



BLOOMFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION – REGULAR MEETING

Tuesday, October 16, 2018 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	Absent
	R. Ike	Present
	H. Frydman	Present
	P. Davis	Present
	T. Moore	Present

Also Present: J. Thompson, Jr., Superintendent of Schools
B. Silver, Assistant Superintendent of Accountability and Performance
W. Guzman, Chief Operations Officer
F. Burr, Human Resource Specialist
L. Eells, Principal, Wintonbury Early Childhood Magnet School
D. Moleti, Principal, Bloomfield High School
N. Poplin, Principal, Global Experience Magnet School
T. Ellis, Principal, Carmen Arace Middle School
S. Williams, Principal, Carmen Arace Intermediate School
J. Poglitsch, Principal, Metacomet 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 7:00 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

All rose to recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Opening Statement

M. Walters, Vice Chair, welcomed all attendees. The purpose and process of the Board of Education meeting was stated.

4. Consent Agenda

A. Approval of Minutes – Special Meeting – September 4, 2018

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 4, 2018 special board meeting, as presented.

D. Harris, Chair	Aye
M. R. Walters, Vice Chair	Aye
H. Frydman	Abstain
R. Ike	Abstain



P. Davis
T. Moore

Aye
Aye

The motion was passed 4-0-2.

5. Presentations

A. Student Representative Report – Bloomfield High School

The student representatives from Bloomfield High School reported to the Board of Education on recent events at the high school such as Open House on September 13, 2018, a Freshman BBQ, Save a Life Tour, and SAT Day on October 10, 2018. The high school also hosted students from China and visitors from the Norwalk Public Schools.

The student athletes recently visited the Bloomfield Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation to participate in a pep rally in celebration of the facility's new mascot.

The student representative reported that the BHS football team is undefeated 5-0 and the girls' volleyball team is hosting the annual Dig Pink game in support of breast cancer research.

Bloomfield High School hosted its College Fair on Tuesday, October 16, 2018. The students provided a list of upcoming events including the National Honor Society Induction Ceremony on November 7, 2018 at 1:00 p.m.

6. Public/PTO Comment

Tony Smith, 37 Maple Avenue

Mr. Tony Smith has been a resident of Bloomfield for thirteen years and is also the spouse of a Bloomfield music teacher. He stated he has an extensive background working with children. His concerns addressed to the Board of Education are regarding student behavior. He stated he has noticed a pattern with students who are doing what they are supposed to be doing. The "good" kids are acting out as they also want to be "on a plan". He added that there is not consistency among teachers regarding classroom management to address student behaviors. He observed that when students don't get incentives they become disruptive. Mr. Smith noted to the Board that there is a better way of assisting teachers and administration to remove students from class and recommended contacting parents for all negative behaviors.

Tymina Follins, 1067 Blue Hills Avenue

Ms. Tymina Follins is a parent of a Bloomfield students, but is before the Board of Education on behalf of all students. She stated there is a need for increase of technology in the classrooms. There are not sufficient Chrome books to use the software programs available to students. Ms. Follins also addressed the need for smaller classroom sizes. There are behavioral issues and she stated that smaller classroom sizes, with individualized attention will allow for larger performance gains.



Petrene Davis, 84 Englewood Avenue

Ms. Petrene Davis addressed the Board of Education regarding the cost to educate our students compared to other districts. She noted that in 2016-2017 the cost to education one student is about \$20,800.79 according to the 2016-2017 Strategic School Profile. She further noted, that with 2,157 students in the district, the majority of students are still struggling. Ms. Davis noted the district is still lacking vital resources. She stated the models that have been implemented have the students at the same level or worse. Ms. Davis states the SBAC scores in neighboring towns such as Granby and West Hartford have higher performance rates with lower per pupil expenditures. She suggested they encourage visitations to these neighboring towns.

Vudonzi Graham-Days, 89 Wintonbury Avenue

Ms. Graham-Days addressed the Board of Education with concerns about the allocations of funds. She noted the parents have been asking for money and resources and are still waiting for those requests to be fulfilled. She noted that the district has been an Alliance District for six years and those Alliance funds should be going directly to the education of the students instead of extra staff. Ms. Graham-Days noted if the members of the Board intend to live here in Bloomfield to keep in mind that they are training the future workforce. She asked them to give these students the tools they need as if they are your own children. She encourages the Board of Education members to become more proactive for the right reasons.

7. Superintendent's Report

A. CABE Master Board of Education Member

Dr. James Thompson, Jr., Superintendent of Schools congratulated Chairman Donald Harris, Jr. for receiving the prestigious, Master Board of Education Member presented by the Connecticut Association of Boards of Education.

B. Recipient of Commissioner's Literacy Award – Rose Rose

Dr. Thompson also recognized Bloomfield's Literacy Coach, Rose Rose. Rose is the first recipient of the Commissioner of Education's Literacy Leadership Award.

C. NAEYC Accreditation at Wintonbury Early Childhood Magnet School

On July 19, 2018, Wintonbury Early Childhood Magnet School achieved accreditation by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC). Dr. Thompson gave accolades to the administration, teaching staff, and families of Wintonbury Early Childhood Magnet School for earning this mark of quality represented by National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) Accreditation of Early Learning Programs. Principal, Lisa Eells provided additional information regarding the accreditation process and successes.

D. Financial Report – September 2018

Mr. William Guzman, Chief Operations Officer reported on the financials as of September 2018. He distributed the one-page and six-page financial reports. The district is four months into the fiscal year with about 84% of the budget expended or encumbered.



The district continues to remain in a budget freeze. As a reminder this freeze does not apply to instructional or education programming, health and safety or contractual accounts or utilities.

A board member inquired about what comprised the account Miscellaneous, line item 14. Mr. Guzman noted he can get more specific information about that account.

Information regarding any changes to the current state funding (grants) was requested by a board member. Mr. Guzman noted that for the 2018-2019 budget year, the district has not been notified of any reductions to the current budget, although there may be possible reductions to the Magnet School grants.

Mr. Moore asked what the Contractual Services, Line Item 04 includes. Mr. Guzman noted these expenditures include such contracts as inspections or asbestos maintenance, Fire Alarms and other mandatory services.

Mr. Guzman also noted that the \$815,000 Alliance Grant has guidelines as do other grant for what are allowable expenditures.

8. Old Business

No old business.

9. New Business

A. SBAC Results

Dr. Bethany Silver, along with principals Jocelyn Poglitsch, Sarah Williams, Trevor Ellis and Nicola Poplin presented an overview of the 2018 Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC) results to the Board of Education. This is their third opportunity presenting this information. They presented to the Curriculum Committee on September 26, 2018 and the Town Council subcommittee on October 1, 2018.

Dr. Silver provided district demographic information. Dr. Silver also shared with the committee the CT achievement level descriptions for SBAC as defined by the State Department of Education. She noted that the state has four levels: Exceeding, Meeting, Approaching and Below. The state does not identify any category as failing.

The principals presented their individual results by school in both English Language Arts and Mathematics and provided an analysis of their results. The analysis included their strengths, observations and implications and their next steps. Some next steps include vertical alignment of curriculum, the implementation of SRBI, employing the Academic Review model and data teams, and small group instruction.

It was further stated the principals are looking at the data to identify how to address the needs at their school. They have each met individually with classroom teachers to review reflection reports of the SBAC data. These reports share classroom and student level data with classroom teachers, to identify learning strengths and instructional opportunities.



Mr. Frydman commented that he is very concerned about the data, specifically grade 5. He inquired about how the teachers are being evaluated. Dr. Silver responded that the district has a professional learning community and that we have content specific coaches to assist teachers in challenging areas. In addition, the district uses the Teacher Evaluation system with mandatory classroom visits to evaluate certified staff, including 8 unannounced classroom visits per year. Mr. Frydman suggested listening to how students read at various grade levels. Dr. Silver noted that the district uses Fountas and Pinnell, a one-on-one reading assessment, to determine guided reading levels. She further noted that through the SRBI, students are receiving personalized learning and differentiated instruction.

Mr. Ike commented that he was a member of the Board of Education for over fifteen years and was here when the performance level was extremely low. He stated that the district has made progress under the leadership of Dr. Thompson with the graduation rate moving from 74% to over 90%. He stated for the record that the interest of the Board of Education has always been the education of Bloomfield's children.

Mr. Ike also inquired what a cohort is. Dr. Silver noted that a cohort is a same group of students that move from grade to grade, such as the Class of 2019.

It was further noted the district is seeing growth on the SAT's but does have a sense of urgency to identify the factors for student performance levels in the earlier (or younger) grades.

Ms. Davis noted that there should be progress at all levels and appreciates the ownership from the principals. She stated there is a need to get back to basics with smaller classroom sizes and more resources.

Mr. Walters noted that everyone has a part to play and it has to be a community effort.

B. Approval of Agreement for Child Nutrition Programs

Mr. William Guzman shared with the Board of Education the updated agreement for the Child Nutrition Program. The notification of the updated agreement came from the CT State Department of Education on September 10, 2018. Following a federal review of the ED099, the state was required to make updates to the agreement to be in compliance with state and federal laws enacted since the last update in 1999.

A motion was made by M. Walters and seconded by R. Ike to approve the Agreement for Child Nutrition Programs, Form ED-099, as presented

The motion passed unanimously.

C. Policy for an Initial Reading

1. Reporting of Child Abuse and Neglect – 5141.4

Mr. William Guzman, Chief Operations Officer presented an initial reading of policy 5141.4 – Reporting of Child Abuse and Neglect.



This policy is being revised in compliance with State Statue P.A. 18-17 with additional updates to the language. It was further noted this was provided to the Policy Committee on September 26, 2018 and will be presented for a second reading at the November 2018 meeting.

10. CABA Updates

Mr. Donald Harris, Jr. shared the Board of Education is the recipient of the Bonnie B. Carney Award of Excellence for Educational Communications. He also strongly encouraged all Board members to register for the CABA/CAPSS Convention at the Mystic Marriott in November.

11. Board Comments

R. Ike no comments

H. Frydman congratulated Rose Rose on her award. He also thanked the parents for coming out in support of their children. He recognized his volunteer who videotaped the Board meeting and advised the district to keep watch for the buses and for any violations.

P. Davis advocated for resources for the students. She noted the audit and the advisement of continuing to look at school stipends following the conclusion of the investigation.

T. Moore stated that the Board of Education heard the parents and they are not being ignored. He thanked Dr. Thompson for doing a fantastic job and noted the district has a lot of work to do.

M. Walters gave accolades to both Rose Rose and Don Harris. He noted the accreditation process and the hard work of the schools to reach the level of success. He also reiterated the importance of working together to achieve a common goal.

D. Harris thanked the principals for coming out a third time to present the SBAC data. He stated this went above and beyond. He congratulated Rose Rose and noted her accomplishment as being the first award recipient. He asked any concerns regarding buses be made immediately to the Board of Education when any violations are observed.

12. Adjournment

At 9:01 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