



BLOOMFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION – REGULAR MEETING

Tuesday, January 14, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.

Bloomfield Board of Education

1133 Blue Hills Avenue

Board Room

Attendance:

D. Harris, Chair	Present
D. Bolton, Vice Chair	Present
P. Davis, Secretary	Present
R. Ike	Present
H. Frydman	Present
L. Easmon	Present
T. Moore	Present

Also Present: J. Thompson, Superintendent
 W. Guzman, Chief Operations Officer
 S. McCann, Chief Academic Officer
 B. Silver, Assistant Superintendent of Accountability and Performance
 J. Robinson, Director of Technology/Human Resource Coordinator
 D. Moleti, Principal, Bloomfield High School
 J. Bernabe, Interim Principal, Global Experience Magnet School
 T. Ellis, Principal, Carmen Arace Middle School
 S. Williams, Principal, Carmen Arace Intermediate School
 P. Guzzo, Principal, Metacommet Elementary School
 J. Dwyer, Principal, Laurel Elementary School
 L. Eells, Principal, Wintonbury Early Childhood 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

Patricia Davis, 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 – December 10, 2019

A motion was made by L. Easmon and seconded by R. Ike for the Bloomfield Board of Education to approve the minutes from the December 10, 2019 regular board meeting, as presented.

D. Harris, Chair	Aye
D. Bolton, Vice Chair	Aye



P. Davis, Secretary	Aye
R. Ike	Aye
H. Frydman	Abstain
L. Easmon	Aye
T. Moore	Abstain

The motion passed 5-0-2.

5. Recognitions

A. Students – Carmen Arace Students Host Charitable Drives

Ms. Stacey McCann, Chief Academic Officer shared information regarding recent charitable activities that staff and students have engaged in and promoted at Carmen Arace Intermediate and Middle School.

B. Parents and Community – Partnership with Auerfarm

Ms. Lisa Eells, Principal at Wintonbury Early Childhood Magnet School (WECMS) shared information relative to the partnership with Auerfarm. The school has a scientific inquiry theme and the Auerfarm partnership enhances the school's instruction. Students from WECMS make regular visitations to the farm and scientific inquiry is embedded in the curriculum.

6. Presentations

A. Recognition of Bloomfield's 2020 Teacher of the Year, Marcus Jennings

Dr. James Thompson, Jr., Superintendent of Schools congratulated Marcus Jennings, a social studies teacher at Carmen Arace Middle School.

B. Student Representative Report – Global Experience Magnet School

The student representatives from Global Experience Magnet School (GEMS) shared a PowerPoint presentation with members of the Board with reports on academics and GEMS experiences.

Some recent highlights from December include parent conferences, student exhibitions and school Spirit Week. Students also shared information on the schools mentoring program and senior capstone projects.

Upcoming events include GEMS experiences in South Africa, NE College visitations, 11th Grade Service project, and a trip to New York City by the middle school students.

7. Public/PTO Comment

Kenneth McClary, 2 Wedgewood Drive

Kenneth McClary shared concerns with the Board of Education regarding the lack of resources for Arace. He noted there is currently no librarian and students do not have access to check out books. He shared that many Bloomfield families do not have the ability to transport their children to the Public Library and do not have internet access at home.



Deborah Murray, 98 Wadhams Road

Deborah Murray addressed concerns with Middle School and the current state of the budget. Ms. Murray has concerns over funds and how student needs are being met. She stated a high school teacher was moved to the Middle School, there are higher loads of students per classroom and currently 1 school counselor for 150 kids at CAMS.

Erica Coleman, 77 Wintonbury Avenue

Erica Coleman stated she is a graduate of Bloomfield Public Schools. Ms. Coleman shared that there is a lack of books and calculators at the high school. Overall, she noted a lack of resources for students. Ms. Coleman stated students should have Chromebooks in grades 6-12 like other districts. Furthermore, she noted some classes have too many students (in the high school) and there is no foreign language at the middle school. She feels Bloomfield has great educators and administrators.

8. Superintendent's Report

A. Financial Report – December 2019

Mr. William Guzman, Chief Operations Officer reported on the financials as of December 2019. He distributed the one-page and six-page financial reports. The district is seven months into the fiscal year with about \$732,000 of the budget remaining to be expended or encumbered.

Mr. Guzman noted the 02 Non-Certified and the 08 Tuition line items.

It was further noted that accounts 5600 Tuition Public and 5690 Tuition Magnet continue to have deficits. These deficits will be reduced with the anticipated revenues from the Excess Cost grant.

Mr. Guzman reviewed information regarding the growth in students who are receiving Special Education services and the impact on the budget. The district has 62 new special education students (students who came into the district with IEP's) beyond what was budgeted for in the 2019-2020 fiscal year.

L. Easmon inquired about the impact on the budget if the anticipated revenue sources do not offset the deficits. Mr. Guzman noted these could possibly be offset by other accounts.

R. Ike stated that the Finance Sub-Committee receives an in-depth presentation at the meetings. These are typically the last Tuesday of the month.

T. Moore inquired about the Board of Education going to the Town Council for additional funds if expenses are unable to be met. Ms. Davis further stated that all people are concerned and the Board will listen to the community.

9. Old Business

A. Approval of Revision to the 2019-2020 Academic Calendar

Mr. William Guzman, Chief Operations Officer, presented a revised 2019-2020 to the Board of Education. The reason for the change is to accommodate for the



Presidential Preference Primary on April 28, 2020. The professional development was moved from May 2020 to April 2020.

A motion was made by L. Easmon and seconded by R. Ike for the Bloomfield Board of Education to approve the revised 2019-2020 academic calendar, as presented.

The motion passed unanimously.

10. New Business

A. Student Academic Performance Update

Dr. Bethany Silver, the Assistant Superintendent of Accountability and Performance and the principals gave a student academic performance update. The purpose of this presentation was to review student performance, highlighting strengths as well as current and future instructional focus areas. The presentation will share information regarding the standards that teachers are targeting during instruction, and strategies being used to help students acquire skills to meet end of year expectations.

Each principal from the following schools shared the areas of instructional strength, followed by current and future instructional focus areas.

- Lisa Eells, Wintonbury Early Childhood Magnet School
- Jennifer Dwyer, Laurel Elementary School
- Paul Guzzo, Metacomet Elementary School
- Sarah Williams, Carmen Arace Intermediate School
- Trevor Ellis, Carmen Arace Middle School
- Jeff Bernabe (Interim Principal), Global Experience Magnet School
- Daniel Moleti, Bloomfield High School

Dr. Silver noted that the district goal is for 70% of students in grades 3-8 to meet or exceed grade level standards in literacy and mathematics.

R. Ike noted that the results of the high stake assessments are usually reported out to the Board in September.

Another Board member complimented Carmen Arace Intermediate School for requiring students to write more.

B. 2020-2021 Proposed Academic Calendar

Mr. William Guzman, Chief Operations Officer presented the proposed 2020-2021 Academic Calendar. It was noted that the calendar reflects 6 professional development days and 180 academic calendar days. The schools will be closed for professional development on Election Day.

This calendar was aligned with neighboring districts and with Capitol Region Education Council (CREC).



A motion was made by L. Easmon and seconded by R. Ike for the Bloomfield Board of Education approve the 2020-2021 academic calendar, as presented.

The motion passed unanimously.

11. CABE Updates

Don Harris reported that he will be traveling to Washington D.C. for the annual National School Boards Association (NSBA) conference February 1-4, 2020. They will be meeting with Legislative representatives on Capitol Hill on February 4, 2020.

12. Board Comments

R. Ike offered all a happy New Year. He attended the Partners Breakfast on December 12, 2019. Mr. Ike was impressed with the presentation and use of the term “Opportunity Gap” versus achievement gap.

H. Frydman wished everyone a happy New Year. He thanked the principals for their presentations. He stated the Board is listening. Mr. Frydman was encouraged by the amount of empathy displayed by the students of Carmen Arace through their engagement in charitable drives. He also congratulated the Teacher of the Year, Marcus Jennings.

L. Easmon wished all a happy New Year. She gave accolades to Mr. Jennings and the Bloomfield High School student athletes. She also noted the recent fruitful meetings with the Town Council.

T. Moore wished all a happy New Year. Mr. Moore thanked the teachers and administrators for their hard work. He noted the district has come a long way and will continue to work as a team.

P. Davis extended a happy New Year to all. She stated she is here on the Board for a purpose. She offered her congratulations to Mr. Jennings who has been very impactful and is a good role model for Bloomfield’s male students. She also gave her condolences for a former BHS graduate who was recently involved in a fatal accident.

D. Harris thanked Mr. Jennings for having an impact on all students. He reminded Board members of the upcoming concert on Thursday, January 16, 2020 and to honor Martin Luther King’s legacy on Monday, January 20, 2020.

13. Adjournment

At 8:38 p.m. a motion to adjourn was made by R. Ike and seconded by P. Davis

The motion passed unanimously.

P. Davis, Secretary

J. Thompson, Ed. D., Superintendent