



BLOOMFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION - FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING

Finance Committee Meeting AT Tuesday, September 29, 2015

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

1. Establishment of a Quorum and Call to Order
2. Consent Agenda
 - A. Approval of Minutes - Finance Committee Meeting - May 26, 2015 2
M. Williams
3. New Business
 - A. General Improvements to Alliance Districts' School Buildings Grant Program
Application
W. Guzman
 - B. Acceptance of School Construction Projects as Complete
W. Guzman
4. Adjournment



BLOOMFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS – FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING
Tuesday, May 26, 2015, 6:30 p.m.
Bloomfield Board of Education
1133 Blue Hills Avenue
Board Room

ATTENDANCE: M. Williams, Chair *Absent*
L. Mara Present
Q. Johnson Present

ALSO PRESENT: J. Thompson E. Stoltz W. Joslyn
D. Harris W. Guzman S. McCann
M. Walters R. Ike S. Simpson
B. Silver E. Pierce M. Hourigan, *Guest*
J. Clessas, *Guest* J. Villar, *Guest*

1. CALL TO ORDER

L. Mara called the meeting to order at 6:55 p.m. The roll was called and a quorum was present.

2. CONSENT AGENDA

2. A. Approval of Minutes –Finance Committee – April 28, 2015

A motion was made by W. Johnson and seconded by L. Mara for the Finance Committee to approve the meeting minutes from April 28, 2015, as presented.

The motion was passed unanimously.

3. PRESENTATIONS

3. A. Connecticut Council for Education Reform – Financial Analysis Proposal

Mr. William Guzman, Chief Operating Officer introduced guest speakers from Connecticut Council for Education Reform (CCER), Dr. Jeffery Villar, Executive Director, Marian Hourigan, Director of District and School Partnerships and Jennifer Clessas, District Support Manger. Dr. Villar noted CCER is there to work as a partner with Bloomfield and the mission of their organization is to close the achievement gap. The School System Resource Analysis allows a district to hold up a mirror and see how their finances align with district priorities and compare to other districts.

Ms. Hourigan discussed the different teams involved in the process included CCER, who works as the project manager and completes the analysis, Education Resource Strategies (ERS), who provide the methodology and database and the district. Both CCER and ERS are non-profit organizations.

There are four objectives to the resource analysis process. The first part is to assess the situation which is done by looking at the data (mostly public data). The second is to understand the use of funds and expenditures (such as payroll and Human Resources).



Part three consists of identifying how the district funds students and schools equitably. The final step of the process is understanding how districts use people and time.

Ms. Clessas explained the process further by looking at simulated data and graphs to demonstrate how data is compared. Variances in data may require an additional “deep dive”, where data is examined at an advanced level. An example was provided of a mock district with high Operation and Maintenance and when a “deep dive” was provided it was found that the district was spending a significantly higher percentage on facilities and maintenance. They will analyze why this district is spending more than other districts. This process will also provide recommendations if it does not align with district goals. Other comparisons include FTE’s, funding equity across student types to comparable districts and Special Education funding (which is only compared to other CT districts).

Further it was noted that this analysis has been performed in several districts in Connecticut and from this they have been able to draw some commonalities.

Partnership is important to the success of this process.

Mr. Ike inquired the cost of the resource analysis. Dr. Villar responded that there is no cost to the district. It costs approximately \$45,000-\$50,000 which is paid through grants and donations cover the cost of staff time.

Mr. Walters asked why CCER selected Bloomfield. Dr. Villar stated that from previous experiences he knows Bloomfield has had successes with Holistic Accountability notable data team. There was also interest expressed from the district.

L. Mara established that the spending will be evaluated against the District Accountability Plan. Since this is a small district there are opportunities for different analyses. Ms. Mara inquired if this process can evaluate what kind of disabilities we are outplacng and the comparison cost to create our own program. It was noted by CCER that they have found districts across CT spend on average approximately \$34,000 for a student in a self-contained classroom and about \$22-24,000 per pupil for inclusive or mainstream support. This information could be derived from the analysis.

Q. Johnson asked what program they use for the analysis. Ms. Clessas stated they use excel with formula coding and enter the data into an Access program.

D. Harris stated that there are benefits in being transparent.

A motion was made by Q. Johnson and seconded by L. Mara to recommend to Board of Education for approval, as early as possible, the Financial Analysis Proposal as presented by the Connecticut Council for Education Reform.

The motion was passed unanimously.



4. OLD BUSINESS

4. A. Construction Project Updates

The high school synthetic turf field went out to bid on Saturday, May 23, 2015. The bid opening is June 9, 2015. They will look to bring the bid to the full board for review and approval at the Special Meeting on June 16, 2015.

The application for the roof repairs were submitted to the state. They have to schedule a plan and review before we go to bid.

The final cost figures for the renovations will be presented to the full board following the adjournment of the General Assembly on June 3, 2015. Special legislation would enable Bloomfield to seek the full reimbursement rate.

5. NEW BUSINESS

5. A. 2015-2016 Meal Prices

Mr. William Guzman presented the 2015-2016 meal price increases to the Finance Committee. He stated due to increased cost of food and commodities they needed to raise the prices for the upcoming fiscal year. The last prices increase for the district was eight years ago with the exception of the elementary school which was increased in 2013. An analysis was made with surrounding towns and other DERG districts.

L. Mara inquired if schools still have funds that students can access in the event they do not have money. It was noted, that in such cases when student do not have money they receive the meal or a substitute.

A motion was made by Q. Johnson and seconded by L. Mara to recommend to the Board of Education for approval, 2015-2016 Meal Price increases as follows:

Breakfast	Current	Proposed
Elementary	\$1.25	\$1.50
Middle School	\$1.50	\$1.75
High School	\$1.50	\$2.00

Lunch	Current	Proposed
Elementary	\$2.50	\$2.75
Middle School	\$2.75	\$3.00
High School	\$2.75	\$3.00

The motion was passed unanimously.



6. ADJOURNMENT

At 7:29 p.m., a motion was made by Q. Johnson and seconded by L. Mara to adjourn.

The motion passed unanimously.

M. Williams, Chair