



BLOOMFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION – REGULAR MEETING

Tuesday, October 17, 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 Present  
D. Banks Present  
Q. Johnson 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  
A.M. Cullinan, Academic Specialist  
S. Simpson, Director of Strategic Communication and Planning  
E. Pierce, District Grant Specialist  
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 7:01 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 – 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, Secretary Aye  
R. Ike Abstain  
D. Banks Aye  
Q. Johnson Abstain

The motion was passed 4-0-2.



## 5. Presentations

### A. Student Representative Report – Global Experience Magnet School

The most recent Global Experience Magnet School (GEMS) excursion took place over the summer break. Twenty-nine students and seven chaperones ventured to San Francisco and then onto two of the Hawaiian Islands (Hawaii and Oahu). This 12-day trip was a combination of the GEMS summer camp experience and the Habitat for Humanity experience. The itinerary was very rich in culture and education.

Ms. Nicola Poplin is serving as the Interim Principal at Global Experience Magnet School.

In support of Hurricane Harvey victims, Global Experience Magnet School raised money through a Pep Rally and Spirit week.

Students received training in the E3: Encourage, Empower, Engage course. This peer-to-peer initiative teaches students how to share information and knowledge with their peers.

Grades 8-12 participated in the PSAT and SAT exams on October 11, 2017.

Students also shared in a team building experience at The Adventure Park in Storrs, CT.

The upcoming GEMS Experiences include the Grade 9 trip to Washington, D.C. on November 1-4, 2017 and the Grade 12 trip to Costa Rica on November 8-20, 2017.

## 6. Public/PTO Comment

No public comment.

## 7. Superintendent's Report

### A. Financial Report – September 2017

Mr. William Guzman, Chief Operations Officer reported on the financials as of October 2017. He distributed the one-page and six-page financial reports. The district is four months into the fiscal year with about 89% of the budget expended or encumbered.

One account of note is the 02 Non-Certified Salaries account which is currently over expended. This account is being reviewed and should be adjusted by the next Board meeting. The Tuition, Magnet school line 5690 has yet to be encumbered. The district is waiting to receive the bills from CREC.

Mr. Walters inquired if this is standard. Mr. Guzman noted that it is not out of the ordinary as districts have just submitted their October 1 Enrollment data to the state.

Mr. Ike asked how the district ended their 2016-2017 fiscal year. Mr. Guzman stated the district ended with a positive balance; however due to the difficult budget year, funds were not set aside for the 2% non-recurring account.



## 8. Old Business

There is no old business to report.

## 9. New Business

### A. Summer School Programs 2017

Ms. Anne Marie Cullinan, Academic Specialist shared a PowerPoint presentation outlining the highlights of the Early Start 2017 program. Over 400 students in grades 1-6 attended the three-week summer program. Research shows that gaps in student achievement are significantly impacted by summer learning loss.

The curriculum for the summer program included mastering Common Core Standards with 30 instructional hours in Reading, Writing and 15 instructional hours in math. Teachers of record were retained for summer instruction.

This year grades 1 and 2 curriculum included the National Geographic non-fiction reading and grades 3 and 4 used Engineering is Elementary.

The enrichment portion of the day for Grades 1-4 included STEM related activities such as 3-D printing, dancing, cooking and physical education. The Boys & Girls Club of Hartford directed a wellness program focusing on improving the overall health of students by increasing daily physical activity and teaching about good nutrition.

The academic program for students in Grades 5-6 focused on problem solving skills and SBAC performance tasks while incorporating CLOSE reading strategies. For enrichment, students participated in a variety of physical fitness activities including aerobics, yoga, dance and wiffle ball.

Students in grades 7-8 participated in a STEM oriented program that consisted of a Language Arts/Social Science component and a Mathematics/Science component. The program used the Engineering Design Process. For enrichment, students explored the art and science of photography and worked on physical fitness skills.

Attendance-increased in all grades over last year except Grade 4. Ms. Cullinan noted that attendance was closely monitored and commented that parents preferred the three-week program.

Overall, materials were of high interest to the students and the informational texts were engaging.

### B. Budget Transfers – 2016/2017 Fiscal Year

Mr. William Guzman, Chief Operations Officer shared a summary of budget transfers for fiscal year 2016-2017. The transfers were reviewed by the Finance Committee on September 26, 2017. These transfers are to reconcile deficits and balance the accounts from the 2016-2017 budget. The transfers are needed in order to complete the end-of-year report.



Policy 3160 indicates that Board approval is required for all salary transfers and other transfers in excess of \$25,000.

A motion was made by M. Walters and seconded by R. Ike for the Bloomfield Board of Education to approve the final budget transfers for fiscal year 2016-2017, as presented.

The motion passed unanimously.

### **C. Policies for Initial Reading**

#### **1. Attendance, Excused Absences, and Truancy – 5113.2**

Dr. Silver, Assistant Superintendent of Accountability and Performance presented a change to the existing policy regarding student Attendance and Excused absences.

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.

Dr. Silver reviewed that students would be noted as chronically absent when their absences were equal to or greater than ten per cent of the total number of school days enrolled.

#### **2. Staff Development – 4131**

Mr. William Guzman, Chief Operations Officer presented the policy to the Board for an initial reading. This policy has been reviewed by the Policy Committee on September 26, 2017.

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. The act eliminates repetitive in-service training programs.

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 must be completed July 1, 2018.



### 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.

This policy has been reviewed by Penny Maddy, the head nurse and is in accordance with the current practices of the district.

### 10. CUBE Updates

Mr. Donald Harris, Jr. attended a 2-day conference in New Orleans as a guest of CUBE for the Council of Urban Boards of Education (CUBE) in late September. There were many items of information on diversity and changes in technology.

He also served as a panelist at the CUBE workshop entitled “So You Want to be A Board Member” on September 19, 2017.

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

R. Ike is back after being delayed on a cruise because of a hurricane and unable to attend the last meeting. Mr. Ike welcomed back fellow member Howard Frydman and recognized Michael Williams and Donna Banks for their contributions to the Board. He attended the Bloomfield High School Centennial program and was very impressed. He also commented that the Board presentation to the Town Council candidates was comprehensive.

Q. Johnson echoed Mr. Ike’s sentiments. He reminded the audience to vote on November 7, 2017.

D. Banks thanked the Board of Education members for their support and stated she learned a great deal from her tenure on the Board.

H. Frydman encouraged people to spread the good word about the Bloomfield Public Schools. He thanked Donna Banks for serving and acknowledged her recognition by the Bloomfield Lions Club.

M. Walters remarked that Ms. Banks would be missed. He stated it is wonderful to see the community, administration and schools working together. The Early Start program is academically engaging and contributes to the whole child. The Bloomfield High School Open House was well attended as was the Alumni Football game.



D. Harris noted he too attended the Open House at Bloomfield High School. He also was present for the Class of 1960 Reunion. The attendees were delighted to have the students participate in their event. The Centennial Celebration was a great success. On September 26, 2017 Mr. Harris, Dr. Thompson and Mr. Guzman were joined by representatives from KingSpan on the roof of Carmen Arace for a photo-op. The solar panels are impressive. On October 4, 2017 the Board and Central Office staff presented to the Town Council candidates. On October 13, 2017 Mr. Harris attended the Metacomet Culture Fair.

He shared his sentiments with Ms. Banks and thanked her serving on the Board of Education.

He reminded the audience to get out and vote on November 7, 2017.

## 12. Adjournment

At 8:07 p.m. a motion to adjourn was made by R. Ike and seconded by M. Walters.

The motion passed unanimously.

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H. Frydman, Secretary

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J. Thompson, Ed. D., Superintendent