



BLOOMFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION – REGULAR MEETING

Tuesday, October 15, 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
D. Moleti, Principal, Bloomfield High 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 – Regular Meeting – September 10, 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 September 10, 2019 regular Board Meeting, as presented.

The motion was passed unanimously.

5. Recognitions

A. Community – Recognition of Volunteer Tutors from Duncaster

Ms. Stacey McCann, Chief Academic Officer recognized the Duncaster tutors who have supported the district for over a decade. The tutors will be reading with third grade students at Metacomet Elementary School starting in November.



6. Presentations

A. Student Representative Report – Bloomfield High School

The student representatives from Bloomfield High School (BHS) shared a PowerPoint presentation with members of the Board with reports on the opening of school, recent activities and upcoming events.

The high school football team remains undefeated and the girls' cheerleaders participated in the 5th Annual Dance Festival at CCSU. High School enrollment is up and BHS is offering three new UCONN Early College Experience courses. The boys track coach was named Coach of the Year by the U.S. Track & Field and Cross Country Coaches Association.

SAT Day is October 16, 2019 and the College Fair will be held on October 22, 2019. The National Honor Society Induction Ceremony will be held on October 30, 2019 at 1:00 p.m. The Homecoming Football game will be held on November 1, 2019.

7. Public/PTO Comment

Miriam Lewis, 48 Kenwood Circle

Ms. Miriam Lewis shared three concerns with the Board of Education members. She recognized the addition of a new Kindergarten teacher but noted the need of extra aides to assist in the Kindergarten classrooms. Ms. Lewis requested an update on the Principal search and stated Laurel School would benefit from leadership and continuity. Her third concern was related to the elections being held at the schools. Despite the schools being closed, Ms. Lewis communicated concerns of the ability of voters to roam the school building. She stated the voters should be isolated to the gym and should not have access to other parts of the school building.

8. Superintendent's Report

A. Financial Report – September 2019

Mr. William Guzman, Chief Operations Officer reported on the financials as of September 2019. He distributed the one-page and six-page financial reports. The district is four months into the fiscal year with about 30% of the budget remaining to be expended or encumbered.

There are several major accounts that have not yet been encumbered including the Pension, OPEB (Other Post Employee Benefits), Tuition and Health Insurance. Mr. Guzman also noted the impact of special education services to district accounts. Currently there are 417 students in district who receive special education services, which is about 19% of our total student body. This represents an increase of 2% or 40 students since last year.

A Board member inquired if the increase in special education was due to students moving into the district or a higher rate of identification. Dr. Thompson noted this information will be shared with the Board members (by grade).



Mr. Ike inquired about the district's action plan to offset the account deficits noted in the six-page report. Mr. Guzman stated the district's magnet school tuition (revenue) has yet to be accounted for and will aid in offsetting the deficits. In addition, the district will receive grants such as the Excess Cost Grant and these have not been estimated into the current budget, but not yet received.

Mr. Frydman asked for clarification on an ABAA and the solar panel cost savings. Mr. Guzman shared that an ABAA is a behavioral specialist for students who require one-to-one supervision. He believed that the panels are in the final stages of going online.

9. Old Business

No old business.

10. New Business

A. 2018-2021 District Plan of Excellence

Dr. Bethany Silver, Assistant Superintendent of Accountability and Performance presented the third, three-year plan under Dr. Thompson's leadership. The 2018-2021 District Plan of Excellence was crafted during the 2018-2019 academic year with a cohort of staff including certified, non-certified, and central office staff and school leaders.

Dr. Silver highlighted new initiatives as well as areas of change throughout the 2018-2021 plan. She noted that the Plan of Excellence is a living document and will change over time based on student needs and data.

The district's four priorities have remained the same but some areas of change include:

- Annual data team training at the beginning of each school year.
- Seventy percent (70%) of students will meet or exceed the achievement standard as measured by the Smarter Balanced Assessment.
- Develop a Portrait of the Graduate. This will articulate the community's aspirations for all students.
- School climate will be surveyed on an on-going basis throughout the year.
- Develop and expand community partnerships. Leverage partners to bring resources to the schools

Dr. Silver further described the four over-arching strategies which include:

1. Deployment of Central Office staff to support school leadership
2. Academic reviews, which were expanded to Grades 2-8
3. Implementing data teams with fidelity
4. Personalizing professional development for our teachers

Mr. Frydman inquired about absenteeism in our schools and how the district handles chronically absent students. Dr. Silver noted they meet with principals each month and review data about Chronic Absenteeism. The proactive measures



of principals include home visits and contacting families. Dr. Thompson noted a monthly report can be shared with the Board.

Ms. Bolton inquired if the additional UCONN courses are weighted the same as AP coursed for “college and career” and Dr. Silver noted they are as they are college credit bearing courses.

Additional information was shared regarding a future meeting to develop the core characteristics of the high school graduate. This will be a collaborative meeting for the “Portrait of the Graduate” and the process will be similar to the establishment of the district vision and mission.

Ms. Davis inquired if the Portrait of the Graduate will align with the Student Success Plan already established. Dr. Silver noted that these plans will be integrated.

B. Family Resource Center (FRC) Grant

Ms. Stacey McCann, Chief Academic Officer shared information regarding the Family Resource Grant. The Family Resource Center (FRC) is housed at Laurel Elementary school.

Ms. McCann introduced Gail Nolan, Director of the Family Resource Center.

Bloomfield Public Schools has been the recipient of this grant for over two decades. The district receives approximately \$100,000 from the state to support the program. The FRC provides home visits for parents with children aged birth to three, developmental and social screenings, works with home daycare providers, facilitates parenting groups and assists schools with programs such as the diaper bank and Kindergarten transition.

The state now requires official endorsement of the grant application by the Board of Education. This grant application was reviewed by the Finance Committee on September 24, 2019.

A motion was made by M. Walters and seconded by R. Ike for the Bloomfield Board of Education approve the submission of the Family Resource Center grant application.

The motion was passed unanimously.

C. Policies for an Initial Reading

1. Physical Exercise and Discipline of Students – 5144.4

Dr. Bethany Silver, Assistant Superintendent of Accountability and Performance presented an initial reading of policy 5144.4 – Physical Exercise and Discipline of Students.



This policy is being revised in compliance with Public Act 19-179, An Act Concerning the Improvement of Child Development through play. The policy now includes language regarding time devoted for physical exercise or undirected play.

The policy also presents potential consequences for staff members who prevent students from participating in physical exercise or undirected play during wellness instruction as a form of discipline.

The initial reading was also presented to the Policy Committee on September 24, 2019. This policy will come before the Board for adoption in November.

2. Individualized Education Programs/Special Education Program Instruction – 6159

Mr. William Guzman, Chief Operations Officer presented an initial reading of policy 6159 - Individualized Education Programs/Special Education Program Instruction.

This policy is being revised in compliance with Public Act 19-49. The policy now includes transitional services for students who are at least fourteen years of age, and diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder. The transitional services will include postsecondary goals related to training, education, employment and independent living skills.

Additional language throughout the policy was revised based on the model policy provided by the Connecticut Association of Boards of Education (CABE).

The initial reading was also presented to the Policy Committee on September 24, 2019. This policy will come before the Board for adoption in November.

11. CABE Updates

Mr. Donald Harris, Jr. reminded Board members to register for the CABE/CAPSS Convention at the Mystic Marriott held November 15-16, 2019. He also shared that Krista Cherry was a presenter at the Fall Meeting of Superintendents' Administrative Professionals meeting on October 15, 2019.

12. Board Comments

Mr. Harris noted today is Mr. Walter's last regular Board meeting.

R. Ike commented that the Committee meetings on September 24, 2019 were very good. He gave accolades to the school principals who are on the front lines every day and handle a great deal of responsibility. He shared he has enjoyed working with Mr. Walters over the last eight years.

H. Frydman thanked Dr. Silver for the presentation. He encouraged seniors to start considering resources and looking ahead to graduation. He also enjoys seeing parents



participate in Board meetings and is glad to see the reduction of class sizes since the last meeting. Mr. Frydman stated it was a pleasure to know and serve with Mr. Walters over the last six years.

P. Davis commended the Bloomfield staff. She noted there is a lot of work to do in the district and everyone has to be committed to moving in the right direction. She shared her admiration and respect for Mr. Walters.

D. Bolton appreciates the energy of the high school Board representatives. She thanked Dr. Thompson for his leadership and she is hoping the district finds a way to support our youngest students. She noted with an increase of special education services, there is an additional burden on classroom teachers. Ms. Bolton also gave accolades to Mr. Walters whom she describes as a strong and focused leaders, a positive Board participant and someone who demonstrates his knowledge and for love our town.

D. Harris thanked the staff for their hard work behind the scenes. Mr. Harris also thanked Mr. Walters and noted that he will add to his comments at his official last meeting on October 29, 2019.

M. Walters thanked the high schools students for their presentation. He thanked Dr. Thompson for motivating him to consider running for the Board of Education. His leadership extends beyond Bloomfield. Mr. Walters also thanked the members of his Cabinet who attend all district events. He further stated it has been wonderful experience to serve on the Board of Education.

13. Adjournment

At 8:28 p.m. a motion to adjourn was made by R. Ike and seconded by M. Walters.

The motion passed unanimously.

P. Davis, Secretary

J. Thompson, Ed. D., Superintendent