



BLOOMFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION – SPECIAL MEETING

Tuesday, February 19, 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	Absent
	T. Moore	Present

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
D. Greco, Director of Accounting
S. Williams, Principal, Carmen Arace Intermediate School

1. Establishment of a Quorum and Call to Order

D. Harris determined a quorum was present and the Bloomfield Board of Education Special 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.

4. Consent Agenda

A. Approval of Minutes – Regular Meeting – January 8, 2019

Mr. Ike noted for Public Record that the commentary made by Ms. Follins in the January 8, 2019 public comments was addressed in a response letter from Dr. Thompson.

A motion was made by M. Walters and seconded by D. Bolton for the Bloomfield Board of Education to approve the minutes from the January 8, 2019 regular board meeting, as presented.



D. Harris, Chair	Aye
M. R. Walters, Vice Chair	Aye
D. Bolton, Secretary	Aye
R. Ike	Abstain
H. Frydman	Aye
T. Moore	Aye

The motion was passed 5-0-1.

5. Recognitions

A. Students – Indoor Track Champions

Mr. Harris congratulated the boys and girls track teams. On January 26, 2019 both teams won the CCC North Patriot Divisional titles. Additionally, the boys team won the overall CCC conference championship with the girls finishing 2nd in the 31 team field.

Both teams went on to win the Class “S” State Championship on February 7, 2019. This was the 10th consecutive Class “S” Championship for the girls.

The girls indoor track team won the State OPEN Championship on Saturday, February 16, 2019 making them the best track team in the state of CT.

B. Staff – CAFE Bonnie B. Carney Communications Award of Excellence

Leonard Lockhart, CAFE Area Director and Windsor Board of Education President, presented the Bloomfield Board of Education with the Bonnie B. Carney Award for Excellence in Educational Communication. This award represents the hard work of the district to communicate effectively.

Bloomfield Public Schools is honored to be the winner of the 2018 Bonnie B, Carney Award of Excellence for Education Communications for their monthly *Leadership for Learning* newsletter. This is the second year the district has been recognized in the Newsletter category.

C. Parents and Community – Lions Club Peace Poster Contest

Mr. Julius Clark a representative from the Bloomfield Lions Club introduced the Lions Club Peace Poster contest winners from Carmen Arace Intermediate School and presented an award.

The Lions Club is one the largest service organization in the world. The Peace Poster Contest is an initiative that encourages children worldwide to express their vision of “peace” in the art realm.

Theme of this year’s peace poster contest was “Kindness Matters”.



6. Presentations

A. Student Representative Report – Bloomfield High School

The Bloomfield High School representative reported on the track championships and shared the girls basketball team is going to the playoffs.

The annual Winter Concert was held on January 17, 2019 and they received a visit from local engineer Robert Griffiths to provide information about STEM related careers and college.

Upcoming events at Bloomfield High School include a Black History performance on February 22, 2019. The Performing Arts Department will be performing *High School Musical* March 21 through March 23, 2019.

B. CAIS Extended Day Journeys Program – Black History Month Student Speeches

Ms. Sarah Williams, Principal at Carmen Arace Intermediate School shared information about the Extended Day Journeys Program on behalf of Christina Morales. The program runs Monday through Friday from 3:00-5:00 p.m. and partners with EASTCONN and the Boys & Girls Club of Hartford. They provide snack and STEAM programming.

Later in the meeting, a student from the Journeys Program read a short essay on Martin Luther King, Jr.

7. Public/PTO Comment

No Public or PTO comments.

8. Superintendent's Report

A. Financial Report – January 2019

Mr. William Guzman, Chief Operations Officer reported on the financials as of February 7, 2019. He distributed the one-page and six-page financial reports. The district is six months into the fiscal year with about 1.06% or \$377,000 of the budget yet to be expended or encumbered.

Mr. Guzman noted that the insurance account (06) has been impacted by higher than expected claims in excess of \$25,000.

Mr. Guzman reminded the board of the volatility of the tuition (08) account. Currently there are 38 students who are receiving educational services outside the district, 6 students of which the tuition cost are about \$295,000 and transportation is about \$105,000.

It was inquired if the district is self-insured. It was confirmed that the Town and district are self-insured.



9. Old Business

A. STEM RFP – EASTCONN Proposal

Ms. Anne Marie Cullinan, Curriculum Specialist presented a recommendation for the STEM RFP to the Board of Education. This program will enrich the extended day program by promoting rigor and raising the standards.

The RFP process started in August of 2018. Numerous technical have been conducted to process the proposal submissions and complete reference checks. Ms. Cullinan added the program will help build capacity with the Next Generation Science Standards and will be aligned to the curriculum.

It was noted for the record that Dr. Williams was very thorough in explaining how the proposal and how it would be implemented at the Finance Committee meeting in January 2019.

A motion was made by M. Walters and seconded by R. Ike for the Bloomfield Board of Education to award the STEM Program contract to EASTCONN in the amount of \$25,999, as presented.

The motion was passed unanimously.

B. Policy for a Second Reading

1. Physical Restraint and Seclusion/Exclusionary Time Out – 5144.1

Mr. William Guzman, Chief Operations Officer, presented policy 5144.1 for a second reading.

The recommended changes are in compliance with State Statue P.A. 18-51 regarding exclusionary timeout. The amendments to the current policy define seclusion and an exclusionary timeout as two separate categories. The policy includes definitions of physical restraint, seclusion and exclusionary timeout.

This policy was reviewed at the committee meeting in October 2018, at the full board meeting in November 2018 and again at the committee meeting in January 2019.

A motion was made by M. Walters and seconded by R. Ike for the Board of Education to approve the adoption of policy 5144.1 – Physical Restraint and Seclusion/Exclusionary Time Out.

The motion passed unanimously.

10. New Business

A. Presentation of Superintendent's Proposed 2019-2020 Budget

James Thompson, Jr., Superintendent presented the 2019-2020 Superintendent's Proposed Budget. The proposed budget aligns to the district's Vision, Theory of



Action and four district priorities. The budget process was undertaken by aligning the resources to support students and their achievement.

Mr. Guzman introduced a summary of the Superintendent's proposed budget and reviewed the major cost drivers.

The overall requested increase is 4.62 million or 10.98%. Over Dr. Thompson's nine year tenure, the average increase per year is 2.23%. The first four years, he requested a 0% increase.

Account numbers (01) Certified Salaries, (02) Non-Certified Salaries and (03) Employee Benefits comprise 73% of the total budget. This is typical for a school budget.

The benefits accounts is the key major driver for the budget increase and comprises 8.83% of the 10.98% request. Under benefits, Health Insurance costs have a proposed increase of \$3,724,079, and OPEB has a proposed increase of \$463,000 in 2019-2020.

Anticipated tuition costs will increase by 1.8% or \$757,713. A bill before the general assembly will have an impact on the tuition costs for districts. Transportation costs will increase, by contract, in 2019-2020 by \$311,816, which is .74% of the total 10.98% requested increase. Also included in the proposed budget, are the recommendations from parents of 11 additional teachers, 7 non-certified staff and additional technology.

It was inquired what OPEB stands for. Mr. Guzman stated this is Other Post-Employment Benefits. Governmental Accounting Standards Board obligated that these benefits be accounted in the budget. Holcomb and Holcomb calculates this on an annual basis for the town and the district.

There will be special meeting on February 28, 2019 for public comment and Board action on the proposed budget.

Individual workshops have been scheduled for all Board of Education members to review the budget and ask questions.

B. Revisions to Current 2018-2019 Academic Calendar

Mr. William Guzman presented amendments to the current academic calendar 2018-2019. These changes are to accommodate the dates for statewide testing. The May professional development date has been moved to the day after the last day of school for continuity and structure. The revised calendar also reflects the two cancelled days of school due to weather. A Memorandum of Understanding has been signed with the Bloomfield Education Association.



C. Memorandum of Agreement – BHS Synthetic Sports Field

Mr. Guzman, Chief Operations Officer, presented the Memorandum of Agreement for Joint Use, Programming and Maintenance of the Synthetic Sports Field with the Town Council.

The lifespan of the synthetic field is about 10-12 years. The Town Council is discussing a reserve fund.

The agreement allows the field to be open but also takes into consideration implementing traffic control procedures, and includes a billable facilities rate to have a district staff member on-site for all permitted activities. This was presented to the Finance Committee in January 2019.

H. Frydman suggested changing language on line item #3 regarding the facilities rate to accommodate inflation costs. Mr. Guzman noted the future rates could be renegotiated.

A motion was made by M. Walters and seconded by R. Ike for the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent of Schools to enter into an agreement with the Town Council for Joint Use, Programming and Maintenance of Synthetic Sports Field.

The motion was passed unanimously.

D. Policies for an Initial Reading

1. Attendance, Excused Absences and Truancy – 5113.2

Dr. Bethany Silver, Assistant Superintendent of Accountability and Performance, presented an update to current policy 5113.2.

This policy was presented to Policy Committee in January 2019.

The amendments to this policy include prevention plans for absenteeism and chronic absenteeism. Page D discusses a systematic program to address chronic absenteeism. Bloomfield holds monthly meetings with principals, where they discuss absenteeism of specific students and plans to address chronic absenteeism. These meetings fulfill the requirements of the Connecticut State Department of Education.

Currently Bloomfield works with the Youth Service Bureau for cases of truancy.

2. Administering Medication – 5141.21

Mr. William Guzman presented an amendment to the existing policy 5141.21, Administering Medication. These changes are in compliance with State Statute P.A. 18-185, Life Threatening Food Allergies. This policy was presented to the Policy Committee for an initial reading on January 22, 2019.



Mr. Guzman noted that a prescription from a medical professional is required to permit the self-administration of an asthmatic inhaler or EpiPen.

Mr. Guzman also noted that coaches are trained as part of their First Aid training as a follow-up to a question raised at the Policy Committee in January 2019.

11. CABE Updates

Mr. Donald Harris, Jr. attended the National Schools Boards Association conference in Washington, D.C. He attended a workshop on equity and advocacy. They met with representatives during the Day on the Hill. The main request was additional funding for Special Education services.

12. Board Comments

R. Ike said he was happy to be back and here during budget season. He congratulated the sports teams.

H. Frydman complimented the staff on the budget preparations. He noted the many years of 0% increase. He also shared that he was impressed by the Martin Luther King speech by the guest student.

T. Moore congratulated the sports teams. He also thanked Dr. Thompson and his leadership teams for their hard work.

D. Bolton shared that she is excited to have EASTCONN provide additional STEM curriculum in district. It is important to our school and a direct response to the concerns of parents.

M. Walters attended the winter concert at Bloomfield High School. He congratulated the winners of the Lions Club Peace Poster contest. It is a proud time for Bloomfield Public Schools.

D. Harris shared information about House Bill 7082 on March 6, 2019 from 1:00-7:00 p.m. The bill requires the inclusion of African American studies in school curriculum.

13. Executive Session

A motion was made by M. Walters and seconded by R. Ike to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing a personnel matter. The Board invited the Superintendent, Dr. James Thompson, Jr. to participate.

The motion was passed unanimously.

The Board Members convened into Executive Session at 8:28 p.m. and returned to public session at 8:52 p.m.



14. Adjournment

At 8:53 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