



BLOOMFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION – SPECIAL MEETING

Thursday, February 27, 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	Absent
R. Ike	Present
H. Frydman	Present
T. Moore	Present
L. Easmon	Present

Also Present: J. Thompson, Jr., Superintendent of Schools
B. Silver, Assistant Superintendent of Accountability and Performance
S. McCann, Chief Academic Officer
W. Guzman, Chief Operations Officer
J. Robinson, Director of Technology/Human Resource Coordinator
D. Greco, Director of Accounting

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. Public/PTO Comment

A. Public Comment on Superintendent's Proposed 2020-2021 Budget

Dr. Thompson requested Mr. William Guzman, Chief Operations Officer provide a recap of the 2020-2021 proposed budget. Mr. Guzman provided information regarding the addition of thirty (30) positions in the proposed budget. He noted the certified positions are located on page 71 and non-certified positions on page 73 of the budget book. He noted that no positions have been eliminated.

In reference to the budget process, Mr. Guzman stated the Board members attended various workshops and the school principals are presenting to their PTO and school community next week.

Vaugh Glanville, 543 Simsbury Road

Vaugh Glanville (student) addressed the Board of Education about the benefits of foreign language at Carmen Arace School. He shared that the world is interconnected and it is important to prepare Bloomfield students to compete in a global community. He noted that Carmen Arace Middle School would benefit from foreign language and it is a requirement in the high school. He asked the Board to give the students the best resources



by providing foreign language starting with younger learners at Carmen Arace Intermediate School.

Tiffany Glanville, 543 Simsbury Road

Tiffany Glanville shared she is encouraged by and supports the work of the Bloomfield Public Schools. She stated that high expectations for student achievement have been established in the schools. She appreciates the configuration of the schools and grades within the district. She shared that the students at Carmen Arace Intermediate School are in need of additional supports that would assist with student behavior and a restorative approach to discipline. Additionally, Ms. Glanville noted the need for additional math and reading tutors at Carmen Arace.

Kevin Gough, 5 Bear Ridge Drive

Kevin Gough shared three comments with the members of the Board. He noted the exhibit on page 6 of the 2020-2021 proposed budget book. He suggested showing the BOE Funding Requests for the last five years only, as years prior are not relevant. He also shared he would like to see comparisons with neighboring towns. Second, he noted the additional positions that were shared with the Town Council were included as new positions in the 2020-2021 proposed budget. He inquired what the actual amount would be, minus the positions added during the current academic year. His third comment addressed the performance matrix.

Kim Dunbar, 13 Walts Hills

Kim Dunbar noted she has two children who attend Bloomfield Public Schools. She stated there is a need for paraprofessionals in the Kindergarten classrooms at Laurel Elementary School. She noted the Kindergarten class sizes are larger since Wintonbury eliminated Kindergarten and the teachers are in need of additional help. She shared there are too many disruptions and behavioral issues. She also requested that the STEAM program be reconsidered for Metacomet Elementary School. The STEAM program concentrated on math and science and two students from Metacomet attended the Invention Convention.

Frank Merblum, 13 Butternut Drive

Frank Merblum addressed the Board of Education with concerns regarding the proposed budget which is over \$40 million dollars with a per pupil expenditure of about \$24,000. He stated the public schools are the backbone to the town. He noted that the surrounding towns of Simsbury and Farmington have a per pupil rate that is almost \$6,000 less than Bloomfield. Mr. Merblum stated he was very concerned.

4. Adjournment

At 7:25 p.m. a motion to adjourn was made by R. Ike and seconded by H. Frydman.

The motion passed unanimously.



D. Harris, Chair

J. Thompson, Jr., Ed.D., Superintendent