



BLOOMFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION - SPECIAL BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

Special Board of Education Meeting AT Tuesday, March 21, 2017

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

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J. Thompson
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 - B. Global Experience Magnet School Named National Magnet School of Excellence
A.M. Cullinan
 - C. Andrea Sias Named Regional Teacher of the Year by Magnet Schools of America
A.M. Cullinan
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BLOOMFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION – SPECIAL MEETING

Tuesday, February 21, 2017 at 7:00 p.m.

Bloomfield Board of Education

1133 Blue Hills Avenue

Board Room

Attendance: D. Harris, Chair	Present
M. R. Walters, Vice Chair	Present
H. Frydman, Secretary	Absent
R. Ike	Present
M. Williams	Absent
Q. Johnson	Present
D. Banks	Present

Also Present: J. Thompson, Jr., Superintendent of Schools
B. Silver, Assistant Superintendent of Accountability and Performance
S. McCann, Assistant Superintendent of School Improvement and Intervention
A.M. Cullinan, Chief Academic Officer
W. Guzman, Chief Operations Officer
W. Joslyn, Human Resource Specialist
S. Simpson, Director of Strategic Communications and Planning
E. Pierce, District Grant Specialist
D. Moleti, Principal, Bloomfield High School
N. Campagna, Intern

1. Establishment of a Quorum and Call to Order

D. Harris determined a quorum was present and the Bloomfield Board of Education Special 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

M. Walters, Vice Chair, welcomed all attendees. The purpose and process of the Board of Education meeting was stated.

4. Consent Agenda

A. Approval of Minutes – Regular Meeting – January 10, 2017

A motion was made by M. Walters and seconded by R. Ike for the Bloomfield Board of Education to approve the minutes from the January 10, 2017 regular Board meeting, as presented.

The motion passed unanimously.



5. Presentations

A. Student Representative Report – Bloomfield High School

Two substitute representatives from Bloomfield High School shared a presentation with members of the Board of Education.

The representative reported that Bloomfield High School students participated in the National Football Signing Day on February 1, 2017.

On Monday, February 6th members of Comcast came to Bloomfield High School to present the YWCA with a check for \$20,000. This check will fund the various programs offered to young women at Bloomfield High School and other neighboring schools.

The Bloomfield High School Girls Basketball Team raised \$1,300 in support of cancer research through various activities such as dress-down days and the annual “coaches versus players” basketball game.

High School seniors are receiving acceptances from various colleges including Syracuse University, Central Connecticut State University and Quinnipiac.

The girls Indoor Track team won the State Opens, on Monday, February 20, 2017. They already won their 8th consecutive Class “S” Championship. At the State Open, the girls won seven of the 10 events in which they participated.

Some upcoming events include the CCC Basketball Tournament starting on February 23rd, the boys Basketball playoffs on March 3rd and the NE Track Championship on March 4, 2017. The Black History Month Celebration will be held on March 2, 2017 and the Quarter 2 Honor Roll dinner will be on March 6th.

6. Public/PTO Comment

Aaron Romano from 55 Woodland Avenue in Bloomfield addressed the Board of Education. Mr. Romano is an alumnus of Bloomfield High School and informed the Board about the possibility of starting a fencing program in Bloomfield. The startup fee for fencing is minimal and is underrepresented by people of color. He also stated that he is running for state Senate as a write-in candidate and encourages people to vote based on the issues.

7. Superintendent’s Report

A. Special Recognition

Dr. Thompson acknowledged Board Chair, Donald Harris, Jr. on his recent appointment to the State Board of Education. Mr. Harris will serve on the board as one of 13 members, including two students. The State Board of Education helps to set education policy in the state and recommends to the Governor the appointment of the Commissioner of Education. Mr. Harris will remain in his role as the chair of the Bloomfield Board of Education. Dr. Thompson congratulated Mr. Harris on his election to this prestigious, leadership role.



He also recognized Stan Simpson on his designation to fill Robert C. Vance Endowed Chair in Journalism and Mass Communications at Central Connecticut State University. Mr. Simpson is the district Director of Strategic Communications & Planning and is also an alumnus of CCSU. He will remain in this position through the fall of 2017 in addition to teaching some courses.

8. Old Business

A. Arace Roof Panel Project Agreements - Approval

Mr. William Guzman, Chief Operations Officer shared an update on the bid award for the Carmen Arace Roof Solar Panel Project. The district was notified that Connecticut Green Bank is unable to finance a twenty year lease. A revised twenty-five year lease agreement has been drafted. The updated agreement was introduced to the Finance Committee on January 24, 2017.

The agreement was sent to the board attorneys Shipman & Goodwin for review; to ensure the interests of the school district are being met. Their recommended language was included in the updated agreement.

Following approval from the Board of Education, the next step will be to appear before the Town Council for approval.

Mr. Harris reiterated that this information has been vetted by the Finance Committee and they are comfortable with the document going forward to the Board and Town Council.

A motion was made by M. Walters and seconded by R. Ike to recommend adoption of the following resolution:

The Board of Education approves the twenty-five (25) year Power Purchase Agreement and Site Lease between the Bloomfield Public Schools and the Clean Energy Finance and Investment Authority (CEFIA) as recommended by Shipman and Goodwin, Board of Education attorneys, and authorizes the Superintendent to execute the Agreement on its behalf.

The motion was passed unanimously.

9. New Business

A. Presentation of the Superintendent's Proposed 2017-2018 Budget

James Thompson, Jr., Superintendent presented the 2017-2018 Superintendent's Proposed Budget. The proposed budget supports the four district priorities. The second principle in the development of the budget is maintaining educational integrity for Bloomfield students. This includes reasonable class sizes, extended learning opportunities, quality curriculum, and continued staff development.

Mr. Guzman introduced a summary of the Superintendent's proposed budget by major cost centers.



Account numbers (01) Certified Salaries, (02) Non-Certified Salaries and (03) Employee Benefits comprise 73% of the total budget. This is typical for a school budget.

Slide 8 outlined the major budget drivers outside the control of the district. The major budget drivers are Tuition (Special Education & Magnet), Employee Benefits and Transportation. The transportation has increased by .22% from 2016-2017, however the district anticipates better, more timely service. These drivers account for 3.54% of the overall budget increase. Mr. Guzman reiterated the district has no control over these accounts.

Slide 9 shows the other major budget drivers including salaries (budget book page 54-55) which are contractual by nature, operations (pages 64-65), and textbooks (page 66). The other budget drivers account for a total of 1.24% increase to the budget from last year.

The table on slide 10 shows a seven-year trend of Special Education Tuition costs. In 2010-2011 the cost of special education services were approximately \$900,000 and next year the projected cost is over \$2,600,000.

Mr. Guzman shared the eight-year trends of the number of students attending tuition-based magnet schools and the associated cost on slide 11. The projected cost for 2017-2018 is approximately \$1,190,000.

In 2017-2018 there will be impacts to some of our grant revenue sources. Based on the Governor's Budget and other grant reductions, Mr. Guzman stated the district anticipates a reduction of educational funding to the town and Board of Education of almost 1.27 million dollars.

Slide 14 shows the Board of Education funding request history. The projected 2017-2018 budget is just over \$42 million, which is a 4.78% increase from last year's budget. Based on the trend information, there were four years of 0% increases. If you average the percentage of increases over the last seven years, it equates to 1.3% annually.

Some mitigation strategies to offset the budget increases includes the elimination of the Assistant Superintendent of School Improvement and Intervention position and the reduction of 7 non-certified, full-time staff. Other staff attrition is anticipated through resignation and retirements.

Mr. Guzman noted that the preparation of the 2017-2018 was fiscally challenging due to the decreases in revenues from grants and the Governor's budget, along with increases to the expenses such as employee benefits and tuition costs. Additionally, he discussed the challenges of unfunded mandates and reduction of the Education Cost Sharing (ECS) Grant.



Mr. Guzman commented on the hard work from all our school administrators, directors, and finance office staff. He recognized Sandy Braun, Director of Accounting and Elisa Pierce, District Grant Specialist for the many hours they contributed to putting the contents on the budget book together.

The board deliberation and public comments will be held next week on Tuesday, February 28, 2017.

Mr. Harris noted the proposed budget will be available on the Bloomfield Public Schools website following the meeting.

B. Policies for Initial Reading

1. Non-Resident Students - 5118

Mr. Guzman, Chief Operations Officer presented a policy for initial reading to the Board of Education. This policy is in accordance with Connecticut General Statutes Section 10-186 and Section 10-253. This policy states that free school privileges are provided to all resident students.

The administrative regulations for this policy are very lengthy. They provide the flexibility to the Superintendent to allow non-resident students to start or continue school for the purpose of an uninterrupted education.

The policy was reviewed by the Policy Committee on January 24, 2017.

10. CABA Updates

Mr. Harris stated that the CABA/CREC Legislative Breakfast was held on January 25, 2017. This was the largest gathering they ever hosted. The discussion focused on legislative issues that have already been presented before this Board at Bloomfield's Legislative Breakfast.

On January 27-31, 2017, Mr. Harris served as a guest at the National School Board Association symposium on equity. There were over 500 board members in attendance at this conference. During this event, they met with members of Congress and Senate.

On March 8, 2017, CABA will be hosting A Day on the Hill at The Bushnell. This is an opportunity for board members and legislators to discuss critical educational issues.

11. Board Comments

R. Ike congratulated the women's track team on their state championship and Mr. Harris on his appointment to the State Board of Education. He wished Howard Frydman the best.

Q. Johnson noted that it is our differences that make us a stronger community. He also acknowledged Mr. Harris on his nomination and reminded everyone that February is Black History Month. He also shared that there will be a Special Election in Bloomfield on February 28, 2017.



D. Banks congratulated the students going to college and the girls indoor track team for achieving first place in the Class “S” championship. She offered Mr. Frydman a speedy recovery.

M. Walters recognized Sandy Braun and Elisa Pierce for their hard work and efforts on the proposed budget document. He offered his sentiments to Stan Simpson and Don Harris for their achievements. Mr. Walter commented on the in-district professional development on February 21, 2017. These workshops were led by Bloomfield staff and focused on Priority 2: Rigorous Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment.

D. Harris also acknowledged all the staff of the business office who contributed to putting together the budget document.

12. Adjournment

At 7:55 p.m. a motion to adjourn was made by R. Ike and seconded by M. Walters.

The motion was passed unanimously.

H. Frydman, Secretary

J. Thompson, Ed. D., Superintendent



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Bloomfield Board of Education

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Board Room

Attendance: D. Harris, Chair	Present
M. R. Walters, Vice Chair	Present
H. Frydman, Secretary	Absent
R. Ike	Present
M. Williams	Absent
Q. Johnson	Present
D. Banks	Present

Also Present: J. Thompson, Jr., Superintendent of Schools
B. Silver, Assistant Superintendent of Accountability and Performance
S. McCann, Assistant Superintendent of School Improvement and Intervention
A.M. Cullinan, Chief Academic Officer
W. Guzman, Chief Operations Officer
W. Joslyn, Human Resource Specialist
S. Simpson, Director of Strategic Communications and Planning
E. Pierce, District Grant Specialist
S. Braun, Director of Accounting
W. Casper, Director of Facilities
N. Campagna, Intern

1. Establishment of a Quorum and Call to Order

D. Harris determined a quorum was present and the Bloomfield Board of Education Special Meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

All rose to recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Public/PTO Comment

A. Public Comment on Superintendent’s Proposed 2017-2018 Budget

Crystal Sams from 86 Elizabeth Avenue in Bloomfield addressed the Board of Education. She shared her concerns regarding budget cuts negatively affecting the educational climate and physical environment at Carmen Arace Middle School. She stated there is less homework, larger class sizes, one hallway of classrooms which not being utilized and a reduction of custodial staff which is apparent in the cleanliness of the school. Ms. Sams noted the school is over 40 years old and is need of updating. She invited the Board members to visit the school.



4. New Business

A. Board Action on Superintendent's Proposed 2017-2018 Budget

Mr. Harris shared that last week, members of the Board of Education met individually or in small groups with the Superintendent and Chief Operations Officer to address any specific questions they had relating to the proposed budget.

Mr. Harris stated that creating the 2017-2018 budget was a challenging process as there will be reduction in our revenue next year. This is a result of the district's successes and a loss of grants.

R. Ike commented that he appreciated the one-on-one meeting and it allowed him to examine the budget book in detail. He also shared that he served on the Carmen Arace Building Committee when the renovations were recently made to the middle and intermediate schools.

Q. Johnson stated that the budget book is very detailed and he appreciated the thought that went into creating this document.

D. Banks had no comment.

M. Walters stated he appreciated the time invested in preparing the budget document. He stated his discussion with the Superintendent and the Chief Operations Officer was very transparent and aided in his level of understanding. He also commented that this is the third time in seven years the Board of Education is requesting a budget increase.

A motion was made by M. Walters and seconded by R. Ike for the Bloomfield Board of Education to accept and adopt the operating budget for 2017-2018 in the amount of \$42,169,124 as presented.

The motion passed unanimously.

5. Adjournment

At 7:12 p.m. a motion to adjourn was made by R. Ike and seconded by M. Walters.

The motion was passed unanimously.

H. Frydman, Secretary

J. Thompson, Ed. D., Superintendent