



Board of Education – Special Policy Committee Meeting  
Tuesday, August 20, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.  
Bloomfield Board of Education, Board Room  
1133 Blue Hills Avenue  
Bloomfield, CT 06002

**ATTENDANCE:** F. Bogle-Assegai, Chair Present  
T. Moore Present  
H. Frydman Present

**ALSO PRESENT:** B. Silver T. Curtis L. Easmon  
K. Dunbar L. Simone T. Mack-Mohammed  
J. White

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

F. Bogle-Assegai called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m. The roll was called and a quorum was present.

**2. New Business**

**A. Policies for an Initial Reading**

**1. Student Dress Code – 5132**

**a. Student Voice**

Dr. Bethany Silver, Interim Superintendent, reviewed the current dress code policy. It was noted this policy is being brought before the committee due to a request of students and school administration to consider a less restrictive dress code policy. Several Bloomfield High School student addressed the Policy Committee. The students shared opinions on the benefits of having a less restrictive dress code policy, including the ability to express themselves.

The policy committee thanked the students for sharing views on behalf of their peers. It was noted that the committee would like from the parents throughout the district and requested a survey be conducted.

The committee discussed several options to consider regarding the policy including less restrictions for seniors, more flexibility within the current policy or going with a standard dress code (without uniforms).

It was noted they would like to remove expulsion, in the last paragraph, in future edits of this policy. It was stated challenging uniform compliance takes the focus off of learning.

**2. Title IX: Sexual Harassment – 5145.44**

Dr. Bethany Silver, Interim Superintendent, presented a first reading of policy 5145.44. She noted this is a complete rewrite of this policy in compliance with the 2024 Title IX Final Rule, released by the U.S. Department of Education on April 19,



2024, which went into effect on August 1, 2024. This revised policy contains new definitions, protections, and procedures. The revisions are recommendations from the Connecticut Association of Boards of Education (CABE).

Dr. Silver also noted the revised administrative regulations.

**3. Cell Phone Use by Students – 5131.81 (recommended new policy)**

Dr. Bethany Silver, Interim Superintendent, reviewed the proposed policy 5131.81.

It was noted that the consideration to ban cell phones is a hot topic in school policy. Some districts have trialed utilizing a magnetic pouch cell phones. The committee discussed students having access to cell phones in the event of an emergency. The Policy Committee further discussed the pros and cons.

One committee member inquired about the cost of the pouches. It was asked if there are any available grants to cover the cost.

It was decided this would be tabled until the fall of 2025. The committee would also like a survey to go out to parents of students in grades 5-12 to hear feedback from families regarding use of cell phones during school hours.

**4. Graduation Requirements – 6146**

Dr. Bethany Silver, Interim Superintendent, presented a first reading of policy 6146. She noted the only change to this policy is moving the language regarding current graduation requirements to the front of the policy.

**5. Exemption from Instruction – 6144.1 (recommended new policy)**

Dr. Bethany Silver, Interim Superintendent, presented a first reading of policy 6144.1 – Exemption from Instruction. She noted this is being brought before the committee as there is currently no policy in place that allows for a process to exempt students from curriculum.

The policy noted that a written request of a parent or guardian must be received by the school district prior to planned instruction to permit exemptions in the areas outlined in the policy.

Any student excused from any aspect of the curriculum may be required by the teacher to complete an alternative assignment.

The administrative regulations provides a form for such a request.

A committee member inquired how this will be communicated to families so they are aware of their rights and know when the instruction is taking place.



## 6. District Goals – 0200

### a. Review of the 2024-25 District Goals

Dr. Bethany Silver, Interim Superintendent, shared a presentation on the district's 2024-2025 goals which are using to guide efforts and actions. These goals align to the district priorities and the Portrait of a Graduate.

Dr. Silver highlighted the below goals:

- Academics: Instruction, Data Teams and Focus Walks
- Professional Practice: Professional Development Pathways, Educator Evaluation and Leadership Development
- Culture and Climate: Attendance, Systems and Stakeholder Surveys

L. Simone inquired about Bloomfield's teacher evaluation and if it is aligned with the state's plan. It was noted that our plan was submitted to the state for approval.

A motion was made by H. Frydman and seconded by T. Moore to recommend to the Board of Education an initial reading of the following policies: Title IX: Sexual Harassment – 5145.44, Graduation Requirements – 6146 and Exemption from Instruction – 6144.1.

F. Bogle-Assegai	Aye
T. Moore	Aye
H. Frydman	Aye

The motion passed unanimously 3-0-0.

## 3. Adjournment

At 7:50 p.m., a motion was made by T. Moore and seconded by F. Bogle-Assegai to adjourn.

The motion passed unanimously 3-0-0.

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F. Bogle-Assegai, Chair