Board of Education Regular Meeting
Tuesday, October 13, 2026 at 7:00 P.M.
Hybrid Meeting
In-Person Location: Bloomfield Board of Education, Board Room
1133 Blue Hills Avenue
Bloomfield, CT 06002

Virtual Option: Zoom
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84389629499?pwd=WAqDLUtvIlEGd7UCdy7h610jo0wM8a.1
Meeting ID: 843 8962 9499 Passcode: 505012

Attendance:	L. Easmon, Chair	Present
	T. Mack-Mohammed, Vice Chair	Present
	F. Bogle-Assegai, Secretary	Present *(online)*
	K. Dunbar	Present
	H. Frydman	Present
	C. Jones	Absent
	R. Ike	Present

Also Present: T. Youngberg, Superintendent of Schools
D. Greco, Executive Director of Finance and Operations
L. Lamenzo, Executive Director of Teaching, Learning, and Leadership
E. Hilversum, Director of Talent Management and Community Partnerships
J. Preuss, Director of Assessment, Accountability, and Performance
C. Kennedy, Director of Student Support Services
J. White, Principal, Bloomfield High School

1. **Establishment of a Quorum and Call to Order**
   L. Easmon determined a quorum was present and the Bloomfield Board of Education Regular meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m.

2. **Pledge of Allegiance**
   All rose to recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. **Opening Statement**
   T. Mack-Mohammed welcomed all attendees. The purpose and process of the Board of Education meeting were stated.

4. **Presentations**
   A. **Student Representative Report – Bloomfield High School**
      Bloomfield High School student representatives, reported on school activities and achievements. Highlights included Bloomfield High School earning the Michaels Cup for the ninth consecutive year; after-school SAT preparation; the September 29 college fair; college visits; marching band appearances; participation in the CCC

Sportsmanship Conference; financial aid night; a student's third-place finish in an agriscience competition at the Big E; planned EKG screenings for student-athletes; and the new math league team, which will compete at Harvard University on November 7. The students also reviewed upcoming school events and proposed establishing a permanent student representative position on the Board of Education, with possible participation in committee meetings. Board members thanked the students for their presentation and discussed the value of student voice and engagement.

B. Introduction of Eric Hilversum, Director of Talent Management and Community Partnerships

Dr. Youngberg introduced Eric Hilversum, Director of Talent Management and Community Partnerships, and reviewed his 25 years of public service, including more than 14 years in school administration. His experience includes talent recruitment and retention, employee onboarding and mentoring, staff evaluation, professional development, labor and employee relations, community engagement, and school improvement. Hilversum expressed that he was honored to join Bloomfield Public Schools and emphasized his commitment to supporting staff and educators through transparency, fairness, due process, and collaborative leadership.

5. Board of Education Committee Reports

A. Finance Committee

The Finance Committee reviewed the district's Alliance District Grant application and the plan for using funds to improve student performance, including goals, indicators, monitoring, and reporting. The committee also discussed the master staffing list, benefits and salaries for non-affiliated employees, a public relations proposal to increase awareness of district programs and address public perceptions (discussion only; no action taken), and the UConn Health agreement for sports medicine and athletic training services at Bloomfield High School. The agreement remains under discussion.

B. Curriculum Committee

The Curriculum Committee discussed enrollment and interest in Laurel Literacy Academy PreK programming, including future seat availability, and district assessment results. Additional information about district scores is forthcoming.

C. Policy Committee

The Policy Committee did not meet because a quorum was not present. Members noted that several policies will need committee review before being brought to the full Board.

6. Consent Agenda

A. Approval of Minutes – Regular Meeting – September 8, 2026

B. Approval of Alliance District Grant Application

A motion was made by T. Mack-Mohammed and seconded by K. Dunbar for the Bloomfield Board of Education to approve the consent agenda, as presented.

L. Easmon, Chair	Aye
T. Mack-Mohammed	Aye
F. Bogle-Assegai	Aye
K. Dunbar	Aye
H. Frydman	Aye
R. Ike	Aye

The motion passed unanimously 6-0-0.

7. Superintendent's Report

A. Superintendent's Update

Dr. Tracy Youngberg, Superintendent of Schools, shared a PowerPoint presentation and updates on professional learning, district initiatives, facilities, strategic planning, school climate and safety, and finance. The district's theme for the year is "Planting Seeds, Inspiring Growth and Cultivating Excellence." The Teaching, Learning and Leadership team led professional development on October 13 and has been invited to present its curriculum and instructional coherence work at the Connecticut State Department of Education's Performance Matters event on October 30. The district is collaborating with Engage to Learn to host author and consultant Jim Knight, and Bloomfield High School will continue its partnership with the RISE Network. The district is also working to support student participation in the CABE/CAPSS convention.

The district is working with the Town on environmental and sustainability initiatives. A pilot to replace plastic utensils with reusable utensils is planned at Carmen Arace and Bloomfield High School, with grant-funded equipment and supplies. The district is also pursuing a composting initiative supported by an approximately $50,000 grant, with the goal of expanding the work over time.

The Superintendent reported that the district received a painting estimate of approximately $138,000 for Bloomfield High School and Carmen Arace and is identifying a funding source. The GEMS building walkthrough with Town representatives went well; minor repairs and removal of some items are planned while the Town considers next steps. Construction is underway on an additional student bathroom at Metacomet to support students with special needs. Preliminary plans are underway to relocate Central Office staff to the Carmen Arace building, alongside the Alternative Learning Center, Carmen Arace Middle School, and adult education; the maintenance department would be housed at Bloomfield High School.

Formal strategic planning is now anticipated to begin in spring 2027. The district is considering completing initial data gathering in-house and adjusting existing vendor work to support a marketing and communications plan without increasing planned expenditures. The Superintendent also reviewed the legislatively required Climate and Safety Committee, which monitors school climate, attendance, discipline, survey data, and collaboration with Town social and youth services. Fiscal year 2025 audit submissions and the state financial report were completed on time; fiscal year 2026

reconciliation work and Munis training continue, with the HR, payroll, and benefits modules targeted for an April 1, 2027, launch.

B. District Enrollment and Attendance

Jennifer Preuss, Director of Assessment, Accountability, and Performance presented an early-year snapshot of enrollment, attendance, and chronic absenteeism using October 6 enrollment data and attendance data through September 30. Overall enrollment appeared relatively stable, with shifts across grade levels following the district's school and grade-level reconfigurations. Board members asked about attendance incentives, interventions for chronically absent students, and the district's attendance procedures. The administration noted that principals receive detailed accountability reports and that schools use attendance teams and absence notifications.

C. Human Resources Update

Eric Hilversum, Director of Talent Management and Community Partnerships presented the July 1–September 30, 2026, human resources update. He reported that recruitment efforts had filled nearly all positions needed by schools and that hiring and recruitment would continue. Staff reassignments largely reflect school closures and grade-level reconfigurations. Board members asked about the campus supervisor position at Bloomfield High School and food service staffing at Seymour and Allgrove schools, which are part of the East Granby food service partnership.

D. Financial Report – September 2026

Domenic Greco, Executive Director of Finance and Operations that, as of October 8, approximately 21.81% ($12.2 million) of the adopted budget remained unexpended or unencumbered. Certified salaries were approximately $596,000 over budget pending billing and recognition of anticipated out-of-district tuition revenue. Employee benefits and tuition costs had not yet been fully encumbered, including health insurance, pension and OPEB contributions, special education placements, and magnet school tuition. Building improvements were approximately $335,000 over budget due to necessary repairs, including work at Metacomet, Carmen Arace, and Bloomfield High School. The district is exploring grants and budget transfers to offset some costs. Board members also asked about a literacy intervention grant and the district's vehicle inventory; follow-up information was requested.

8. Public/PTO Comment

Thomas Smith of 128 Wintonbury Ave., Bloomfield commented on implementation of district policies at the school level, including dress code and restrictions on electronics and phones, and urged consistent follow-through on written policies.

Felicia Harvey Clark of 8 Fairfield Lane, Bloomfield thanked educators and support staff and asked about the district's attendance teams and interventions for chronic absenteeism, plans to improve district performance ratings, and opportunities to pursue grants. The Board Chair stated that the Superintendent would work with staff to respond to questions raised during public comment.

9. New Business

A. Educator Evaluation Plan 2026-2027 Review and Possible Action

A motion was made by T. Mack-Mohammed and seconded by R. Ike to approve continued use of the previously adopted and approved Educator Evaluation Plan. The plan was described as meeting state requirements and best-practice recommendations, with no substantive changes to the evaluation process. Board members requested additional time to review the document before voting.

The Board agreed to table consideration to allow all members, including the absent member, an opportunity to review the plan and submit questions.

A motion was made by T. Mack-Mohammed and seconded by R. Ike to table consideration of the Educator Evaluation Plan until the November regular Board meeting.

L. Easmon, Chair	Aye
T. Mack-Mohammed	Aye
F. Bogle-Assegai	Aye
K. Dunbar	Aye
H. Frydman	Aye
R. Ike	Aye

The motion passed unanimously 6-0-0.

B. Review and Possible Action on the CABE Board Recognition Award – Level 2

Lynette Easmon, Board Chair presented the CABE's Board of Distinction Award application to the full Board. This award is the next level of recognition for Boards of Education that demonstrate strong leadership, teamwork, and a commitment to improving their school district. To be eligible, a Board must have received the CABE Board Leadership Award at least twice within the previous four years. Our Board has met that requirement, which makes us eligible to apply for the Board of Distinction Award.CABE requires the Board to formally approve the application by a majority vote before the Board Chair and Superintendent can sign and submit it.

A motion was made by T. Mack-Mohammed and seconded by R. Ike for the Bloomfield Board of Education to approve the submission of the application for the CABE Board of Distinction Award.

L. Easmon, Chair	Aye
T. Mack-Mohammed	Aye
F. Bogle-Assegai	Aye
K. Dunbar	Aye
H. Frydman	Aye
R. Ike	Aye

The motion passed unanimously 6-0-0.

10. Board Comments

R. Ike encouraged Bloomfield residents to participate in the upcoming election, reviewed early voting dates and polling hours, and thanked the district for its cooperation in supporting student poll workers.

K. Dunbar thanked community members for attending and sharing comments, expressed support for Bloomfield Public Schools, and emphasized the importance of parents, educators, students, and the broader community working together to support student success.

H. Frydman emphasized the importance of a collective community effort, noting that while Bloomfield offers many programs and resources, collaboration among community members is essential.

F. Bogle-Assegai raised concerns about the end of the grant-funded STEAM after-school program at Laurel Literacy Academy and asked the district to consider how opportunities of this kind could be sustained. Dr. Youngberg clarified that the grant had ended and the program had not been included in the district budget, while agreeing that such opportunities benefit the community.

T. Mack-Mohammed welcomed Eric Hilversum and thanked the Bloomfield High School student representatives for their presentation. Members emphasized the need for long-range strategic goals and community investment in students.

L. Easmon read a statement and requested that it be included in the meeting record. The statement is provided below.

“I would like to take a moment to address the importance of regular attendance at Board of Education meetings and committee meetings. Until recently, attendance has not been an issue; however, recent absences are beginning to affect our productivity and ability to conduct business efficiently.

As members of this Board, we have a responsibility to be present, engaged, and prepared to carry out the work entrusted to us. Our attendance is not simply a matter of fulfilling a calendar commitment; it directly affects our ability to conduct business, discuss important issues, and make timely decisions that impact our students, staff, and school district.

We must also be mindful and respectful of the time and efforts of our staff members who prepare for and attend these meetings to present information, answer questions, and provide recommendations. Many of these individuals are attending after their regular workday has ended. When members are absent without advance notice, or when we do not have a quorum to move forward, staff may be left waiting unnecessarily, and valuable time is lost.

A lack of consistent attendance also makes it difficult to discuss, amend, and pass policies in a timely manner. When items must be placed on the agenda repeatedly because we do not have the necessary members present to discuss or take action, it

delays important work and creates additional demands on staff and fellow Board members.

Moving forward, I ask that each member make every reasonable effort to attend all regular Board AND committee meetings. If you know that you will be unable to attend, please notify the Board Chair as soon as possible so that the Superintendent and I can make appropriate adjustments to the agenda, communicate with staff, and use everyone's time as efficiently as possible. Please understand it is not Krista's responsibility to tell me that you will not be in attendance. She has many other responsibilities, and we should respect her time as well.

We must demonstrate respect for fellow board members and acknowledge the responsibilities we have accepted as elected officials. Our students deserve a Board that leads by example, takes its responsibilities seriously, respects the time of others, and works together to move the district forward.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and for your continued service to our students, staff, and community."

11. Adjournment

At 8:34 p.m. a motion to adjourn was made by R. Ike and seconded by T. Mack-Mohammed.

The motion passed unanimously 6-0-0.

F. Bogle-Assegai, Secretary

T. Youngberg, Superintendent