



BLOOMFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION – REGULAR MEETING

Tuesday, October 8, 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
T. Moore Present
K. Dunbar Present
T. Mack-Mohammed Present (*arrived at 7:07 p.m.*)
L. Simone Present

Also Present: B Silver, Interim Superintendent
D. Greco, Director of Accounting
L. Lamenzo, Director of School Improvement
J. Titelbaum, District Data Systems Coordinator
M. Sutton, Director of Student Support Services
E. Pierce, District Grants Specialist
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

F. Bogle-Assegai welcomed all attendees. The purpose and process of the Board of Education meeting were stated.

4. Superintendent's Report

A. Enhancing Security in Schools

Dr. Bethany Silver, Interim Superintendent gave an update on focus walks, the SOAR program (Gifted and Talented), and the upcoming survey for cell phone use in schools. Dr. Silver noted the Board members have an updated chart comparing high stakes assessment scores with surrounding towns. She noted the district is in mediation with several bargaining units and the Board is starting the process to develop the budget for the 2025-2026 school year.

B. Human Resources/Staffing Update

Dr. Silver noted there are several staffing changes the Human Resources Department with a resignation and a retirement.



A comprehensive report outlining vacancies has been conducted and Board members will receive a copy in the coming weeks.

The district has identified several safety initiatives and the district continues to work with Mr. Steven Wrona, the district Coordinator of Safety to implement safety protocols and collaborate with Town services.

All school safety plans have been updated and are under review by the State of Connecticut. The district is also bringing in a new security tool to our schools that provides real-time identification and background checks using a state identification.

C. Financial Report – September 2024

Mr. Domenic Greco, Director of Accounting reported on the financials as of October 4, 2024. He noted that 25.65% of the adopted budget has yet to be expended or encumbered.

Mr. Greco noted on the one-page summary report, major account 03 Employee Benefits with a balance of 43.04% yet to expended or encumbered. These are still available as the funds for health insurance, pension and Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB) have yet to be encumbered. He also noted major account 08 Tuition, which has not been fully encumbered yet for magnet school tuitions or special education services for students attending magnet schools.

On page 1 of the six-page detail report, sub accounts 1210 - Salaries, Professional Staff and 1240 – Salaries, Clerical are over budget as the district has yet to book receivables for special education out-of-district tuition. The last item is on page 3, 3500 Technical Services is over budget as the district has yet to receive the eligible revenue for the eRate program.

Over the next couple of weeks they will be updated the budget manual and calendar for the 2025-2026 budget development by November 1, 2024. The Business Office would like to meet with principals before December 1, 2024 and have a draft to the Finance Committee by January 28, 2025.

K. Dunbar inquired about the magnet schools costs. It was noted we will be billed the 58%.

5. Student Representative Report – Global Experience Magnet School

Four student representatives from Global Experience Magnet School (GEMS) introduced themselves and shared a Power Point with the Board of Education. They provided updates from the school including new staff, and shared information about their upcoming travel experiences including the spring College Road Trip. GEMS is now participating in after-school programming, including skiing and the new eSports room. Students can also participate in sports at Bloomfield High School. Student Council election were held. Upcoming events were also shared including SATs on October 23, 2024 and local field trips.



6. Board of Education Committee Reports

A. Finance Committee

The Finance Committee Chair, Kim Dunbar and staff liaison, Domenic Greco, Director of Accounting and Elisa Pierce, District Grants Specialist to outline committee topics for the 2024-2025 school year. She thanked Lisa Lamenzo and Elisa Pierce for providing in depth information on the District Alliance grant.

B. Curriculum Committee

Curriculum Committee Chair, Howard Frydman met with staff liaison, Lisa Lamenzo, Director of School Improvement met on October 8, 2024. They discussed Early Start Programming and Financial education in partnership with Windsor Federal Savings Bank. They also discussed exploring partnerships with the Office of Extended Learning and Family Community Engagement.

C. Policy Committee

Policy Committee Chair, Femi Bogle-Assegai noted that the committee holds two readings per policy prior to adoption by the Board of Education. They have a second reading for three policies and two policies for an initial reading on the board agenda. Ms. Bogle-Assegai recommended families to also look at the policies.

7. Consent Agenda

A. Approval of Minutes – Regular Meeting – September 10, 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. Public/PTO Comment

Angelique Croasdale, 18 Greenbrier Drive

Ms. Croasdale stated she came in to discuss what she needs to see in the school district. As a parent, she would like to hear more about the Board of Education and is requesting hybrid meeting. She inquired why one of the internal candidates was not selected for the Superintendent candidacy.



Lucca Headlam, 18 Greenbriar Drive

An alumnus of Bloomfield Public Schools, Mr. Headlam shared his support for Dr. Ellis for the Superintendent candidacy. He stated he is disappointed and encouraged the Board of Education to reopen the search.

Suzette DeBeatham-Brown, Bloomfield

She encouraged the Board of Education to move to hybrid meetings. Ms. DeBeatham-Brown also advocated for the internal candidate, Dr. Ellis and noted this person has been a long standing employee and alumnus. She also addressed the dispute prior to the Board meeting.

Dr. Angeline Croasdale-Rufus, 6 Andrea Lane

Dr. Croasdale-Rufus asked the Board to incorporate hybrid meetings so people can be involved. She also requested the Board to consider reopening the interview process for the Superintendent to parents. She further stated students are failing in math and English and parents should be included in making this decision.

Rickford Kirton, 7 Hickory Lane

Mr. Kirton noted he has been in communication with Board. He stated it is unacceptable to have an interview process and not involve parents in a meet-and-greet. Mr. Kirton also noted that during COVID they had hybrid meetings and it is imperative to incorporate for the Board of Education. He also shared support for Dr. Ellis and disappointment that he was not considered as a finalist.

Patricia Davis, 4 Lisa Lane

Ms. Davis addressed the Board of Education and the need to advocate for the children. She suggested having high school students' volunteer with BATV to assist to make hybrid meetings happen. She asked what the Board is looking for in a Superintendent.

Kathryn McCarthy, 72 Park Avenue

Ms. McCarthy addressed the Board and noted it would be helpful to have access to the Board meeting virtually. She shared her expectations for a future Superintendent which she believes is the characteristics she sees in the interim Superintendent, including accessibility.

Laura Pallandre, 6 Nutmeg Lane

Laura Pallandre is a former teacher and is now managing the Farmers Market. She is organizing a food scrap programming paid for by the Town. She would like to expand the program to the schools and start a club. CT Grown for CT Kids grant would be something she is interested in with the school and proposed a composting program.

Paula Jones, 5 Bear Ridge Drive

Ms. Jones thanked the Board for their service. She is speaking in support of Ms. Pallandre's proposal and noted waste management is important topic. She recently toured Ms. Pallandre's farm. A letter of support would be drafted if the district is interested.



Michelle Adams, 1 Lywoud Drive

Michelle Adams spoke in support of hybrid meetings. She stated it was unusual there was no committee for the Superintendent search. She noted staff are leaving, and there is a shortage of teachers. She is concerned students are not learning and there is not enough staff at Global Experience Magnet School.

Bobby Gibson, 5 Greenbrier Drive

Mr. Gibson stated he is the state representative and requested Dr. Ellis be chosen as the next Superintendent of Bloomfield Public Schools. He share constituents expressed their concerns of the selection process. He stated there is a need for transparency, collaboration and effective decision making.

Don Harris, 6 Bear Ridge Drive

Mr. Harris spoke on several points. He stated public access television coverage is not enough and encouraged hybrid meeting options. Mr. Harris noted a lack of transparency in the Superintendent search and the use of focus groups. He shared his support for Dr. Ellis as the Superintendent candidate as he is alumnus and a long-standing employee.

Jackie Green, 29 Woods Road

Ms. Green noted they need to add a hybrid meeting. She also shared support for Dr. Ellis and noted she has been an advocated for Bloomfield Public Schools. She asked why Principal Ellis is good enough to go through Bloomfield Public Schools but not to run the district. She asked the Board to be transparent.

Lincoln Anderson, 38 Hill Farm Road

Lincoln Anderson thanked the Board for their service. He would like the Board to consider Dr. Ellis as the next Superintendent. He also noted hybrid meetings and the benefit to those who travel.

Kate Keefe, 16 Breezy Knoll Drive

Ms. Keefe noted she is a social worker and parent. She came to offer the Board of Education her services and stated there is added expertise in the district that is needed. She noted sections of the Plan of Excellence and improving the growth trajectory.

9. Old Business

A. Policies for Adoption

1. Title IX: Sexual Harassment – 4000.1 (Personnel)/5145.44 (Students)

Dr. Bethany Silver, Interim Superintendent, presented a second 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. Title IX is a federal law that prohibits discrimination based on sex and educational programs and activities for both students and staff.

A motion was made by H. Frydman and seconded by K. Dunbar for the Bloomfield Board of Education to adopt policy 4000.1 (Personnel)/5145.44 (Students) - Title IX: Sexual Harassment.



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.

2. Graduation Requirements – 6146

Dr. Bethany Silver, Interim Superintendent, presented a second 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.

A motion was made by H. Frydman and seconded by T. Moore for the Bloomfield Board of Education to adopt policy 6146 -Graduation Requirements.

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.

3. Exemption from Instruction – 6144.1

Dr. Bethany Silver, Interim Superintendent, presented a second reading of policy 6144.1 – Exemption from Instruction. She noted there is currently no policy in place that allows for a process to exempt students from curriculum. It is not a mandated policy.

The policy noted that a written request from a parent or guardian must be received by the school district prior to instruction to permit exemptions in the areas outlined in the policy. The administrative regulations provide the form for families to use if they want to excuse their child from instruction.

A motion was made by H. Frydman and seconded by T. Mack-Mohammed for the Bloomfield Board of Education to adopt policy 6144.1 - Exemption from Instruction.

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.

10. New Business

A. Educator Evaluation TEVAL Update

Dr. Bethany Silver, Interim Superintendent reported that the district received feedback from the Connecticut State Department of Education from the initial submission of the draft plan submission on August 30, 2024. The committee (PDEC) has been meeting and are in the process of making revisions.

B. Review and Possible Action on the District Alliance Grant Application

Lisa Lamenzo, Director of School Improvement and Elisa Pierce, District Grants Specialist presented the Bloomfield Alliance Grant Application plan for the 2024-2025 school year.

The proposed allocations of this grant include staff at school and district levels, and professional development for tour staff to improve student outcomes. At the most recent Finance Committee meeting they presented an overview of grant requirements, legislation and an overview to the plan.

A motion was made by H. Frydman and seconded by K. Dunbar for the Bloomfield Board of Education approve the Alliance District Grant application, 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.

C. Initial Reading of Policies

1. Connecticut State Climate Policy – 5131.911

Dr. Bethany Silver, Interim Superintendent, noted the Connecticut School Climate Policy is a replacement of the Bullying Behavior in Schools policy. It is a complete language and cultural shift to build positive school climate and culture. This is a required policy change under Public Act 11-232, An Act Concerning the Strengthening of School Bullying Laws.



The policy set forth the framework for effective school climate improvement process. It provides definitions, responsibilities, and strategies for optimizing positive school environments.

2. Transgender and Gender Non-Conforming Youth – 5145.53

Dr. Bethany Silver, Interim Superintendent, presented a first reading of Policy 5145.53. This policy was last updated in June of 2018. The updated language and definitions are in alignment with the current state statutes. It also provides specific information about official records and Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). Support and direction is provided for pronouns, discrimination and harassment and student databases.

11. Board Comments

L. Simone shared she was afforded opportunities to hear programming and other information that demonstrates how much the educators are doing with students. Teachers noted a big difference in students who attended the early start summer program. She also visited Bloomfield High School and shared the positive climate and the student engagement.

T. Moore no comments.

T. Mack-Mohammed was encouraged to see families and the community in the audience and speaking during public comment. She noted the Board wants to hear from families on topics that matter to families. She noted they are volunteers with similar interests in the achievement of students. Ms. Mack-Mohammed closed by stating she wants to see more parents engaged in a positive way.

K. Dunbar thanked everyone for watching on BATV and in the audience. She noted they are volunteers, who are involved in the community and are also parents. She noted the common interest of wanted the best for the children of Bloomfield and encourages open dialogue.

F. Bogle-Assegai noted she is pleased to see the Board room full with audience members. She stated comments from the public has not go unheard. She asked the public's view of the school district as an urban or suburban community. She hopes the interest of the attendees continues and is the only way the district will move forward. She believes student deserves high expectations for their education.

H. Frydman stated they are very proud to have the public attend the meeting. They are here to work together as a team.

L. Easmon thanked all for attending. The Bloomfield High School concert choir was selected to perform at the CABE/CAPSS Convention in November. The Board was invited to attend the Ribbon Cutting for Adelbrook on November 16, 2024. The Superintendent Search is moving forward, focus groups were conducted. The Board of



Education hybrid meetings will be moving forward. They put out a request for non-perishable food items for the Town pantry.

12. Adjournment

At 8:28 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