



BLOOMFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION – REGULAR MEETING

Tuesday, November 14, 2017 at 7:00 p.m.

Bloomfield Board of Education

1133 Blue Hills Avenue

Board Room

Attendance: D. Harris	Present
M. R. Walters	Present
H. Frydman	Present
R. Ike	Present
Q. Johnson	Present
D. Bolton	Absent
P. Davis	Present

Also Present: J. Thompson, Jr., Superintendent of Schools
S. McCann, Chief Academic Officer
W. Guzman, Chief Operations Officer
W. Joslyn, Human Resource Specialist
E. Pierce, District Grant Specialist
N. Poplin, Interim Principal, Global Experience Magnet School
D. Moleti, Principal, Bloomfield High School

1. Establishment of a Quorum and Call to Order

Dr. James Thompson Superintendent of Schools called the meeting to order Dr. Thompson 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. Election of Officers

J. Thompson welcomed new Board of Education members, Patricia Davis and Delores Bolton, and congratulated returning board members on their re-election.

First order of business was to elect new officer for the board. Dr. Thompson presided over the election of the chairperson.

A motion was made by M. Walters and seconded by R. Ike to nominate Donald Harris, Jr. as the Chairman of the Bloomfield Board of Education.

Mr. Harris accepted the nomination.

Hearing no further nominations, a motion was made by R. Ike and seconded by M. Walters to close the nominations. The vote to elect the nominee Donald Harris, Jr. for the Chair of the Bloomfield Board of Education was taken.

The motion was passed unanimously.



Donald Harris, Jr. was elected Chair of the Board of Education.

The floor was yielded to Mr. Harris to proceed with the election of the remaining officers.

Mr. Harris called for nominations of Vice Chair.

A motion was made by R. Ike and seconded by Q. Johnson to nominate Michael Walters as Vice Chair of the Bloomfield Board of Education.

Mr. Walters accepted the nomination. Hearing no further nominations, nominations for the office of Vice Chair were closed and the vote to elect the nominee for the Vice Chair of the Bloomfield Board of Education was taken.

The motion was passed unanimously.

Michael Walters was elected Vice Chair of the Board of Education.

Mr. Harris called for nominations for the position of board Secretary.

A motion was made by R. Ike and seconded by Q. Johnson to nominate Delores Bolton as Secretary of the Bloomfield Board of Education.

Hearing no further nominations, nominations for the office of Secretary were closed and the vote to elect the nominee for the Secretary of the Bloomfield Board of Education was taken.

The motion was passed unanimously.

Delores Bolton was elected Secretary of the Board of Education.

4. Opening Statement

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

5. Consent Agenda

A. Approval of Minutes – Regular Meeting – September 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 September 12, 2017 regular board meeting, as presented.



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

The motion was passed 5-0-1.

6. Presentations

A. Student Representative Report – Bloomfield High School

The student representative from Bloomfield reported on the successful reunion of the Class of 1960 and the BHS Centennial events on September 15 and 16, 2017.

The National Honor Society inducted 18 new members on September 20, 2017. Members must have demonstrated excellence in the areas of scholarship, service, leadership, and character. The Tri-M Music Honor Society also held an induction ceremony on November 8, 2017. Students of the Tri-M Music Honor Society are expected to perform, lead, and serve the community.

The Bloomfield High School Athletic Department won the Michael's Cup for the third consecutive year.

The 2017 College Fair was held on October 17, 2017 with over 150 colleges and universities being represented.

The students of Bloomfield High School collected donated goods to support the relief efforts in Puerto Rico.

The Bloomfield High School Boys Cross Country Team won the CCC North Patriot Division Championship and the Unified Sports program had their first soccer game on November 2, 2017.

In celebration of the Homecoming Game, the student participated in the Pep Rally, Spirit week and Homecoming Dance. The football team won the Homecoming Game versus RHAM by a score of 25 to 21.

7. Public/PTO Comment

Harold Jones of 41 Woodland Road addressed the Board of Education. He stated he would like to thank the Board of Education members for making being a student in Bloomfield great. He noted that under its leadership, Bloomfield Board of Education is successfully preparing students. He shared that there were numerous resources and opportunities for his children who attended Bloomfield Public Schools.

8. Superintendent's Report

A. Boys & Girls Clubs of America Charter Site – Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

Dr. Thompson announced the Boys & Girls Clubs of America has selected Laurel Elementary School and Metacomet Elementary School as Charter Sites. The Boys &



Girls Clubs of Hartford has been a partner of Metacomet and Laurel Schools since 2016, providing STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art, and math) extended day programming activities and academic support.

On November 14, 2017, the Bloomfield Public Schools and the Boys & Girls Clubs of Hartford hosted a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony in honor of this charter designation.

B. Legislative Breakfast on December 7, 2017

On December 7, 2017 Bloomfield Public Schools will be joined by local and state elected officials, board of education and town council members, and other stakeholders to hear about the recent successes of our district and opportunities for growth. The event will be held at the First Cathedral from 8:00-9:00 a.m.

C. Financial Report – October 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 92% of the budget expended or encumbered.

Mr. Guzman noted that the district has yet to receive the final amounts for state grants such as the Alliance, Excess Cost Grant or Magnet School grants. The district will continue under the Alliance Grant since the number of districts increased from 30 to 33.

The district continues to remain in a budget freeze. As a reminder this freeze affects accounts such as conferences, overtime, and dues/fees. It does not apply to instructional, health and safety or contractual accounts.

A board member inquired about the overage in the noncertified staff lines. Mr. Guzman noted there was a need to increase staff in the areas of paraprofessionals, nurses and clerical.

Mr. Walters asked Mr. Guzman to elaborate on the Alliance districts. Mr. Guzman noted that the Alliance districts were names about five years ago as the 30 lowest performing schools. In April, Bloomfield was moved into a category called “Promise” along with two other districts due to increased student achievement. In order to continue funding to support academic achievement, the number of districts was increased to 33.

9. Old Business

A. Policies for a Second Reading

1. Attendance, Excused Absences, and Truancy – 5113.2

Mr. William Guzman, Chief Operations Officer presented a change to the existing policy regarding student Attendance and Excused absences. He noted that this policy was brought before the Policy Committee on September 26



and October 24, 2017 and to the full Board for an initial reading on October 17, 2017.

The edit to this policy comes as a result of Public Act No. 17-14 and from recommendation of the Connecticut State Department of Education. This policy revision excludes in-school suspensions from being considered a student absence.

Mr. Guzman noted that schools are notifying all parents or guardians of student absences as per the policy regulations.

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 5113.2 – Attendance, Excused Absences, and Truancy.

The motion was passed unanimously.

2. Staff Development – 4131

Mr. William Guzman presented the policy to the Board regarding staff development.

This policy is to address the implementation of Public Act No. 17-37 regarding the recommendations for professional development and in-service training requirements for educators and Public Act No. 17-32 an act concerning human trafficking.

This new policy indicates that professional development should be aligned to the goals of the district and academic state standards. The new law requires eighteen (18) hours of embedded professional development focused on improving student learning.

In compliance with PA 17-32, the Staff Development policy also includes training pertaining to human trafficking to those staff members who have contact with students. The initial educational training will be development by the Department of Children and Families and must be completed July 1, 2018.

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 4131, Staff Development.

The motion was passed unanimously.

3. Health Assessments/Screenings – 5141.3

Mr. William Guzman presented a total revision of the Health Assessment/Screenings policy.



The new policy adheres to the states laws and regulations that pertain to school immunizations and health assessments. In addition, this policy addresses the requirement of the school district to provide written notice to the parent/guardian of each student found to have a defect of vision or disease of the eye during their vision screening.

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 5141.3, Health Assessments/Screenings.

The motion was passed unanimously.

10. New Business

A. Bloomfield High School Summer Academy

Ms. Stacey McCann, Chief Academic Officer shared a PowerPoint presentation outlining the highlights of the Bloomfield High School Summer Academy. Research shows that summer program stand to improve students' math and reading levels.

Students entering Grade 9 received instruction in mathematics and literacy. Literacy goals focused on explicit vocabulary, analytical reading, responding to text dependent questions, argumentative writing, communication reasoning and independent reading. They met every morning for a "Big Ideas" ponder, to set goals for themselves and the day.

Students entering grades 10-12 were offered the opportunity to participate in a new hybrid independent study. The PSAT/SAT summer academy focused on science, social studies and math. The hybrid program allowed for independent learning and open classroom time for instructor assistance.

In addition, identified students participated in an accelerated Algebra 1 course and an accelerated Honors Pre-Calculus course.

Overall, the 134 student attended the BHS Summer Academy with an attendance rate of 92%. A total of 66.5 credits were earned.

In addition, the Summer Academy also provided rigorous Curriculum and Professional Development opportunity to teachers. During this time they aligned unites of study and revised benchmark assessments.

B. Policies for an Initial Reading

1. Student Records: Confidentiality – 5125

Mr. William Guzman, Chief Operations Officer presented an amendment to the existing policy. He reminded the Board members that this is an initial reading and was presented to the Policy Committee to be vetted on October 24, 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.

2. Physical Restraint and Seclusion – 5144.1

The second policy presented is regarding Physical Restraint and Seclusion. This policy 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.

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. 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. It also notes that the funds that are received are the property of the school district.

Mr. Guzman noted this is different from policy 3280, Gifts, Grants and Bequests which addresses gifts of grants and/or personal property to the district.

C. 2018 Board of Education Meeting Schedule

The 2018 Board of Education meeting schedule was presented to the board for approval. This meeting schedule will be filed with the Town of Bloomfield, Town Clerk's Office.

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

The motion was passed unanimously.

11. CABE Updates

Mr. Donald Harris, Jr. reminded the Board that CABE stands for the Connecticut Association of Boards of Education. Mr. Harris currently serves as the Vice President of Government Relations.



The CABE/CAPSS Convention will be held on November 17-18, 2017 at the Mystic Marriott Hotel in Groton, CT. The delegate assembly will be on Thursday, November 16, 2017.

The New Board Member and Leadership Conference will be held on December 7, 2017.

12. Board Comments

R. Ike thanked Mr. Jones for sharing his accolades. He stated his service is about the students and he expects rigor and high standards for Bloomfield students.

H. Frydman also thanked Mr. Jones for speaking. He also encouraged families to attend Board meetings. Mr. Frydman thanked John Robinson for assisting with the news feeds from the BPS website to the public access television station. He welcomed all new Board members.

P. Davis stated although she is new to the Board, she has been a long serving advocate in the school district. She looks forward to serving in this new capacity.

Q. Johnson thanked P. Davis for the commitment. Noted it is our differences that make us a stronger community.

M. Walters congratulated the new members. He thanked Mr. Jones for the uplifting comments. Mr. Walters commented that the terms used in the BHS summer academy are similar to college terms and helps to prepare students for college. He also thanked Ms. Sneed from the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving for providing an informative presentation at the Board retreat on Saturday.

D. Harris noted he attended the swearing in ceremony on Monday, November 13, 2017. He acknowledged Deputy Mayor Rickford Kirton. Mr. Harris attended the concert provided by the Bloomfield High School Choir on November 4, 2017.

The Bloomfield High School Holiday Concert will be at 2:00 p.m. on December 3, 2017 at the First Congregational Church.

13. Adjournment

At 8:09 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