



BLOOMFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION – REGULAR MEETING

Tuesday, May 8, 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  
P. Davis Present  
T. Moore 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  
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 – April 3, 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 April 3, 2018 regular board meeting, as presented.

D. Harris, Chair Aye  
M. R. Walters, Vice Chair Aye  
D. Bolton, Secretary Aye  
R. Ike Aye  
H. Frydman Aye



P. Davis  
T. Moore

Aye  
Abstain

The motion was passed 6-0-1.

## 5. Presentations

### A. **Bonnie B. Carney Award of Excellence of Education Communication from the Connecticut Association of Boards of Education (CABE)**

Bryan Hall, CABE Area Director and East Hartford Board of Education Chair, presented the Bloomfield Board of Education with the Bonnie B. Carney Award for Excellence in Educational Communication. Mr. Hall noted it is an honor to present this award for two consecutive years.

### B. **Student Representative Report – Global Experience Magnet School**

The student representatives from Global Experience Magnet School shared a presentation with members of the Board of Education.

Students participated in a field trip to see the movie Black Panther. It was a cultural and educational experience with a performance task.

Student Government hosted a cultural night and penny drive that benefited a local women's shelter.

The National Honor Society Induction ceremony was held on March 15, 2018 at 6:00 p.m.

The student representative shared the following student experiences:

- March 20-29, 2018 ten seniors traveled to South Africa
- April 2-13, 2018 students traveled to China, learning about cultural and landmarks while participating a homestay experience
- July 12-22, 2018 students will be traveling to Peru and will work with Habitat for Humanity
- March 22-29, 2018 nineteen students traveled to New Orleans and participated with AmeriCorps
- April 23-26, 2018 Sophomores traveled from New York to Washington D.C. on a college tour experience
- The middle school students left today for Heifer Farms - Global Village in Maryland.

The Senior Prom will be held on May 26, 2018 from 6:00-11:00 p.m. at the Mill on the River.

## 6. Public/PTO Comment

Kevin Manning, 266 Park Avenue

Ken Manning addressed the Board of Education regarding the Athletic Department staff and programs. Mr. Manning is an alumnus of Bloomfield High School and has coached



the Bloomfield Raiders for eleven years in addition to youth basketball. Last year concerns about the athletic program were brought to the attention of the Athletic Director and principal. Mr. Manning also met with administrators from the Board of Education on March 26, 2018 and feels the concerns of the parents need to be addressed.

## 7. Superintendent's Report

The first item on the Superintendent's report is the Connecticut Association of Boards of Education, Student Leadership Award presentations. Dr. Thompson noted that this annual award program recognizes students in the middle and high schools who exhibit exemplary leadership skills. To qualify as a recipient of this award, students must demonstrate diplomacy, be willing to take on challenges, possess the ability to work with others, and have the capability to make difficult decisions.

### A. Congratulations to CABE's Student Leadership Award recipients from Carmen Arace Middle School

Dr. Thompson introduced Dr. Trevor Ellis, Principal of Carmen Arace Middle School. Dr. Ellis presented the first two awards to the middle school students, Zaria Jarvis and Ethan Morander.

### B. Congratulations to CABE's Student Leadership Award recipients from Global Experience Magnet School

Dr. Ellis introduced interim Principal Nicola Poplin from the Global Experience Magnet School. Ms. Poplin introduced the recipients, Josianne Hamilton and Faheem Thompson.

### C. Congratulations to CABE's Student Leadership Award recipients from Bloomfield High School

Ms. Poplin introduced Principal, Dan Moleti. Mr. Moleti welcomed the award recipients from Bloomfield High School, Angelia Davis and Alexandria Mills.

Mr. Harris asked for a two minute recess to allow for students and families to leave, if desired.

### D. Financial Report – April 2018

Mr. William Guzman distributed the one-page and six-page financial reports. He noted the district has two months remaining in the current fiscal year. The remaining funds that have not been spent or encumbered are \$887,667, or about 2.15% of the budget.

On the Six-Page report there are several accounts which are at a negative balance. These include account number 1256 – Family Community Liaison, 1290 – Overtime Support and 5100 – Transportation. The first account is directly related to the expenses related to the extended day program. The overtime is due to custodial and maintenance for the excessive winter storms. The transportation has a deficit of \$249,586. This is directly related to the costs of transporting students with special needs through Access Transportation.



Mr. Guzman listed the three factors contributing to the high transportation costs from Access:

- Transportation of students who are homeless,
- Outplaced students who cannot be paired with another student (can cost up to \$120.00 per day per student), and
- The Unified Sports program

A board member inquired about the cost of account 1235 – Salaries, Nurses. Mr. Guzman noted the deficit in this account is as a result of hiring an LPN to work with a special education student.

Mr. Ike inquired if we are fully staffed with our custodial and maintenance staff. Mr. Guzman noted we are fully staffed; however we do have some staff on leave.

Mr. Ike also inquired how homeless students are identified. Dr. Thompson noted that families work closely with our social workers are identified through the Student Supports Services offices.

Mr. Frydman requested clarification on the transportation accounts. Mr. Guzman noted that 05 is the major account code and subaccounts 5100 and 5820 equal the total in Account 05 Pupil Transportation. Mr. Frydman also suggested the district consider utilizing e-books.

Additional clarification on the Family Community Liaison position was requested. Mr. Guzman stated that as a requirement of the grant with HFPG a position had to be created that would be responsible for our community outreach. The funding for the HFPG grant is reduced every year and the district is responsible for creating a sustainability plan. Part of our sustainability plan is to develop corporate partnerships.

## **8. Old Business**

### **A. Policies for a Second Reading**

#### **1. Graduation Requirements - 6146**

Mr. William Guzman, Chief Operations Officer presented the Graduation Requirements policy. This policy was required by the Policy Committee on March 27, 2018 and April 24, 2018 and by the full Board of Education on April 3, 2018.

Public Act 17-42 postpones the 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. Mr. Harris asked if these are the current Grade 7 students and Mr. Guzman confirmed.

A motion was made M. Walters and seconded by R. Ike for the Board of Education to approve the adoption of policy 6146 – Graduation Requirements.



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

The motion was passed 6-0-1.

## 9. New Business

### A. Review and Approval of the 2018-2019 Healthy Food Certification Statement

Mr. William Guzman, Chief Operations Officer presented the 2018-2019 Healthy Food Certification statement to the Finance Committee. This is part of the district's ongoing participation in the program.

Compliance in the program requires that we monitor the sale of foods at events during afterschool hours.

A motion was made by M. Walters and seconded by R. Ike for the Board of Education to approve the Healthy Food Option Certification pursuant to C.G.S. Section 10-215f. The board of education or governing authority certifies that all food items offered for sale to students in the schools under its jurisdiction, and not exempted from the Connecticut Nutrition Standards published by the Connecticut State Department of Education, will comply with the Connecticut Nutrition Standards during the period of July 1, 2018, through June 30, 2019. This certification shall include all food offered for sale to students separately from reimbursable meals at all times and from all sources, including but not limited to, school stores, vending machines, school cafeterias, and any fundraising activities on school premises sponsored by the school or by non-school organizations and groups.

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

The motion was passed 6-0-1.

A motion was made by M. Walters and seconded by R. Ike for the Bloomfield Board of Education to approve the Food Exemptions Statement. The Bloomfield Board of Education will allow the sale to students of food items that do not meet the Connecticut Nutrition Standards provided that the following conditions are met: 1) the sale is in connection with an event occurring after the end of the regular school day or on the weekend; 2) the sale is at the location of the event; and 3) the food



items are not sold from a vending machine or school store. An “event” is an occurrence that involves more than just a regularly scheduled practice, meeting, or extracurricular activity. For example, soccer games, school plays, and interscholastic debates are events but soccer practices, play rehearsals, and debate team meetings are not. The “regular school day” is the period from midnight before to 30 minutes after the end of the official school day. “Location” means where the event is being held.

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

The motion was passed 6-0-1.

A motion was made by M. Walters and seconded by R. Ike for the Bloomfield Board of Education to approve the Beverage Exemptions Statement. The Bloomfield Board of Education will allow the sale to students of beverages not listed in Section 10-221q of the Connecticut General Statutes provided that the following conditions are met: 1) the sale is in connection with an event occurring after the end of the regular school day or on the weekend; 2) the sale is at the location of the event; and 3) the beverages are not sold from a vending machine or school store. An “event” is an occurrence that involves more than just a regularly scheduled practice, meeting or extracurricular activity. The “school day” is the period from midnight before to 30 minutes after the end of the official school day. “Location” means where the event is being held, and must be the same place as the food sales.

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

The motion was passed 6-0-1.

## **B. Policy for Initial Reading**

### **1. Transgender and Gender Non-Conforming Youth Students – 5145.53**

Dr. Bethany Silver, Assistant Superintendent of Accountability and Performance, presented an initial reading of the policy. She noted that federal and state law requires that schools and school programs be free from discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity. This policy provides definitions, protocols and guidelines for schools and district staff to address the needs of transgender and non-confirming students.



Dr. Silver further noted that this policy provides guidelines for emerging challenges such as restroom or locker room access and student records while still protecting the legal rights and safety of such students. Dr. Silver stated this is an initial reading of the policy.

Ms. Davis commented that at a recent high school PTO meeting students made a presentation against the current dress code policy and requested a revision to the uniform policy so they can express themselves.

#### **10. CABA Updates**

Mr. Donald Harris, Jr. informed the Board of Education members that he recently attended the National School Board conference in San Antonio as a representative of the Connecticut Association of Boards of Education (CABA).

#### **11. Board Comments**

R. Ike welcomed new board member Thomas Moore. He noted the diversity in educational staff was an important topic at a recent regional fraternity meeting.

H. Frydman commented that this was a wonderful meeting and it was great to see our students achieving and this is a reflection of our Superintendent's leadership. He also welcomed Mr. Moore and was looking forward to the district Health Fair.

P. Davis thanked our teachers in honor of Teacher Appreciation Day. The PTO will be sponsoring a breakfast at the high school. She also reiterated the student concerns raised at the PTO meeting about artistic expression and stated we are here for the kids.

T. Moore is glad to be here and be a member of this Board of Education. He will be working to catch up.

D. Bolton thanked our district teachers and stated we appreciate your hard work. She attended the reception in honor Dr. Thompson as the Connecticut 2018 Superintendent of the Year. She also attended the concert "Through the Decades" at the Bushnell and applauded the students and staff.

M. Walters welcome Thomas Moore. He echoed Ms. Bolton's statements about the reception for Dr. Thompson. He also thanked our teachers for all that they do and congratulated our awards recipients.

D. Harris also welcomed new Board Member Mr. Moore. He stated he is happy to have him here. He thanked our teachers and stated they are very deserving. He also attended the reception honoring Dr. Thompson. He attended the district Arts Festival on April 26, 2108 and stated it is a wonderful venue and performance. He also applauded the fraternity of Mr. Ike who sponsored 38 young men for leadership training. The next regular meeting will be held on June 12, 2018.



**12. Adjournment**

At 8:14 p.m. a motion to adjourn was made by R. Ike and seconded by M. Walters.

The motion passed unanimously.

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D. Bolton, Secretary

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J. Thompson, Ed. D., Superintendent