



BLOOMFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION – SPECIAL MEETING

Tuesday, November 12, 2019 at 7:30 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: W. Guzman, Chief Operations Officer
S. McCann, Chief Academic Officer
J. Robinson, Director of Technology/Human Resource Coordinator
E. Pierce, District Grants Specialist
J. Bernabe, Interim Principal, Global Experience Magnet School

1. Establishment of a Quorum and Call to Order

William Guzman, Chief Operations Officer called the meeting to order Mr. Guzman determined a quorum was present and the Bloomfield Board of Education Special Meeting was called to order at 7:31 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

All rose to recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Election of Officers

Mr. Guzman welcomed the new Board of Education member, Lynette Easmon and congratulated returning board members on their re-election.

First order of business was to elect new officers for the Board of Education. Mr. Guzman presided over the election of the chairperson.

A motion was made by D. Bolton and seconded by R. Ike to nominate Donald Harris, Jr. as the Chairman of the Bloomfield Board of Education.

Donald Harris, Jr. accepted the nomination. Hearing no further nominations, nominations for the office of Chairman were closed and the vote to elect the nominee for the Chairman of the Bloomfield Board of Education was taken.

The motion was passed unanimously.

Donald Harris, Jr. was elected Chairman of the Bloomfield Board of Education.



The floor was yielded to Mr. Harris to proceed with the election of the remaining officers.

Mr. Harris called for nominations of Vice Chair.

A motion was made by P. Davis and seconded by R. Ike to nominate Delores Bolton as Vice Chair of the Bloomfield Board of Education.

Delores Bolton accepted the nomination. Hearing no further nominations, nominations for the office of Vice Chair were closed and the vote to elect the nominee for the Vice Chair of the Bloomfield Board of Education was taken.

The motion was passed unanimously.

Delores Bolton was elected Vice Chair of the Bloomfield Board of Education.

Mr. Harris called for nominations for the position of board Secretary.

A motion was made by L. Easmon and seconded by R. Ike to nominate Patricia Davis as Secretary of the Bloomfield Board of Education.

Patricia Davis accepted the nomination. Hearing no further nominations, nominations for the office of Secretary were closed and the vote to elect the nominee for the Secretary of the Bloomfield Board of Education was taken.

The motion was passed unanimously.

Patricia Davis was elected Secretary of the Bloomfield Board of Education.

4. Opening Statement

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

5. Consent Agenda

A. Approval of Minutes – Regular Meeting – October 15, 2019

A motion was made by D. Bolton and seconded by R. Ike for the Bloomfield Board of Education to approve the minutes from the October 15, 2019 regular board meeting, as presented.

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



The motion was passed 6-0-1.

6. Presentations

A. Introduction of Laurel Elementary School Principal – Jennifer Dwyer

John Robinson, Director of Technology/Human Resources Coordinator, introduced the new principal of Laurel Elementary School, Jennifer Dwyer. The district received forty-four applicants for the position. The interview panel, comprised of staff, teachers, and parents, conducted three rounds of interviews.

Mrs. Dwyer has held the vice principal or principal positions for the last seven years. She is coming to Bloomfield from Waterbury Public Schools and will begin on November 18, 2019.

B. Student Representative Report – Global Experience Magnet School

The student representative from Global Experience Magnet School (GEMS) reported on recent school events, visitations and recognition ceremonies.

GEMS recently held the Culture Fair on November 7, 2019, GEMS Spirit Week and GEMS Society recognition ceremony November 5, 2019. In addition, they hosting a French Delegation visit for twelve days from their partner school Lycee de la Salle in Rennes, France.

Some upcoming events at GEMS includes a trip to the CT Science Center, Washington D.C. trip and the Senior Capstone Projects.

7. Recognitions

A. Students – Recognition of Student Volunteers for the Municipal Election

Robert Ike, Bloomfield Registrar, thanked the Bloomfield High School students for their service on November 5, 2019. Since the students were unable to attend due to afterschool obligation the recognition will be moved to the December 2019 Board meeting.

8. Public/PTO Comment

Kim Dunbar of 13 Walts Hill addressed the Board of Education. She stated she would like to see the speed limit near Metacomet Elementary School changed. The current limit does not reflect that the area is school zone and noted it is unsafe.

9. Superintendent's Report

A. Financial Report – October 2019

Mr. William Guzman, Chief Operations Officer, reported on the financials as of November 7, 2019. He distributed the one-page and six-page financial reports. The district is five months into the fiscal year with about 1.5 million or 3.57% of the budget yet to be expended or encumbered.

Several major accounts were recently expended or encumbered. These accounts include Health Insurance (2100), Pension account (2300), and OPEB (2310). In addition, the tuition account has also reflected recent encumbrances.



Mr. Guzman noted that the revenue has yet to be posted and reminded the Board of Education that the district has been on a budget freeze since October 22, 2019. The budget freeze excludes expenses needed for instructional programs, health and safety, and contractual obligations.

The district is currently working on calculating the additional costs of Special Education programming for the current fiscal year.

It was inquired by a Board member why the account 1256 Family Community Liaison was overspend by 193%. Mr. Guzman noted that this position was to be eliminated but was reinstated. Ms. Davis stated that this is a critical position at the high school.

10. Old Business

A. Policies for a Second Reading

1. Physical Exercise and Discipline of Students – 5144.4

Mr. William Guzman, Chief Operations Officer presented a second reading of policy 5144.4 – Physical Exercise and Discipline of Students. This policy was presented to the Policy Committee on September 24th and October 29th. It was also presented to the full Board for an initial reading on October 15th.

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.

A motion was made D. Bolton and seconded by R. Ike for the Board of Education to approve the adoption of policy 5144.4 – Physical Exercise and Discipline of Students.

The motion was passed unanimously.

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

Mr. William Guzman presented a second reading of policy 6159 - Individualized Education Programs/Special Education Program Instruction. This policy was presented to the Policy Committee on September 24th and October 29th. It was also presented to the full Board for an initial reading on October 15th.

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) including a reference to districts being unable to punish staff members for making recommendations during a PPT meeting.

A motion was made D. Bolton and seconded by R. Ike for the Board of Education to approve the adoption of policy 6159 – Individualized Education Programs/Special Education Program Instruction.

The motion was passed unanimously.

11. New Business

A. Extended and Accelerated Learning Programs

1. D.R.E.A.M. Now Program

Ms. Stacey McCann, Chief Academic Officer, introduced two new district partners who will be supporting Saturday programs in the district. Under the leadership of Jimmy McMikle, the D.R.E.A.M. Now, a youth leadership mentoring program will be afforded to fifty male students in grades 3-6.

Mr. McMikle attended Metacomet's PTO meeting held on November 7th and will be attending Carmen Arace Intermediate School's PTO meeting on November 21st to engage with families.

2. Legacy Saturday Academy

The Legacy Foundation will be affording 20-25 students in grade 7-8 with additional targeted math instruction alongside actuarial students from the University of Connecticut. This program will be two hours starting in January. A short video was shared with the Board showcasing the Legacy program.

Mr. Jones attended the meeting and addressed questions from the Board. Specifically the Board inquired what the motivation is for students and Mr. Jones shared that students participate in field trips and receive incentives.

B. Policy for an Initial Reading

1. Conduct and Discipline - 5131

Mr. William Guzman, Chief Operations Officer presented an initial reading of the policy which includes amendments to the existing policy 5131 – Conduct and Discipline. These revisions are in compliance with state statute 19-91, Section 9.

Mr. Guzman noted the edits are located on page C of the policy. An expellable offense must meet two criteria. An offense must both be a violation of Board policy and be seriously disruptive to the educational process. Previously, the policy allowed for the offense to meet one of the two criteria.



C. 2018/2019 Budget Transfers

Mr. William Guzman, Chief Operations Officer presented the additional 2018/2019 budget transfers. The transfers are to reconcile deficits and balance the accounts for year-end budget from 2018/2019.

These transfers are presented to the committee as per the requirements of the Board of Education Policy #3160.

A motion was made by D. Bolton and seconded by R. Ike for the Bloomfield Board of Education to approve the budget transfers for fiscal year 2018-2019, as presented.

The motion was passed unanimously.

D. Approval of Alliance Grant Application

Ms. Stacey McCann, Chief Academic Officer presented the Alliance Grant application to the Board for approval. Bloomfield has been a recipient of the Alliance Grant for the past seven years which supports district strategies to increase student outcome and close the achievement gap.

A motion was made by D. Bolton and seconded by R. Ike for the Bloomfield Board of Education to approve the submission of the 2019-2020 Alliance grant application.

The motion was passed unanimously.

E. 2020 Board of Education Meeting Schedule

The 2020 Board of Education meeting schedule was presented for approval. Mr. Ike noted one concern which is April 28, 2020 as this is the proposed presidential primary date. Mr. Harris noted for record.

A motion was made by D. Bolton and seconded by R. Ike for the Bloomfield Board of Education to approve the 2020 Board meeting schedule, as presented.

The motion was passed unanimously.

12. CABA Updates

Mr. Donald Harris, Jr. reminded the Board that the CABA/CAPSS Convention will be held on November 15-16, 2019 at the Mystic Marriott Hotel in Groton, CT. The delegate assembly will be on Thursday, November 14, 2019.

The New Board Member and Leadership Conference will be held on December 10, 2019.

13. Board Comments

R. Ike thanked Dr. Thompson for responding to the parent concerns from the last meeting. He also welcomed Lynette Easmon and congratulated Ms. Cherry on her appointment to the Board of Education in her hometown.



H. Frydman welcomed Ms. Easmon to the Board. He stated he is thankful for the hard work of the Board and staff. He also invited residents to attend the Board meetings.

L. Easmon thanked everyone for the warm welcome.

T. Moore shared that Laurel families were happy that schools were closed during voting on November 5, 2019. He is looking forward to see the new program from the Legacy Foundation.

P. Davis stated she is happy to have Ms. Easmon on the Board and to have a new permanent principal at Laurel. She reiterated the importance of Literacy for youngest learners (K-2) and noted that the district's efforts must be placed on our Kindergarten students. Ms. Davis also noted that the Saturday programs can be done and are very helpful. She noted the Board and district must do things differently and deliberately with children in mind.

D. Bolton complimented the Laurel Elementary School Principal search committee. She hoped that Ms. Dwyer will receive support as she starts her new position. Ms. Bolton was very pleased to hear from the student representatives from GEMS and she also welcomed Ms. Easmon.

D. Harris noted that Dr. Thompson was not in attendance as he is participating in a National Superintendents forum in San Diego, CA.

14. Adjournment

At 8:45 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