



BLOOMFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION – REGULAR MEETING

Tuesday, September 10, 2024 at 7:00 P.M.

Bloomfield Board of Education, Board Room

1133 Blue Hills Avenue

Bloomfield, CT 06002

Attendance: L. Easmon, Chair Present
H. Frydman, Vice Chair Present
F. Bogle-Assegai, Secretary Present (*arrived at 7:01 p.m.*)
T. Moore Present
K. Dunbar Present
T. Mack-Mohammed Present
L. Simone Present

Also Present: B Silver, Interim Superintendent
T. Curtis, Assistant Superintendent
D. Greco, Director of Accounting
L. Lamenzo, Director of School Improvement
C. Prescott, School to Career Specialist
J. Titelbaum, District Data Systems Coordinator
M. Sutton, Director of Student Support Services
D. Bunting, Principal, Carmen Arace Intermediate School
L. Curley-Colon, Principal, Global Experience Magnet 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 7:00 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

All rose to recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Opening Statement

K. Dunbar welcomed all attendees. The purpose and process of the Board of Education meeting were stated.

4. Superintendent's Report

A. Opening Schools Report

Dr. Bethany Silver, Interim Superintendent gave highlights on the staff Convocation, professional development and first day of school. Dr. Silver reviewed the attendance for the first week with a district average of 94.4%.

1. September 5, 2024 Incident at BHS

Dr. Bethany Silver, Interim Superintendent provided an update an update regarding the incident at Bloomfield High School on September 5, 2024. The district conducted debriefs on September 5, 6 and 9, to review our procedures and identify areas for improvement. On September 10, the



district held an After Action Review with the Bloomfield Police and Fire Departments, to evaluate response and identify further improvements.

B. Human Resources/Staffing Update

As of May 2024, the district has hired 35 new staff members, 21 of those are certified staff. Vacancies are still being filled through Kelly Services and Delta T where needed.

The Board inquired about the recruiting tools used by the district. It was noted that the district reaches out to local colleges and universities.

It was also noted that the district is addressing staff attendance with monitoring and a new employee handbook. It was requested to provide a report to the Board on staff absences.

L. Simone shared information about the Alternate Route to Certification (AARC) program allows certified teachers to earn a cross-endorsement in Comprehensive Special Education as an option to consider.

T. Mack-Mohammed inquired about the number of resignations. It was noted the district had 24 certified resignations and 25 non-certified resignations.

C. Business Office Update

Mr. Domenic Greco, Director of Accounting provided an update from the Business Office. The office worked with grant managers to spend down grant funding prior to June 30, 2024. In July the new fiscal year was opened and in August started the new payroll for teachers. The EFS report, formally the ED01 report was due to the state on September 3. They are still working on the Munis conversion.

H. Frydman inquired if hours will be saved when Munis is fully implemented. Mr. Greco noted it will save time for reconciliation with the town.

F. Bogle-Assegai would like to see grant carryover versus those that have expired.

5. Student Representative Report – BHS (Summer Interns)

Christopher Prescott, School to Career Specialist and a Bloomfield High School Intern, N. Williams shared information about the summer internships program. Bloomfield students were immersed in a variety of experiential work opportunities that not only honed their professional skills but also fostered significant personal growth.

The program placed students across more than 13 diverse job sites, each offering unique insights into the professional world. The students were able to step out of the classroom and into real-world settings, where they gained hands-on experience that brought their academic knowledge to life.



6. Board of Education Committee Reports

A. Finance Committee

A meeting schedule is being developed for the Finance Committee Chair, Kim Dunbar and staff liaison, Domenic Greco, Director of Accounting. The first agenda item for September will be to review and discuss the District Alliance grant.

B. Curriculum Committee

Curriculum Committee Chair, Howard Frydman met with staff liaison, Lisa Lamenzo, Director of School Improvement, on August 20. They discussed potential topics for the Curriculum Committee for the year.

C. Policy Committee

Policy Committee Chair, Femi Bogle-Assegai met with staff liaison, Dr. Bethany Silver, Interim Superintendent on July 18, 2024. A schedule was developed of policies to review based on legislative requirements and best practices. A copy of this calendar was shared with Board of Education in the Superintendent’s communication on September 8, 2024.

7. Consent Agenda

- A. Approval of Minutes – Regular Meeting – June 4, 2024**
- B. Approval of Minutes – Special Meeting – June 25, 2024**
- C. Approval of Minutes – Special Meeting – June 29, 2024**
- D. Approval of Minutes – Special Meeting – July 23, 2024**
- E. Approval of Minutes – Special Meeting – August 6, 2024**
- F. Approval of Minutes – Special Meeting – August 29, 2024**

A motion was made by H. Frydman and seconded by F. Bogle-Assegai for the Bloomfield Board of Education to approve the consent agenda, as presented.

L. Easmon	Aye
H. Frydman	Aye
F. Bogle-Assegai	Aye
K. Dunbar	Aye
T. Mack-Mohammed	Aye
T. Moore	Aye
L. Simone	Aye

The motion passed unanimously 7-0-0.

8. Presentation

A. Introduction of New Staff

- 1. Diana Bunting, Principal at Carmen Arace Intermediate School**
- 2. Laura Curley-Colon, Principal at Global Experience Magnet School**
- 3. Melissa Sutton, Director of Student Support Services**
- 4. Steve Wrona, Director of Student Support Services**



Dr. Bethany Silver, Interim Superintendent and Dr. Tiffani Curtis, Assistant Superintendent shared a short biography of each new staff member and their district role. The Board of Education welcomed the new staff members.

9. Public/PTO Comment

No comments.

10. New Business

A motion was made by H. Frydman and seconded by K. Dunbar for the Board of Education to add an agenda item for the purpose of discussing a personnel matter. I further propose this discussion for Executive Session.

L. Easmon	Aye
H. Frydman	Aye
F. Bogle-Assegai	Aye
K. Dunbar	Aye
T. Mack-Mohammed	Aye
T. Moore	Aye
L. Simone	Aye

The motion passed unanimously 7-0-0.

Chair, Lynette Easmon added this as agenda item #12.

A. High Stakes Assessment Data from Spring 2024 – Overview

Dr. Bethany Silver, Interim Superintendent, shared a presentation updating the Board of Education on the performance of students on the 2023-2024 high stakes assessments and the Next Generation Accountability Indicators.

Dr. Silver shared the percentage of students at or above proficiency on the Smarter Balanced Assessment (SBAC) Performance in 2023 versus 2024 for grades 3-8 in English Language Arts and Math. Data for Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) Performance in grades 5, 8 and 11 and the SAT School Day Performance was provided.

Dr. Silver noted the state average was also provided as a comparison. Dr. Silver noted some strategies in place to address the student achievement including:

- reviewing benchmark assessment data,
- utilizing the data teaming process, and
- preparing an audit of the curriculum.

Next Generation Accountability Results as of September 6, 2024 were shared but the data is incomplete at this time. Information about how the indicators are calculated was also highlighted.



The Board of Education members shared concerns regarding the low percentage of students performing at or above proficiency and the need to address the assessment scores and curriculum in Bloomfield.

B. 2024-2025 District Goals and Strategies

Dr. Bethany Silver, Interim Superintendent shared a presentation of the district goals and strategies for the 2024-25 school year. Dr. Silver noted how these are aligned to the District Priorities and the Portrait of a Graduate competencies.

The three major goals are academics, professional practice and culture and climate. Under each of these goals are the strategies to achieve these goals and metrics that will be used to measure the goals.

C. Initial Reading of Policies

1. 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.

2. 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.

3. Exemption from Instruction – 6144.1

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.



11. Board Comments

L. Simone stated Bloomfield is an exceptional community and town. She also stated there are exceptional teachers in Bloomfield and the district needs to do better.

T. Mack-Mohammed welcomed the new administrators and noted it is heartwarming to see the district hiring from within. She was pleased to hear the real-life opportunities the interns are receiving. She also noted the test scores are concerning and alarming. She noted there needs to be accountability and swift action.

T. Moore noted there were many highs and lows in the first meeting of the year. He is appreciative of the internship program.

K. Dunbar welcomed everyone back to a new school year. She congratulated all the new hires. She also thanked Mr. Prescott for the positive program for Bloomfield students. She is looking forward to seeing the growth in the district.

F. Bogle-Assegai thanked Dr. Silver and Dr. Curtis for bringing in the new staff. She would like to see math teachers in place and more parent participate.

H. Frydman stated the meeting was an eye opener for the community and staff. He welcomed back the staff and Board of Education. He noted he was in attendance at Convocation. He stated the district is not in the place they want to be and noted there needs to be change.

L. Easmon thanked everyone for attending the Convocation and noted the positive energy of staff and support from the Town of Bloomfield. She was thankful all were safe during the lockdown on September 5, 2024. Ms. Easmon welcomed new staff and is also pleased to see Bloomfield keeping great talent by promoting from within. She asked all to take a moment in honor of 9/11.

12. Discussion of Personnel Matter (discussion proposed for Executive Session Re: Personnel Matter)

A motion was made by H. Frydman and seconded by F. Bogle-Assegai for the Bloomfield Board of Education to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing a personnel matter. They further invited Board of Education Attorney Andrew Crumbie and Interim Superintendent, Dr. Bethany Silver to participate.

L. Easmon	Aye
H. Frydman	Aye
F. Bogle-Assegai	Aye
K. Dunbar	Aye
T. Mack-Mohammed	Aye
T. Moore	Aye
L. Simone	Aye

The motion passed unanimously 7-0-0.



The Board members convened into Executive Session at 8:54 p.m. and returned to public session at 10:09 p.m.

13. Adjournment

At 10:09 p.m. a motion to adjourn was made by H. Frydman and seconded by F. Bogle-Assegai.

The motion passed unanimously 7-0-0.

F. Bogle-Assegai, Secretary

B. Silver, Interim Superintendent