



BLOOMFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION – REGULAR MEETING

Tuesday, September 10, 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

**Also Present:** J. Thompson, Jr., Superintendent of Schools  
B. Silver, Assistant Superintendent of Accountability and Performance  
W. Guzman, Chief Operations Officer  
S. McCann, Chief Academic Officer  
J. Robinson, Director of Technology/Human Resource Coordinator  
E. Pierce, District Grants Specialist  
A.M. Cullinan, Curriculum Specialist  
J. Bernabe, 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 7:00 p.m.

**2. Pledge of Allegiance**

All rose to recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

**3. Opening Statement**

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

**4. Consent Agenda**

**A. Approval of Minutes - Special Meeting - June 4, 2019**

A motion was made by M. Walters and seconded by R. Ike for the Bloomfield Board of Education approve the minutes from the June 4, 2019 (7:00 p.m.) special Board Meeting, as presented.

The motion was passed unanimously.

**B. Approval of Minutes - Special Meeting - June 4, 2019**

A motion was made by M. Walters and seconded by R. Ike for the Bloomfield Board of Education approve the minutes from the June 4, 2019 (6:00 p.m.) special Board Meeting, as presented.



The motion was passed unanimously.

**C. Approval of Minutes - Special Meeting - July 18, 2019**

A motion was made by M. Walters and seconded by R. Ike for the Bloomfield Board of Education approve the minutes from the July 18, 2019 special Board Meeting, as presented.

The motion was passed unanimously.

**5. Presentations**

**A. Recognitions**

**1. Students – Convocation Keynote Speakers**

Ms. Stacey McCann, Chief Academic Officer recognized four student keynote speakers. Each student delivered an inspirational address at this year's staff Convocation held on August 26, 2019. A short clip of the event was shared.

**2. Staff – Recognition of Paul Waszkelewicz**

Ms. Stacey McCann recognized Mr. Paul Waszkelewicz for his contributions to the students of Bloomfield High School. Chef Paul who leads the culinary arts department, collaborated with numerous organizations such as Habitat for Humanity to development partnerships and involve students in community efforts.

**6. Public/PTO Comment**

**Vudonzi Graham-Days, 89 Wintonbury Avenue**

Ms. Graham-Days shared concerns that Bloomfield Public School students are not excelling like their peers and the Board is attempting to extort additional funds from the Town Council. She noted that the district was going to cut 5 positions from Central Office but there has only been a reduction of hours for some staff and a few eliminations. Ms. Graham-Days said there is a need for additional staff at the middle school in order to get an equitable education. She stated the Board of Education is putting the position of "power and status" before the children in Bloomfield.

**Caryn Wallace, 319 Tunxis Avenue**

Ms. Caryn Wallace is a parent of a senior at Bloomfield High School. She stated her address to the Board will also be shared with the Town Council. She stated the bottom line is student performance is going backwards. She shared that Mr. Moleti and the high school administration is doing a great job with academic performance, the arts, sports and student moral. Classes have been cut and positions have not been filled. The support staff are gone, AP classes have been reduced and there is no French class. She wants to make sure students get the attention they deserve. She further stated the Board members are public servants and it the responsibility of the Board to give kids the best educational experience.



**Alicia Whyte, 42 Banbury Lane**

Ms. Whyte is a Bloomfield Public Schools student and spoke about a recent incident in which she was involved. She shared with the Board her concerns that the administration and security at her school failed to protect her and her friend.

**Miriam Lewis, 48 Kenwood Circle**

Ms. Miriam Lewis is the parent of a kindergarten student. She shared her concerns regarding class sizes at Laurel Elementary School. Currently there are kindergarten classrooms with 22 students. This class size is too large, especially without any classroom aides. In addition, she addressed the concern regarding the security on the polling day. Ms. Lewis noted that young students were exposed and the schools lacked proper security. In addition, she shared that the families were not notified.

**7. Superintendent's Report**

**A. Opening School Report**

Dr. James Thompson, Jr., Superintendent of Schools provided a report on the opening of schools to the Board of Education. He provided information on Convocation, the first day of school, and enrollment numbers as of August 28, 2019.

**8. Old Business**

No old business.

**9. New Business**

**A. Early Start Report**

Ms. Anne Marie Cullinan, Curriculum Specialist shared a PowerPoint presentation outlining the highlights of the Early Start 2019 program. Students in grades 1-8 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 26 instructional hours in reading and writing, 15 instructional hours in math, and 8 instructional hours in social emotional learning (SEL). Teachers of record were retained for summer instruction.

This year grades 1 and 2 literacy curriculum included the Wilson Foundations and Open Court to support reading skills. Grades 3 and 4 used Powers Words on Newsela for a holistic approach to literacy.

The math academic program for students in Grades 1 and 2 focused on early numeracy skills and grades 3 and 4 focused on critical areas such as value of number, problem solving and computations skills.

The Early Start program at Carmen Arace focused on CLOSE READING to support literacy skills and problem solving skills to support understanding the concepts taught in math. Students also participated in Choose Love curriculum to gain a better understanding of their social/emotional well-being.



Ms. Cullinan added that transportation was provided, special education services and nurses were available, and attendance was tracked very closely.

#### 10. CABE Updates

Mr. Donald Harris, Jr. shared that the State Board of Education met with the new Commissioner of Education. He also provided information regarding an upcoming CABE workshop *The Future of Public Education* held on September 18, 2019. Mr. Harris encouraged interested Board members to register for the CABE/CAPSS Convention at the Mystic Marriott held November 15-16, 2019.

#### 11. Board Comments

H. Frydman thanked the parents for coming out to the Board meeting. He stated he appreciated bringing their concerns and encouraged them to continue to come to Board meetings. Mr. Frydman also thanked the district on behalf of BATV for providing a new studio location.

P. Davis shared that last year during the budget process she specifically spoke on the subject of classroom sizes and was assured the Kindergarten classes would remain the same (15 per class). She has been contacted by multiple parents with similar concerns of Kindergarten classroom sizes of 22 students and no aides. We need to start in Kindergarten to make sure students have adequate opportunity. At the State Board of Education we have overpaid and underutilized staff at Central Office. We have three part-time staff with salary and benefits totaling \$500,000. Ms. Davis shared that they should have some say about hiring additional staff. Ms. Davis applauded parents for advocating for their children and stated she is here for the people.

T. Moore thanked the parents and students for attending the Board meeting. He feels the Board and Council should work together. Mr. Moore shared his concerns regarding the safety at the schools during polling due to the easy access.

D. Bolton shared that she also does not want to see the district go backwards after seeing the significant strides the district has made. She applauded the school leadership for managing the difficult budget cuts. She also shared her concerns regarding unsecured polling locations at the schools, and ensured they would review the process for the future. She also noted her concern regarding the large kindergarten class sizes.

M. Walters echoed the parent concerns regarding school safety. He also wanted to reiterate that the Board does not want to move backwards, as he trusts that all things possible that can be done in the district to ensure we move forward, will be done. M. Walters also shared the attendance of the male volunteers to welcome students on their first day of school. He also noted the positive influence of the Early Start Program for students' academic performance.

D. Harris thanked the parents and students for coming out and assured the Board would always do their very best for Bloomfield students. He was also in attendance at the Million Father March and the Convocation. The student speakers each made an individual presentation. Mr. Harris clarified that money is controlled by the Town



Council. The Board submitted a budget with an 11% increase that would ensure classrooms would remain at 14, but the Town Council approved a 3% budget increase. Dr. Thompson is in the process of adding a Kindergarten teacher. Mr. Harris stated he has been a resident for 60 years and is assured the district will not go backwards. Regarding comments on polling places, he noted the district can do a better job. At the November election, there is no school on that day so the voting does not present an issue. The district will work on doing a better job on securing the schools during

## 12. Adjournment

At 7:54 p.m. a motion to adjourn was made by M. Walters and seconded by T. Moore.

The motion passed unanimously.

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D. Bolton, Secretary

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J. Thompson, Ed. D., Superintendent