



Board of Education Regular Meeting
Tuesday, December 8, 2020 at 7:00 P.M.
Virtual Meeting via Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83987348869?pwd=dUpHdGJzUkV6T3BHWlV1aVRJZmc1Zz09>

Meeting ID: 839 8734 8869 Passcode: b4bv0V

Dial-In Number (929) 205-6099

Meeting ID: 839 8734 8869 Passcode: 584149

Attendance: D. Harris, Chair Present
D. Bolton, Vice Chair Present
H. Frydman, Secretary Present
R. Ike Present
L. Easmon Present
T. Moore Present
F. Bogle-Assegai Present

Also Present: J. Thompson, Superintendent of Schools
W. Guzman, Chief Operations Officer
B. Silver, Assistant Superintendent of Accountability and Performance
S. McCann, Chief Academic Officer
J. Robinson, Director of Technology/Human Resource Coordinator
A.M. Cullinan, Curriculum Consultant
W. Shepard-Bannish, Director of Student Support Services
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, Metacomet Elementary 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, 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 – November 10, 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 November 10, 2020 regular Board Meeting, as presented.

The motion passed unanimously.



5. Presentations

A. Recognition of Bloomfield’s Teacher of the Year, Lauren Serafino

Dr. James Thompson, Jr., Superintendent of Schools congratulated Teacher of the Year, Lauren Serafino. Ms. Serafino is a Special Education teacher at Carmen Arace Intermediate and Middle School.

B. Student Representative Report – Global Experience Magnet School

Two student representatives were introduced by the Chairman. Students shared a Power Point providing updates from Global Experience Magnet School. They reported on adapting to various learning models during the pandemic, sharing examples of what a student’s day at school is like. The students further gave information on GEMS honors classes and college courses, clubs, and their virtual Culture Night. The students shared ways they are keeping a positive climate with the “Caught ‘Ya Raffle” and World Kindness Week.

6. Public/PTO Comment

Andrew Angle, Bloomfield High School Teacher

Mr. Angle set a Donor’s Choice a project utilizing the BBC Micro:Bit to implement a curriculum called Adhesive. Device can be programming in Python and can build things. With Donor Choice he built a library of sensors – and would like to be able to provide each student with a BBC Micro:Bit. Mr. Harris would like Mr. Angle to present at future meeting so they can ask questions about the program.

7. Superintendent’s Report

A. Superintendent’s Update

Dr. James Thompson, Jr. provided an update to the Board of Education members on the status of the schools. The district transitioned to remote learning on November 30, 2020 and anticipates returning to the previous learning models on January 19, 2021.

Dr. Thompson gave a report on the new virtual after-school program, “Power Hour” and a status update on technology. He also provided information relative to the celebration of the 100th anniversary of the Harlem Renaissance. The virtual event will be held on December 17th at 6:00 p.m.

He extended the Bloomfield community holiday wishes.

T. Moore inquired on the current COVID – 19 metric for Bloomfield. Dr. Thompson noted a case rate of 39.5. Mr. Moore also noted that he heard that remote learning is failing kids nationally. Dr. Thompson noted that face-to-face is best, but the district is monitoring engagement and rigor of curriculum. The district just administered an assessment to gauge student learning. Mr. Moore asked about the number of ridership on the buses. Mr. Guzman shared that they are looking to see if is possible to consolidate runs and also reminded of the Executive Order 7R that bus companies have to be paid even if the district is not utilizing buses.



B. Financial Report – November 2020

Mr. William Guzman, Chief Operations Office reported on the financials as of December 3, 2020. He noted that 6.84% of the adopted budget has yet to be expended or encumbered.

Mr. Guzman noted on the one-page report, major account 01 Certified Salaries is over expended as they have yet to book receivables for Special Education out-of-town services we provide.

Account (05) Pupil Transportation shows a balance of \$209,000 and is the result funds being encumbered over the last month to pay for bus transportation.

Another account (08) Tuition shows a deficit of \$250,000 due to an increase of students attending Magnet Schools this year that was not anticipated when the budget was developed.

On the detailed 6-page report, on page 1 of 6 accounts 1210 and 1240 are over budget as the receivables has yet to be booked.

On page 2, Account 1265 Salaries there is an over budget of \$23,726 because of new employees hired to replace retirees. On the same page, Account 2410 Severance is over budget by \$32,524 because several employees retired after the start of the year that was not expected.

On page 4, Account 5690 has a deficit of \$129,357 tuition for magnet schools. Currently, we have approximately 27 new students opting to go magnet schools.

R. Ike asked him to explain about retirees and bringing in teachers at a higher salary. Mr. Guzman noted the account is for non-certified staff.

L. Easmon on page 5 of 6, the electric bill, has the district seen any benefits from the solar panels. Mr. Guzman stated the district was provided a credit at the time of installation but he can share more information through Dr. Thompson. She also inquired about the operations of building account on page 5 with a balance of \$500.00. Mr. Guzman noted funds have been encumbered to plan for expenditures. The budget is spending plan as to where we anticipate expenditures and as the district manages the budget there will be some accounts that will be over-spent and other will under-spent. The managing of the budget is to maintain the bottom line.

L. Easmon inquired about the travel account and Mr. Guzman noted some staff travel between schools and also travel for normal business.

Mr. Ike inquired about an additional surcharge from Comcast for super-users. Mr. Guzman was not aware of Bloomfield being affected by this. The district is looking into the electrical increases. Mr. Ike also asked about the budget, and Dr. Thompson noted a budget update will be on the next meeting agenda.



8. Old Business

A. Health and Safety Update

Wendy Shepard-Bannish, COVID-19 Liaison shared local and state data updates with the Board of Education. Mrs. Shepard-Bannish noted the Bloomfield case rate is 39.2, as of 11/15-11/28. Hartford County is 44.9 and state of CT is 46.7.

The state originally indicated that a the level RED, (high level) indicates full remote learning and have revised Addendum 4, as schools have been able to implement safety measures and protocols. The state is reassessing their metrics.

Mrs. Shepard-Bannish reviewed Bloomfield Public Schools individual data. There have been a total of 27 COVID-19 notifications. The charts shows the activity by dates and schools. 100% of notifications have not resulted in a school exposure, spread in schools.

CDC recently revised quarantine guidelines. The state has not adopted as of yet, the Department of Public Health and CSDE are reviewing them.

H. Frydman inquired how many staff are going into the buildings. It was noted the expectation that all staff are working from the building unless they need accommodations.

9. New Business

A. Transition to Remote Learning - Update

Stacey McCann, Chief Academic Officer provided a Power Point presentation regarding the transition to Enhanced Distance learning on November 30, 2020.

The district and school leaders have been meeting weekly to share data and discuss monitoring teaching and learning. There was a seamless transition due to the regular Enhanced Distance learning on Wednesdays.

Increased instructional time, and stronger engagement are some of the noted strengths. There is also a strong partnership between home and school. There is a continued need for Professional Development focused on engagement, rigor and technology. There has also been a focus on disengaged students.

R. Ike inquired how students are receiving extra supports. Ms. McCann noted there is a schedule for those support services, similar to a traditional day.

T. Moore asked how the disengaged students are being addressed. Ms. McCann it is parent-teacher conferences this week and they are checking in a formal way. They also have committees behind the scene to identify disengaged students and provide supports. Through the Corona Relief Funds able to provide additional funding to school counselors and social workers if needed to reach out to families. Dr. Ellis provided some specific information to Carmen Arace Middle School.



B. After-School Programs – Update

Anne Marie Cullinan, Curriculum Consultant provided an overview of the virtual after-school “Power Hour” program. The extended learning program for students in grades 3-8 and has been funded through grants. Students receive additional hours of English Language Arts and mathematics instruction to support their academic skills. The curriculum is based on the Common Core State Standards. Initial reports from our families have been very positive.

Principals Dr. Ellis, Mrs. Williams, and Mr. Guzzo gave highlights from their schools’ “Power Hour” program.

H. Frydman inquired about the process for the students to be selected for the program. Students may be solicited based on academic, social or emotional needs or by request of the family.

L. Easmon asked how the additional online engagement is following school. The programs have positive incentives and activities built in.

C. October 1 Enrollment Data

Mr. William Guzman, Chief Operations Officer gave an overview of the October 1 enrollment data. October 1 is the official data submitted to the state and used in a variety of state grant calculations. As of this date, there is 2059 students actively enrolled. Based on the table, 133 students left the district from last year and is reflective of state trends.

The projected enrollment for next is calculated by Dr. Silver using a 5 Cohort survival methodology. This coming year, will almost bring the district back to the same active numbers as October 1, 2019.

This number will be used in the calculation in the budget of 2021-2022.

R. Ike asked if homeschooled parents required to report to the district. Homeschooled families are required to report their intention is to home school their child. The enrollment will positively affect class size but will negatively affect the budget due to the increase of magnet school tuition costs.

10. CABE Updates

Don Harris noted new webinars are listed on the CABE website. Most of these are free and Bloomfield is a member of CABE.

11. Board Comments

R. Ike congratulated the Teacher of the Year. Great report from the student representatives and Happy Holidays.

L. Easmon thank you for all the reports today. Congratulation to Lauren Serafino. Happy holidays to everyone and stay safe.



T. Moore congratulated to the Teacher of the Year and wished everyone a happy holiday.

F. Bogle-Assegai wished all a happy holiday and congratulated the Teacher of the Year. She enjoyed the student presentation and looks forward to Mr. Angle's presentation.

H. Frydman congratulated Ms. Lauren Serafino as the Teacher of the Year. He thanked the staff for keeping the Board informed. Wished everyone a very good holiday.

D. Bolton served on the Advisory Board for African American/Latino Curriculum and the State Board of Education approved the inclusion of the curriculum for next year. Bloomfield has been an active member of this work. Looking forward to the virtual Black Tie event celebrating the 100-year anniversary of the Harlem Renaissance.

D. Harris encouraged the Board members to sign up for the event on Thursday, December 17th at 6:00 p.m. The information was resent to the Board members on December 8th. He congratulated the Teacher of the Year and thanked the staff for the presentations. The school year is not over yet with a lot of work to do and is hoping 2021 will be a better year. Next Board meeting is January 12, 2021. Happy holidays to all. He thanked the outstanding staff of Bloomfield Public Schools.

12. Adjournment

At 8:55 p.m. a motion to adjourn was made by R. Ike and seconded by D. Bolton.

The motion passed unanimously.

H. Frydman, Secretary

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