



BLOOMFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION – REGULAR MEETING

Tuesday, September 12, 2017 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
H. Frydman, Secretary	Present
R. Ike	Absent
M. Williams	Absent
D. Banks	Present
Q. Johnson	Absent

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
J. Robinson, Director of Technology
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, 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 – June 13, 2017

A motion was made by M. Walters and seconded by D. Banks for the Bloomfield Board of Education to approve the minutes from the June 13, 2017 regular board meeting, as presented.

D. Harris	Aye
M. R. Walters	Aye
H. Frydman	Abstain
D. Banks	Aye



The motion was passed 3-0-1.

B. Approval of Minutes – Special Meeting – June 13, 2017

A motion was made by M. Walters and seconded by D. Banks for the Bloomfield Board of Education to approve the minutes from the June 13, 2017 special board meeting, as presented.

D. Harris	Aye
M. R. Walters	Aye
H. Frydman	Abstain
D. Banks	Aye

The motion was passed 3-0-1

5. Presentations

There were no items under Presentations.

6. Public/PTO Comment

No public comment.

7. Superintendent's Report

A. Opening School Report

Dr. James Thompson, Jr. presented the opening school report. He welcomed everyone to the 2017-2018 school year and reported that the first day was very successful with minimal transportation or facilities issues. The teachers and staff were fully prepared with welcoming classrooms. The Hartford Courant covered Bloomfield's first day of school and the Million Father March event in the article "Students Encouraged to Succeed on Bloomfield's First Day". More than 200 men came out to show their support for Bloomfield Public Schools, with a particularly strong turnout at the middle school.

B. Human Resources Update

Mr. William Joslyn, Human Resource Specialist presented an update on district staffing. He noted the district had an excellent recruiting year. There were six retirements and eight resignations to fill. This is about average for the district. All positions but one has been filled. The district added 2.5 FTE positions to meet the needs of the special education department.

A fifth grade teaching position has been added to Carmen Arace Intermediate School to reduce the current class size. The high school Math Department staff is covering extra classes to fulfill a vacancy. A fourth grade position at Metacomet is also open. Two retired teachers are substituting in this class and the position has been posted.

The district also currently has two interim principals; Mr. Freeman Burr at Metacomet Elementary School and Ms. Nicola Poplin at Global Experience Magnet School. Input from parents, staff and the community will be requested during the hiring process for these principal positions.



Mr Frydman inquired if enrollment is up. Mr. Joslyn said it is too soon to tell, however this information will be provided when the October 1 enrollment report is submitted to the State Department of Education.

Mr. Walters inquire what the reduction of class size at CAIS will look like. Mr. Joslyn noted it is currently at 24-25 students and the additional teacher will reduce the class size to 19-20.

C. Financial Report – August 2017

Mr. William Guzman reported on the financials as of September 7, 2017. He distributed the one-page and six-page financial reports. The district is two months into the fiscal year with about 19% of the budget yet to be expended or encumbered.

Dr. Thompson and Mr. Phil Schenck, Bloomfield Town Manger issued a joint communication initiating a budget freeze effective September 1, 2017. This freeze is to mitigate the impact on the local budget due to the uncertainty of the state budget.

Mr. Walters requested a definition of a budget freeze. Mr. Guzman noted that the budget freeze does not affect costs essential to implementation of instructional programs such as classroom supplies, materials, and textbooks. The freeze would include items such as overtime, new or replacement equipment and conferences.

8. Old Business

There is no old business to report.

9. New Business

A. Million Father March

Ms. Stacey McCann, Chief Academic Officer, informed the Board members that the Bloomfield Public Schools participated in the “National Fathers Take Your Children to School” day on Wednesday, August 30, 2017. The Million Father March is an opportunity for men to show their commitment to the educational lives of their children by welcoming students as they arrive to school. In total, six of the seven district schools participated with over 295 males in attendance.

Wintonbury Early Childhood Magnet School will host the same event on Monday, September 18, 2017 from 8:45-9:00 a.m.

B. Bloomfield High School Centennial

Ms. McCann also informed the Board members that Bloomfield High School is celebrating 100 years of educating children. They will be hosting events in honor of their Centennial on Friday, September 15, 2017 and Saturday, September 16, 2017.

On Friday, the Bloomfield High School alumni football game vs. Rocky Hill will start at 7:00 p.m. A tailgating event will be hosted from 5:00-7:00 p.m.

A Centennial Celebration will be held on Saturday, September 16, 2017 from 12:00 noon to 4:00 p.m. in the high school courtyard.



C. Website Redesign

The Bloomfield Public Schools went live with a redesigned website in July of 2017. Mr. John Robinson, Director of Technology highlighted some of the website's new features.

The redesign focuses on enhancing communication with families and the community. In addition, the website has individual, standardized pages for each school with easy to find Quick Links such as bus schedules and school menus.

The content of the website automatically adjusts for computers, smartphones and tablets. Mobile users can also add calendar events to their personal calendars with ease.

10. CUBE Updates

Mr. Donald Harris, Jr. is currently serving as Vice Chair of the Government Relations for CUBE.

Mr. Harris was a speaker at the Leadership Institute held on July 25, 2017 at the Water's Edge. He spoke on diversity along with Sarah Barzee and Andrea Comer.

The conference, "So You Want to Be a Board Member" will be held on September 19, 2017.

Mr. Harris will be attending a 2-day conference in New Orleans as a guest of CUBE for the Council of Urban Boards of Education (CUBE) in late September.

The CUBE/CAPSS Convention will be held on November 17-18, 2017 at the Mystic Marriott Hotel in Groton, CT. Please see Krista if you are interested in attending.

11. Board Comments

D. Banks commented that the Back-to-School Fair was a very successful event. She thanked the Board of Education for their support.

H. Frydman stated he was returning after being out due to some health issues. He appreciated all of the cards and sentiments, especially the get well cards from Laurel Elementary School. He welcomed back students and parents and encouraged them to attend Board meetings.

M. Walters remarked that the Convocation was wonderful and really highlighted all of the accomplishments of the district. He congratulated the Teacher of the Year. He also was present for the Million Father March and stated that it is a great event.

D. Harris noted he too participated in Convocation and the Million Father March. These are both wonderful events to welcome back staff and students. Mr. Harris was also at the Global Experience Magnet School Open house and which was well attended and well executed. He will be at the Open House at the high school on Thursday, September 14th and the upcoming high school Centennial events.



12. Adjournment

At 7:32 p.m. a motion to adjourn was made by M. Walters and seconded by D. Banks.

The motion was passed unanimously.

H. Frydman, Secretary

J. Thompson, Ed. D., Superintendent