



BLOOMFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION - CURRICULUM COMMITTEE MEETING

Curriculum Committee Meeting AT Tuesday, January 27, 2015

Bloomfield Board of Education 1133 Blue Hills Avenue Board Room, 1133 Blue Hills Avenue ,
Bloomfield, CT 06002

1. Call to Order
2. Consent Agenda
 - A. Approval of Minutes - Curriculum Committee - October 28, 2014 2
M. Walters
3. New Business
 - A. Instructional Rounds
E. Stoltz
4. Adjournment



BLOOMFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS – CURRICULUM COMMITTEE MEETING
Tuesday, October 28, 2014, 6:30 p.m.
Bloomfield Board of Education
1133 Blue Hills Avenue
Board Room

ATTENDANCE: M.R. Walters, Chair Present
H. Frydman Present
R. Ike Present

ALSO PRESENT: D. Harris E. Stoltz B. Silver
S. McCann E. Pierce J. Thompson
W. Guzman W. Joslyn S. Simpson
M. Williams L. Mara Q. Johnson
J. Costa

1. CALL TO ORDER

M.R. Walters called the meeting to order at 6:34 p.m. The roll was called and a quorum was present.

2. CONSENT AGENDA

2. A. Approval of Minutes – Curriculum Meeting – March 25, 2014

A motion was made by R. Ike and seconded by H. Frydman for the Curriculum Committee to approve the meeting minutes for March 25, 2014.

M.R. Walters Aye
H. Frydman Aye
R. Ike Abstain

The motion passed with a majority vote.

2. B. Approval of Minutes – Curriculum Committee Meeting – September 23, 2014

A motion was made by R. Ike and seconded by H. Frydman for the Curriculum Committee to approve the meeting minutes for September 23, 2014.

M.R. Walters Abstain
H. Frydman Aye
R. Ike Abstain

A quorum was not present at the September 23, 2014 meeting.



3. NEW BUSINESS

A. Discussion about Successes, Challenges and Opportunities for Bloomfield Public Schools: Curriculum Implications

Dr. Ellen Stoltz introduced the presenter Jonathan Costa. Mr. Costa will be assisting in the process of engaging parents, staff and the community about the future of Bloomfield Public Schools. Through his many years of educational service and consulting, Jonathan has provided close support to districts for strategic process development and instructional improvements. He was asked to assist the district in communicating and receiving feedback regarding the configuration of the district.

Dr. Stoltz presented a PowerPoint on the structure of the parent forums that will be used to discuss the future of Bloomfield Public Schools. The purpose of the parent forums will be to engage parents in creating high-quality learning for the Bloomfield Public Schools. Through these forums, information will be presented about the current successes, challenges and future opportunities for Bloomfield Public Schools. The pay-off will be to align the curriculum to the Common Core Standards, reduce school transitions and to increase extended learning opportunities. Mr. Costa will serve as an objective facilitator for the parent forums.

Mr. Costa commented that students are transitioning every other year. Some of the options they are presenting to parents will provide more stable configurations that will allow students to stay in the same school longer.

The chart on page 3 of the PowerPoint shows the challenges that the current configuration presents. A reduction of school transitions would allow for alignment with the Common Core Standards, coherence of the school community and potentially an increase in enrollment. Mr. Costa stated it is important to focus on the gains as we engage the families and community. In working with over 2/3 of the districts in Connecticut, he has never seen the grades configured as they are in Bloomfield. He will focus on the realignment with standards and the developmental needs of students. Mr. Costa reviewed the options on page 4 of the PowerPoint that will be presented to parents. Option #3 would allow for intercommunity choice.

The first forum will be held on Thursday, November 13, 2014 from 6:00-7:00 p.m. The purpose will be to receive feedback on each option. The information received will be categorized and analyzed. It is an advisory meeting not a referendum. The purpose of the presentation to the Board Committee tonight is to share the process and structure of the parent forums.

The impact on the curriculum will be the alignment with the Common Core structure. Currently, the standards are divided by K-5 and 6-12. Dr. Stoltz stated the current configuration makes planning complicated but not impossible. It requires familiarizing



teachers with the differences between grade 5 and 6 standards. Also, the cognitive development of a 6th grader is very different (socially/emotionally) than that of a 5th grader.

Mr. Harris commented that the most important focus is what is best for the students.

L. Mara commented that there probably will not be very much resistance from the community to reduce the number of transitions; however change is difficult and some people may have the mentality 'if it is not broken; don't fix it'. She also suggested that if option #1 is not a true option to not include it on the options chart.

4. ADJOURNMENT

At 7:15 p.m., a motion was made by R. Ike and seconded by H. Frydman to adjourn.

The motion passed unanimously.

M. Walters, Chair