



Board of Education – Finance Committee Meeting

Tuesday, January 28, 2025 at 6:00 PM

Bloomfield Board of Education, Board Room

1133 Blue Hills Avenue

Bloomfield, CT 06002

**ATTENDANCE:** K. Dunbar, Chair Present  
T. Mack-Mohammed Present  
L. Simone Present

**ALSO PRESENT:** L. Easmon H. Frydman F. Bogle-Assegai  
T. Moore T. Youngberg D. Greco  
L. Lamenzo J. Titelbaum

**1. Establishment of a Quorum and Call to Order**

K. Dunbar called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m. The roll was called and a quorum was present.

**2. Consent Agenda**

**A. Approval of Minutes –Finance Committee Special Meeting – November 21, 2024**

A motion was made by L. Simone and seconded by T. Mack-Mohammed for the Finance Committee to approve the minutes from November 21, 2024, special meeting, as presented.

K. Dunbar Aye  
T. Mack-Mohammed Aye  
L. Simone Aye

The motion was passed unanimously 3-0-0.

**3. New Business**

**A. Global Experience Magnet School Expenditures**

Dr. Tracy Youngberg, Superintendent of Schools, reported to the Finance Committee on the status of operating the Global Experience Magnet School (GEMS). She noted that typically a magnet school turn a profit; however, GEMS is costing the district money. The school was retrofitted from an office space into a school and is considered a sub-standard facility with no auditorium or gymnasium. The district is unable fix the corrective action plan from the State of CT due to the facilities. There are currently 15 Bloomfield residents attending GEMS of the 162 students. Dr. Youngberg would like to form a committee to investigate the cost to continuing to operate the school and explore the direction of the school.

T. Mack-Mohammed inquired about the cost to operate the school and numbers of students and staff. Dr. Youngberg noted the cost to the general budget is \$600,000



(not including the grant funds), there are 189 students in grade 6-12 and approximately 22 certified staff.

L. Simone inquired if the school has ever made money.

Dr. Youngberg stated that the direction of the school is ultimately the Board decision. She noted that GEMS currently is part of the district accountability rating and the chronic absenteeism and student outcomes all contribute regardless of what town the student comes from.

Some items to further consider is the school is not adequately staffed and upholding the them with trip and curriculum.

**B. Alternative Education**

Dr. Youngberg noted the district contracts with Our Piece of the Pie (OPP) to support alternative education for expelled students and high school students who are overage and under-credit. The district previously had their own program. There are currently 14 students attending however, students are not attending regularly and are not achieving credits. The cost is \$170,000, plus transportation and special education services. The contract expires in 2028 or a 1-year notice is required to cancel.

**C. 2% Set Aside Account**

Dr. Youngberg, Superintendent, noted that in 2024 a CT General Statue permitted local Boards of Education to create a 2% non-lapsing account. Dr. Youngberg noted this is separate from the 1% Capital non-recurring account with the Town. She is seeking Board approval on the creation of this account for future district needs.

**D. Special Education Costs**

Dr. Youngberg noted that the Special Education costs are high as there are significant needs in the district. She noted the way services are being provided are not fiscally responsible or student centered. The district is currently relying on contracted and substitute services such as Delta T to address Special Education shortages. Her focus will be to move away from 1:1 support and provide Special Education students with independence goals in the least restrictive environment.

Dr. Youngberg also noted some items to be addressed at the next regular Board meeting are librarians in the schools and updates to the Food Services department.

A motion was made by T. Mack-Mohammed and seconded by L. Simone for the Finance Committee to bring all points discussed by the Finance Committee before the full Board of Education.

K. Dunbar	Aye
T. Mack-Mohammed	Aye
L. Simone	Aye

The motion was passed unanimously 3-0-0.



**4. Adjournment**

At 6:48 p.m., a motion was made by T. Mack-Mohammed and seconded by L. Simone to adjourn.

The motion passed unanimously 3-0-0.

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K. Dunbar, Committee Chair