



BLOOMFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION – REGULAR MEETING

Tuesday, March 12, 2019 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 *arrived at 7:04 p.m.*

Also Present: J. Thompson, Superintendent of Schools
W. Guzman, Chief Operations Office
B. Silver, Assistant Superintendent of Accountability and Performance
S. McCann, Chief Academic Officer
E. Pierce, District Grant Specialist
A.M. Cullinan, Curriculum Specialist
S. Simpson, Director of Strategic Communications and Planning
F. Burr, Human Resource Specialist
D. Greco, Director of Accounting
N. Poplin, 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

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

A motion was made by M. Walters and seconded by R. Ike for the Bloomfield Board of Education add agenda item #12: Executive Session for discussion of a document exempt from disclosure pursuant to attorney/client privilege.

The motion was passed unanimously.



4. Consent Agenda

A. Approval of Minutes – Special Meeting – February 19, 2019

A motion was made by M. Walters and seconded by R. Ike for the Bloomfield Board of Education to approve the minutes from the February 19, 2019 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
P. Davis	Abstain
T. Moore	Aye

The motion was passed 6-0-1.

B. Approval of Minutes – Special Meeting – February 28, 2019

A motion was made by M. Walters and seconded by R. Ike for the Bloomfield Board of Education to approve the minutes from the February 28, 2019 special board meeting, as presented.

The motion was passed unanimously.

5. Public/PTO Comment

Lionel Thompson, 56 Linwood

Mr. Thompson has been a resident of Bloomfield for 15 years and moved from Hartford in 2003. He shared with the Board of Education that his youngest son attends Bloomfield High School and he believes in the public school system. His son plays basketball and he stated it is important to have a coach who is relatable and is interested in the development of each player. He further stated that a coach serves as a mentor to the male student-athletes and having a connection with the players is important.

Howard Simpson, 13 White Birch Circle

Mr. Simpson stated his son is a freshman at Bloomfield High School. He has concerns about the basketball coach's ability to facilitate college relationships and build relationships with the student athletes. He is requesting consideration for who they select for the coach in the 2019-2020 season.

Christopher Rose, 2 Linwood Drive

Mr. Rowe has two children who have graduated and one child who is a freshman at Bloomfield High School. Mr. Rowe is also a basketball coach and graduate from Weaver. He noted the passion of the young male students and encouraged the Board to consider a coach who can guide our young men and be a role model. He is asking that during the hiring process for next year, they take this into consideration.



6. Recognitions

A. Students – Rotary Student of the Month for February and March 2019

Dr. James Thompson, Jr., Superintendent of Schools acknowledged the February and March Rotary Students of the Month.

B. Staff and Board – Connecticut Board of Education Appreciation

Dr. Thompson recognized the Board of Education in honor of Connecticut Board of Education Appreciation Month. Dr. Thompson shared that this annual event provides a perfect opportunity to thank all of our Board Members for their hard work and dedication to this district.

C. Parents and Community – Alliance for Bloomfield’s Children

Ms. Stacey McCann the Chief Academic Officer recognized Alliance for Bloomfield’s Children (ABC) for their support and engagement by providing a series of professional workshops around diversity and equity. Approximately 143 Bloomfield educators attended an unconscious bias workshop in collaboration with ABC and Randy McCray.

7. Presentations

A. Student Representative Report

The Global Experience Magnet School (GEMS) student representatives reported to the Board of Education on recent events at the GEMS, such as Black History Month.

The student representatives shared information about the recent Senior Experience to France. Upcoming experiences include South Africa, Northeast College Tour, Costa Rica trip and the China trip.

Recent events at GEMS include the Middle School Science Fair, a performance by NIA Arts from Bloomfield High School and the GEMS Society Breakfast.

The graduation rate at Global is 100% and their SAT scores increased from an average score of 966 to an average score of 980.

Global Experience Magnet School will be hosting a Lip Sync Battle and Movie Night fundraiser on March 14, 2019.

B. Bloomfield Chamber of Commerce Scholarship

Mr. Quentin Johnson shared information regarding the Chamber of Commerce Scholarship award to the Board of Education. The Bloomfield Chamber of Commerce is offering up to three scholarships, in amounts up to \$1,000 each. Applications are due April 16, 2019. More information can be found at www.bloomfieldchamber.org.

C. Read Across America and Parent Engagement Video

Stan Simpson, Director of Strategic Communications and Planning shared two new promotional videos with the Board of Education. The first video shows district staff reading to students and the importance of literacy on Read Across America Day. The



second video is a novel initiative by Metacomet School and educator Carly Paine to engage parents. Both videos can be viewed at www.bloomfieldschools.org.

8. Superintendent's Report

A. High School Musical

Frank Quinn, District Department Chair for the Visual and Performing Arts provided highlights of the upcoming performance of Disney's High School Musical. This musical performance will be held March 21-23, 2019. This is student lead production with collaboration between Bloomfield High School and Carmen Arace. Students in grades 5-12 are involved in the musical.

B. Financial Report – February 2019

Mr. William Guzman, Chief Operations Officer reported on the financials as of, March 7, 2019. He distributed the one-page and six-page financial reports. The district is just over eight months into the fiscal year with about .25% of the budget yet to be expended or encumbered.

Mr. Guzman noted that the tuition account (08) is very unpredictable. From the 2013-2014 school year there has been an increase of 150 students who require special education services. Mr. Guzman shared that currently there are 75 students with severe disabilities that require 1 to 1 adult supervision.

It was inquired why there are accounts with deficits. Mr. Guzman noted that as in previous years budget transfers will be presented to the Board at the end of the fiscal year to balance these accounts.

9. New Business

A. Early Start Planning Update

Mrs. Anne Marie Cullinan, Curriculum Specialist presented a summary of the Early Start program to the Board of Education. There is a great amount of research that supports the benefits of summer programs. An article regarding summer learning was shared with the Board members

Instructional strategies for the Early Start program are similar to those used during the school year.

The program will be held at Laurel Elementary School for students in grades 1-4 and Carmen Arace Intermediate and Middle School for students in grades 5-8. The program runs from July 8 through July 26, 2019.

The early start program includes both academics and enrichment. There are 30 hours of instruction in reading and literacy and 15 hours in mathematics. A community partnership has also been formed with Prosser Public Library.

Transportation is provided for all students. Student Support Services, including nurses are also available at all school sites.



The presentation outlined the school functions and the Central Office functions for the Early Start programming.

In addition, it was noted that the Early Start program is open to all Bloomfield students.

10. CABE Updates

Mr. Donald Harris, Jr. shared that the CABE Day on the Hill event will be held on Wednesday, March 20, 2019 at the Bushnell. Please contact Krista if you are interested in attending. The National School Boards Association Convention will be held March 28-April 1, 2019 in Philadelphia, PA.

11. Board Comments

R. Ike stated tonight was a very good Board meeting. The budget season is exciting and he will be attending the Town Council meeting on Thursday, March 14, 2019.

H. Frydman thanked the Central Office staff for putting the budget information together. He recognized the students of Global Experience Magnet School (GEMS) for their maturity. He urged people to attend the Town Council and Board meetings.

P. Davis noted that she is the co-chair of the Alliance for Bloomfield's Children organization. She believes the unconscious bias workshop should be a mandatory training for all. She asked for support of the students who are performing in the upcoming musical and added that they still need volunteers to help. She praised the parents of the basketball players for speaking. She stated that the boys are capable and need mentors in their lives. Coaches play a very important role.

T. Moore stated he is very impressed by the student representatives from GEMS. He also recognized the teaching staff and Central Office staff for their hard work and stated their jobs are not easy.

D. Bolton commended GEMS on their support of students traveling abroad and noted that we are now a global society. Ms. Bolton positively commented on the videos with Carly Paine and Ms. McCann. She added that family and community engagement is a vital part of school.

M. Walters attended the Black History Celebration at Bloomfield High School. The event was well organized and the students were outstanding. Mr. Walters also attended the Read Across America at Laurel Elementary School. He further reminded GEMS students that the memories from traveling will last a lifetime. In addition, Mr. Walters stated it was good to see we are continuing the Early Start summer program. He noted that parental involvement is important.

D. Harris reminded the attendees and viewers that the musical performance will be on March 21-23, 2019. He also thanked the parents who spoke and reminded them that management is the responsibility of the Superintendent.



12. Executive Session

A motion was made by M. Walters and seconded by R. Ike to enter into Executive Session for discussion of a document exempt from disclosure pursuant to attorney/client privilege and reconvene into Open Session. We further invite the Superintendent, Dr. James Thompson, Jr., Chief Operations Officer, William Guzman and Director of Accounting, Domenic Greco to participate.

The motion was passed unanimously.

The Board Members convened into Executive Session at 8:25 p.m. and returned to public session at 9:04 p.m.

13. Adjournment

At 9:05 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