



Board of Education Special Meeting
Thursday, February 23, 2023 at 8:00 P.M.
Bloomfield Board of Education, Board Room
1133 Blue Hills Avenue
Bloomfield, CT 06002

Attendance: D. Harris, Chair	Present
H. Frydman, Vice Chair	Present
J. Wilkerson, Secretary	Present
R. Ike	Present
T. Moore	Present
L. Easmon	Present
F. Bogle-Assegai	Absent

Also Present: J. Thompson, Superintendent of Schools
D. Nesmith, Assistant Superintendent for Accountability and Performance
D. Moleti, Human Resource Coordinator
E. Pierce, District Grants Specialist
D. Greco, Director of Accounting
W. Shepard-Bannish, Director of Student Support Services
J. Titelbaum, District Data Systems Coordinator
S. Simpson, Director of Strategic Communications and Planning

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 8:01 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 2023-2024 Budget

Kevin Gough, 5 Bear Ridge Drive addressed the Board of Education. He noted that the district has continued to ask for increased funding that has neither led to increased performance or removal from the state's list of low performing schools. He distributed a 5 year summary of increases to the Board members. Mr. Gough further commented on misleading data in the budget booklet. He further stated he cannot support the budget proposal and asked the Board of Education to reject it.

Frank Merblum, 13 Butternut Drive the 8.8% increase is million dollar marketing scam. Over the last ten years, the district has spent test scores are still low, lack of transparency, lack of discipline. The highest in the area of per pupil expenditure and probably highest in the state. Still getting money from the state to improve performance. Leadership needs to be accountable. He hopes this will be rejected and a better solution will be proposed.



4. New Business

A. Board Action on Superintendent’s Proposed 2023-2024 Budget

Mr. Donald F. Harris, Jr. Board Chair stated that as of the last regular meeting, each member has participated in a budget workshop to ask questions about the proposed 2023-2024 budget.

A motion was made by H. Frydman and seconded by R. Ike for the Bloomfield Board of Education to accept and adopt the Superintendent’s Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2023-2024 in the amount of \$53,139,447, as presented.

D. Harris asked for questions or comments from the Board of Education members.

R. Ike stated he takes the test scores very seriously. The educational future of Bloomfield children and academics are taken very seriously, especially knowing the affects for African American children who are educationally deficient. He noted the Board is trying to move the district forward and all Board members are aware of the test scores.

L. Easmon shared that initially she could not support the budget if the district was removing teachers from classrooms. After her workshop the positions were reinstated into the budget. The only issue is when Council does not give 8.8% she requested the administration to keep the certified teaching positions. She noted the importance of consistency of teaching staff.

T. Moore commented that all Board members take their responsibility seriously. He stated they represent the public and their children and not trying to hide test scores. He further welcomed residents to ask questions.

J. Wilkerson noted all members attended workshops and administration is held accountable. The cost of attendance is increasing in Bloomfield and around the state. The Board has an obligation to educate children

H. Frydman thanked fellow Board members for their comments. He noted the many drivers that have led to an increased budget noting line items they have no control of such as transportation and Special Education. He encouraged parents and residents to speak with administration if they have questions or concerns. He thanked Dr. Thompson and his staff for updated information. He is in full support of the budget.

D. Harris stated he has invested 50 years in the Bloomfield school system. He also noted the offensiveness of remarks that the district pays too much for our children’s education.

The motion was voted on:

D. Harris	Aye
H. Frydman	Aye
J. Wilkerson	Aye
R. Ike	Aye
T. Moore	Aye
L. Easmon	Aye



The motion was passed unanimously.

5. Adjournment

At 8:21 p.m. a motion was made by R. Ike and seconded by H. Frydman.

The motion passed unanimously.

D. Harris, Chair

J. Thompson, Jr., Ed.D., Superintendent