



BLOOMFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION – SPECIAL MEETING

Thursday, March 5, 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
H. Frydman, Secretary Present
R. Ike Present
L. Easmon Present
T. Moore Present

Also Present: J. Thompson, Superintendent
W. Guzman, Chief Operations Officer
B. Silver, Assistant Superintendent of Accountability and Performance
J. Robinson, Director of Technology/Human Resource Coordinator
E. Pierce, District Grant Specialist
D. Greco, Director of Accounting
W. Casper, Director of Facilities
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

Howard Frydman, Interim 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 – February 18, 2020

A motion was made by D. Bolton and seconded by R. Ike for the Bloomfield Board of Education to approve the minutes from the February 18, 2020 special board meeting, as presented.

The motion passed unanimously.

5. Presentations

A. 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 recent events at the school.



Some recent events included Black History Month, GEM's Student Experience in South Africa and updates on the high school mentoring program.

Upcoming events include the 10th Grade college visitations, 11th Grade Service project, and a trip to New York City by the middle school students.

6. Public/PTO Comment

Jennifer Torres, 3 Maple Edge Drive

Jennifer Torres addressed concerns with the reduction of funding at Global Experience Magnet School (GEMS). She is the parent of two GEMS students and is concerned the budget is already at bare bones (no library and no sports programs). She asked the Board to reconsider cuts of \$150,000 to the GEMS budget. She noted that GEMS is a valued school in the Bloomfield district and the budget constraints are the only limitation to an excellent education.

7. Old Business

A. Approval of the Revised 2020-2021 Academic Calendar

Mr. William Guzman, Chief Operations Officer, shared a revised 2020-2021 academic calendar with the Board. The revised calendar added February 17, 2021 as a full day Professional Development day, changed March 10, 2021 to a full day Professional Development day and moved the last day of school to June 10, 2021.

These revisions are in consideration of the six Professional Development days as required by the Bloomfield Educational Education Association contract.

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

The motion passed unanimously.

8. New Business

A. Coronavirus (2019-nCoV) Update

Mr. William Guzman, Chief Operations Officer, reported on updates relative to the Coronavirus to the Board of Education. In an effort to monitor and plan, the district has formed a Crisis Team. The team is comprised of various district administrators and staff and has met with the Acting Director of Health West Hartford-Bloomfield Health District. Additionally, a coordinated effort has been made with the Town of Bloomfield and Town Manager.

The district has sent initial advisories to families and will continue to send regular updates. Resources and information received from state and regional health officials and the CT State Department of Education will be shared on the Bloomfield Public Schools' website.

Hygiene practices have been intensified at all schools and custodial staff have enhanced cleaning efforts.



Mr. Guzman reported that international and domestic field trips have been canceled and additional trips will be assessed for risks.

B. Board Action on Superintendent’s Proposed 2020-2021 Budget

The 2020-2021 budget proposal of \$47.67 million represents an overall increase of \$4.25 million, or 9.78% over the current-year budget.

Board member, R. Ike commented that he met with the Superintendent and cabinet to vet the budget and ask questions. He noted the budget is labor intensive and driven by the salaries of certified and non-certified staff.

Lynette Easmon noted she also attended a budget workshop. She appreciates the increase of teachers and staff and the focus on class sizes. She noted the World Language teachers are included and she is happy with the thirty (30) extra staff.

Delores Bolton also noted her concerns were adequately addressed during the budget workshop. She was pleased to hear additional time was provided for families to hear budget updates at the PTO/family meetings held March 2-4, 2020.

Thomas Moore thanked Dr. Thompson and Mr. Harris for the workshops. He noted he has concerns about the proposed budget. Mr. Moore shared concerns regarding the percentage of budget allocated to salaries, class sizes, and resources for technology and supplies. Mr. Moore would like to see more money in the budget.

A motion was made by D. Bolton and seconded by R. Ike for the Bloomfield Board of Education to adopt the Superintendent’s proposed budget for fiscal year 2020-2021 in the amount of \$47,674,701, as presented.

D. Harris	Aye
D. Bolton	Aye
H. Frydman	Aye
R. Ike	Aye
L. Easmon	Aye
T. Moore	Nay

The motion passed 5-1-0.

9. CABA Updates

Don Harris reported Connecticut Association of Boards of Education will be hosting CABA Day on the Hill on March 11, 2020 at 8:30 a.m. at the Bushnell. He encouraged Board members to attend.

10. Board Comments

R. Ike thanked the Superintendent and his team for their work on the budget and opening up the budget process to the parents and community.



L. Easmon stated she appreciated the budget workshop as she was able to ask a lot of questions. She asked the administration be mindful of hiring qualified individuals who are committed and culturally responsive when filling the thirty (30) new positions.

T. Moore noted he attended the PTO/Family meeting at Carmen Arace Middle School and the principal shared information relative to the proposed budget. He encouraged families and the community to attend Board and Town Council meetings to state their concerns.

H. Frydman echoed Mr. Moore's comments and feels the district could achieve more with more money. He stated the budget process has been very transparent. He encouraged the viewing audience to attend the Town Council meeting on Thursday, March 12, 2020.

In light of recent events, Ms. Bolton encouraged families to educate children about proper hand washing and hygiene. She thanked Dr. Thompson and his team for their patience and responsiveness at the budget workshop. She also noted she attended the Black History performance at Bloomfield High School and appreciated the students' energy.

D. Harris thanked Dr. Thompson and Bloomfield staff for their time and effort in developing the budget and sharing information relative to the proposed budget. He also encouraged families to attend the Town Council meeting on Thursday, March 12, 2020 to support Bloomfield's children.

11. Adjournment

At 8:03 p.m. a motion to adjourn was made by R. Ike and seconded by T. Moore.

The motion passed unanimously.

H. Frydman, Secretary

J. Thompson, Ed. D., Superintendent