed everyone that the student council has a new teacher advisor and they are starting to meet again.



M. Walters asked the representatives to elaborate on the visit from Jamie Lincoln Smith and the experience they had and the exposure to students.

Board Chair, Mr. Harris asked for confirmation on the mid-term dates and Mr. Moleti stated they are January 23-26, 2018.

6. Public/PTO Comment

No public comment.

7. Superintendent's Report

A. Extended Learning Opportunity - Update

Dr. Thompson shared with the Board of Education and members of the Bloomfield community the Extended Learning Day initiative to grade 5 students will begin in February 2018. The extended day will be modeled after the program that is currently running for grades 2-4 with an additional 45 minutes of learning opportunities. In partnership with the Boys and Girls Clubs of Hartford, the Extended Learning Day for grade 5 will focus on STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math).

B. Financial Report – December 2017

Mr. William Guzman, Chief Operations Officer presented the finance report for December 2017. He distributed the one-page and six-page financial reports. The district is six months into the fiscal year and about 4.48% of the budget has not been expended or encumbered.

On the Six-Page report adjustments to various accounts have been made especially to the salaried accounts. There is a deficit to the non-certified tutorial account. Appropriate adjustments will be made to this account moving forward and will be presented to the Finance Committee at the January 23, 2018 meeting.

The Six-Page report page 4, line item 08 Tuition, there is currently a balance of \$193,000. Relative to this, there are currently 248 students attending magnet schools that the district pays tuition in the amount of \$4,400 per child. The district is also responsible for 74 students who also receive special educational services at a cost of \$8,000 per child, In addition, there are 28 students currently receiving special educational services outside of the school district in outplaced facilities. These accounts are closely monitored throughout the year.

P. Davis inquired about the 28 students receiving services outside of the district. Mr. Guzman explained outplaced means the student's special education needs are such that they cannot be addressed by the district and this is determined through the PPT process.

M. Walters inquired about the numbers surrounding the 28 special education students and does it vary. Mr. Guzman indicated that the average cost is \$75,000; it could be higher or lower depending upon the number of students. The district is eligible for a grant through the state that partially funds some of the expenditures.



8. Old Business

No old business report.

9. New Business

A. Cycle 1 & Cycle 2 Benchmark Assessments

Dr. Bethany Silver, the Assistant Superintendent Accountability and Performance reported the Benchmark Assessment for Cycle 1 and Cycle II. The purpose of this presentation is to review benchmark assessments and highlight strengths and strategies by school. Benchmark assessments help teachers target instruction and help students prepare to meet end of year expectations.

Dr. Silver explained that the benchmark assessments are valuable as they inform students of their skill level, informs instruction and demonstrates skills relative to the end of the year grade-level expectations.

Each principal from the following schools shared the strength areas, followed by the standards and strategies in each of their focus areas.

- Ms. Lisa Eells, Wintonbury Early Childhood Magnet School
- Mr. Paul Guzzo, Laurel Elementary School
- Ms. Jocelyn Poglitsch, Metacomet Elementary School
- Mrs. Sarah Williams, Carmen Arace Intermediate School
- Dr. Trevor Ellis, Carmen Arace Middle School
- Mr. Daniel Moleti, Bloomfield High School
- Mrs. Nicola Poplin, Global Experience Magnet School-Interim

Dr. Silver summarized that “Every student deserves a great teacher not by chance, but by design”. The district uses the process of anchoring the instruction to the standards as a guide for student monitoring.

P. Davis stated that the presentations were outstanding from elementary to high school. In regards to continuity, how is the technology being taught to kids and how is it incorporated?

Dr. Silver indicated that technology is being incorporated at various levels in the schools and turned it over to the Principals to further discuss:

Dr. Ellis, stated that a STEAM program was implemented 3 years ago to bring exposure to students. Programming and coding software are embedded in all facets of learning on a daily basis.

Ms. McCann, Chief Academic Officer, indicated that we have extended learning opportunities for grades 2-12. Students are also exposed through the STEAM initiative in the district. The district has partnered with EASTCONN, UConn, Saint Joseph College, CCAT to create a STEAM environment. In addition, the district has incorporated NGSS (Next Generation State Standards) embedded in the STEAM program.



Mr. Guzzo, stated that K-2 students utilize chrome books and use the computer lab on the daily basis. They have the extended program where students learn programming and coding of robots.

Ms. Eells, indicated that Promethean boards are in every classroom. Students practice questions and research skills that are universal and are supported at the district.

Ms. Williams, stated that students use chrome books daily to critique student work through critical thinking and reasoning.

Ms. Poplin, indicated that students use iPhones as a tool to obtain information and must be monitored to use it appropriately.

Dr. Thompson closed by saying that the Principals' have demonstrated through their presentations that they are true and effective leaders. They have a true command of the data and they are using it to make informed decisions.

B. Vote to Approve the Bloomfield Education Association Contract

The statutory obligation of Section 10-151E to negotiate with the BEA (Bloomfield Education Association) through collective bargaining was. A tentative agreement was met with the BEA through mediation process. The agreement is for 3 years (2018-2019, 2019-2020, & 2020-2021). The salary increases will be 1.8% for the 1st year, 1.7% for the 2nd and 3rd years. The teachers agreed to a higher deductible insurance and the difference will be paid out-of-pocket. New hires will not be eligible for severance or longevity benefits.

If the Board of Education approves the BEA 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 were there any discussion on hard zeros for the first year? Mr. Joslyn indicated there were, but the contract was negotiated early and overall Bloomfield seems to be aligned with other districts.

D. Bolton inquired about the additional 1% for the teacher retirement and how this impacts them. Mr. Joslyn stated this information was made known to the teachers and administrators of the additional 1%.

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 Education Association for the period July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2021, as presented.

The motion was passed unanimously.



10. CABE Updates

Mr. Donald Harris, Jr. informed everyone that he would be attending the NSB Conference on February 3-6, 2018 in Washington, D.C.

The HASA/CABE/CREC Legislative Breakfast will be held on February 15, 2018 at 8:00a.m.

11. Board Comments

R. Ike extended a Happy New Year and stated the presentations were outstanding.

P. Davis wished everyone a Happy New Year and commented on the excellent presentations. She also indicated that she has resigned from her position as the Vice President of BHS PTO. An invitation was extended to Board Members and Cabinet to attend the PTO meeting on January 16, 2018 at 6:30 p.m.

H. Frydman commented on the excellent job the principals did on the presentations. He loves the word "Engagement". It's the flu and cold season so remember to keep warm.

D. Bolton extended a Happy New Year and said instead of doing resolutions, her family decided to choose one word for the year. Her word is "Gratitude". The presentations this evening were rewarding. She congratulated Ms. Williams on the birth of her child and thanked Mr. Freeman Burr and Jill Naraine for their service.

M. Walters was happy to hear the continuous and wonderful things about Bloomfield. When he heard the Superintendent speak about the extending learning he was very pleased and impressed with everything happening in the district. He especially appreciated the quote "Every student deserves a great teacher, not by chance, but by design".

D. Harris wished everyone Happy New Year and thanked the leaders for their wonderful presentations. He also thanked Ms. Bolton for remembering to thank Freeman Burr and Jill Naraine for their service.

12. Adjournment

At 8:15 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