



**BLOOMFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION – REGULAR MEETING**

Tuesday, December 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  
D. Bolton, Secretary Present  
R. Ike Present  
H. Frydman Present  
Q. Johnson 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  
E. Pierce, District Grant Specialist  
N. Poplin, Interim Principal, Global Experience Magnet School  
P. Guzzo, Principal, Laurel Elementary 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 7:01 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 – Special Meeting – November 11, 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 November 11, 2017 special board meeting, as presented.



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

The motion was passed 6-0-1.

**B. Approval of Minutes – Regular Meeting – November 14, 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 November 14, 2017 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
Q. Johnson	Aye
P. Davis	Aye

The motion was passed 6-0-1.

Mr. Harris congratulated Dr. James Thompson, Jr. on his recent selection as the Superintendent of the Year. Dr. Thompson was recognized by the Connecticut Association of Public School Superintendents on November 17, 2017 at the CABE/CAPSS Convention in Groton.

**5. Presentations**

**A. Introduction of New Administrative Leaders**

Mr. William Joslyn, Human Resource Specialist introduced Jocelyn Poglitsch, the new principal of Metacomet Elementary School. Ms. Jocelyn Poglitsch was one of sixty applicants and was one of eight final candidates. She was recommended by a committee comprised of staff, parents and administration. She is an experienced administrator and educator. She will be starting her duties on January 2, 2018. Ms. Poglitsch commented that she is very excited to be a part of the Bloomfield Public Schools learning community.

Mr. Joslyn also introduced Mr. Domenico Greco, the new Director of Accounting. He is replacing Sandra Braun. He was employed by the City of Hartford and has his Bachelor of Science degree in accounting and is a Certified Public Accountant. He was selected from fourteen candidates after two rounds of interviews. Mr. Greco commented that he is happy to be here and has heard wonderful things about the recent achievements of Bloomfield. Mr. Greco started his duties on December 11, 2017.



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

The most recent Global Experience Magnet School (GEMS) excursion took place on November 8-20, 2017 to Costa Rica. The group consisted of seven students and three staff members. During the thirteen day trip, they traveled to four different environmental zones of Costa Rica to obtain insights on the culture and geography.

On November 1-4, 2017, students from grade 9 visited Washington, D.C. to learn more about the nation and the government. During their time in D.C., the students toured important landmarks, visited museums and tried new foods.

GEMS celebrated its first annual cultural fair on November 16, 2017. The fair consisted of live dance performances, singing, art displays and a variety of cultural foods.

Global Experience Magnet School has also hosted multiple fundraisers including Shoe Drive for Makuleke, Toys for Tots, and Ugly Sweater Dress-Down Day to support a community pancake breakfast.

Seniors will be departing for China on April 2, 2018. During their travels, students will further their knowledge on Chinese culture and history.

The student representative congratulated Dr. Thompson on his recent nomination. She also reported that two student representatives attended the CABA/CAPSS Convention on November 18, 2017.

Upcoming experiences include the Peru Summer Experience in 2018 and Habitat for Humanity in New Orleans. GEMS is hosting its winter formal on December 15, 2017 and a middle school winter formal on January 5, 2018.

**6. Public/PTO Comment**

No public comment.

**7. Superintendent's Report**

**A. Revised District Targets on Display**

Dr. Bethany Silver, Assistant Superintendent of Accountability and Performance shared a report of the new target charts on display in the Board room. The charts show the targets over the next three years and have replaced the old charts. Dr. Silver noted the districts' high expectations for academic achievement.

**B. Financial Report – November 2017**

Mr. William Guzman, Chief Operations Officer reported on the financials as of November 2017. He distributed the one-page and six-page financial reports. The district is five months into the fiscal year with about 4.96% of the budget yet to be expended or encumbered.



The district has yet to receive the funds from several grants including the Alliance, Agri-Science, Education Cost Grant, and magnet school grants for Wintonbury Early Childhood and Global Experience.

Mr. Guzman commented on a reduction to the Tuition line from the last board meeting. He shared that some of the magnet school bills have arrived, and have been encumbered or paid at this time.

He further noted an adjustment was made to the Non-Certified Salaries account to correct the overage.

Mr. Guzman shared that the district recently received two afterschool grants totaling \$283,000, for Carmen Arace Intermediate and Middle schools.

R. Ike inquired about the number of students that are billed for the magnet schools. Mr. Guzman stated this information can be provided at the January 2018 meeting.

In response to a question by P. Davis, Mr. Guzman shared that the average magnet school tuition cost is approximately \$4,500 not including additional costs for those students receiving special education services.

## 8. Old Business

### A. Policies for a Second Reading

#### 1. Student Records: Confidentiality – 5125

Dr. Bethany Silver, Assistant Superintendent of Accountability and performance presented an amendment to existing policy 5125. She reminded the Board members that this is a second reading and was presented to Board on November 14, 2017.

In accordance with PA 17-68, Section 4, the definition of “parent” is outlined.

The revised policy defines access to records for parents who are incarcerated. This excludes certain situations such as where the parent has been convicted of sexual assault or aggravated sexual assault or such incarcerated parent is prohibited pursuant to a court order.

A motion was made M. Walters and seconded by R. Ike to recommend to the Board of Education a second reading and adoption of policy 5125, Student Records: Confidentiality.

The motion was passed unanimously.

#### 2. Physical Restraint and Seclusion – 5144.1

The second policy presented is regarding Physical Restraint and Seclusion. This policy was presented by Mr. William Guzman, Chief Operations Officer and is replacing the existing policy.



The original statute on restraint and seclusion required all staff members to be trained on physical restraint and seclusion of students. The revised statutes require only school personnel who are members of the school Crisis Intervention Teams to be trained and recertified on an annual basis.

A motion was made M. Walters and seconded by R. Ike to recommend to the Board of Education a second reading and adoption of policy 5144.1, Physical Restraint and Seclusion.

The motion was passed unanimously.

### **3. School Fund Raisers – 3281.2**

Mr. William Guzman presented a new policy on school fund raisers, which is not required by any law but is good practice. This policy was created from a model policy provided by the Connecticut Association of Boards of Education (CABE).

The policy specifically addresses the use of online fundraising campaigns, known as crowdfunding. Mr. Guzman shared that “Go Fund Me” is an example of crowdfunding. This policy is an attempt by the district to put in place procedures for those who are using web-based services for the solicitation of goods.

Mr. Harris inquired who is required to approve these requests. Mr. Guzman noted the Superintendent or designee.

A motion was made M. Walters and seconded by R. Ike to recommend to the Board of Education a second reading and adoption of policy 3281.2, School Fund Raisers.

The motion was passed unanimously.

## **9. New Business**

### **A. Student Academic Review Initiative**

Ms. Stacey McCann, Chief Academic Officer shared a presentation of the Student Academic Review Model with the members of the Board of Education. Ms. McCann highlighted the new initiative that is being implemented in grades 2-6. It is a comprehensive model that provides schools with a framework for analyzing authentic student work.

The objectives of the Academic Review are to ensure instruction is aligned with academic State Standards, analyze student work using a structured reflection approach and to support teachers in the curriculum and instruction.

An Academic Review team is comprised of instructional leaders, the school principal and members of cabinet. Each teacher meets with the team for 20-30 minutes to review the contents of the student portfolios. The sessions are facilitated by the principal.



Mrs. Barabara Coppa, a 2<sup>nd</sup> grade teacher at Laurel Elementary School value added to the presentation by sharing her student portfolios with the members of the Board of Education. She walked the members through a portfolio review process.

The Student Academic Review Model provides a cycle for improving teaching and learning. It is not evaluative.

D. Bolton commented that Mrs. Coppa's portfolios were exemplar.

B. Coppa noted that she used her student portfolios for parent conferences and was helpful in engaging parents. In addition, the process is a reflective approach and strengthens the level of coherence.

R. Ike commented that the process gives insight to the high expectations in the district.

#### **B. Approval of the 2018-2019 Academic Calendar**

A draft of the 2018-2019 Academic Calendar was presented to the Board of Education for approval.

A motion was made by M. Walters and seconded by R. Ike for the Bloomfield Board of Education to approve the 2018-2019 Academic Calendar, as presented.

The motion passed unanimously.

#### **10. CABE Updates**

Mr. Donald Harris, Jr. shared that the Board of Education received the Board of Distinction, Level II award for the fourth consecutive year from the Connecticut Association of Boards of Education (CABE). In addition, the district was also recognized by CABE for Excellence in Educational Communications. Mr. Harris recognized Krista Cherry for her work in producing the periodical.

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

R. Ike shared that he is proud to serve on the Board of Education over the last 20 years. He congratulated Dr. Thompson on the Superintendent of the Year award and welcomed Delores Bolton. He wished everyone a happy holiday.

H. Frydman commented on all the celebrations of the Bloomfield Public Schools including the high school centennial. He wished everyone a happy Hanukah.

P. Davis stated she is very proud to be a resident and a member of the board. She is pleased to see high expectations. She wished the audience a happy holiday.

Q. Johnson commented he is honored to serve on the Board of Education. He is appreciative of the work of the district and the rigor of the curriculum.



D. Bolton stated she is proud to be a new member. She extended her congratulations to Dr. Thompson on the Superintendent of the Year recognition and also commented on the holiday concert at the First Congregational Church on December 3, 2017.

M. Walters echoed D. Bolton's congratulations. He stated he was pleased with the Academic Review presentation. He also attended the Legislative Breakfast on December 7, 2017.

D. Harris noted he attended the first annual holiday parade on December 2, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. Mr. Harris was also in attendance for the Holiday Concert and the Legislative Breakfast. He stated the district has come a long way.

Mr. Harris also shared that he and Dr. Thompson presented at the New Board Member and Leadership conference hosted by CAFE. Their workshop focused on the roles and responsibilities of Board Members and the relationship of a board and superintendent. He extended a warm wishes for the holidays and New Year.

## 12. Adjournment

At 8:21 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