



Board of Education Special Meeting

Tuesday, February 25, 2025 at 7:00 P.M.

Hybrid Meeting

In person: Bloomfield Board of Education, Board Room

1133 Blue Hills Avenue

Bloomfield, CT 06002

Virtual Meeting via Zoom

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81430744711?pwd=zsC2rKMjg3pWywenaZsxdYw97PuUIA.1>

Meeting ID: 814 3074 4711

Passcode: 86WzRJ

Attendance:

L. Easmon, Chair	Present
H. Frydman, Vice Chair	Present
F. Bogle-Assegai, Secretary	Present
T. Moore	Absent
K. Dunbar	Present
T. Mack-Mohammed	Present
L. Simone	Present

Also Present: T. Youngberg, Superintendent
D. Greco, Director of Accounting
G. Martinez, Executive Director of Talent Management & Community Partnerships
L. Lamenzo, Director of School Improvement
M. Sutton, Director of Student Support Services
J. Titelbaum, District Data Systems Coordinator
E. Pierce, District Grants Specialist
N. Jones, District Teaching & Learning Specialist

1. Establishment of a Quorum and Call to Order

L. Easmon determined a quorum was present and the Bloomfield Board of Education Special Meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

All rose to recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. New Business

A. Presentation of the Superintendent's Proposed 2025-2026 Budget

Dr. Tracy Youngberg, Superintendent of School presented the proposed 2025-2026 budget to the Board of Education. She reviewed her philosophy about budgeting while providing objectives for her short-term and long-term fiscal goals.

The budget timeline was shared noting Public Comments on March 3rd and Board vote on March 4th.



Dr. Youngberg shared her budget philosophy is focused on student outcomes, staff satisfaction and fiscal responsibility. She looks at the budget with consideration to future impact. In addition, Dr. Youngberg reviewed her leadership style and how it affects the decisions she makes.

The budget increase request for 2025-2026 is 3.39%. She shared some information about the current district fiscal and performance health. Data was provided for Bloomfield and compared to other districts, to provide context for current district spending. She reviewed student enrollment versus full-time employee equivalent with no correlation noted.

She provided data regarding full-time equivalent (FTE) staffing, per pupil expenditures and district performance index (DPI) in comparison to the other Alliance Districts and districts of DRG G.

T. Mack-Mohammed asked how long the district has been a member of DRG G. The last time the state reviewed the DRG placements.

Dr. Tracy Youngberg reviewed the cost of magnet school and Special Education outplacements and the cost per year. She noted the tuition costs are growing. About 1/3 of increases to the budget have gone to tuition. This needs to be addressed for long-term fiscal health. A goal to achieve this is being able to support students in-district and having students return to Bloomfield from magnet schools.

Dr. Youngberg gave a 5-year snapshot of special education data and how much of the budget supports special education. As the number of students identified with an IEPs are declining there is an increase of Special Education employees. This is one focus area and the district will be conducting a Special Education audit of a districtwide needs assessment.

She discussed her analysis of the fiscal health of Global Experience Magnet School, with 15 of the 164 students being Bloomfield residents. Dr. Youngberg shared that no new students will be accepted for 2025-2026.

Dr. Youngberg shared data around the alternative high school contract with Our Piece of the Pie (OPP) and costs associated with the contract.

The expenditure summary by major object was reviewed. The majority of the budget is human resources costs, employee salaries and benefits. This makes up about 70% of the total budget. She also noted positions that were added after the 2024-2025 approved budget.

Dr. Youngberg reviewed the areas of improvement for 2025-2026 to get the district moving in the right direction. She also shared her plan for staffing and systems changes by location for 2025-2026. The majority of changes will be at Central Office. Some of the system changes include revisions to master scheduling, curriculum program changes, review continuum of services and intervention changes (MTSS).



The next slide addresses delivering high quality instruction and how having a curriculum to deliver instruction will impact change and student outcomes.

Dr. Youngberg shared investing in the future plans. This includes having 3 Executive Directors instead of an Assistant Superintendent, a full Human Resources department and summer staff preparation for 2025-2026.

The Superintendent reviewed recommendations for summer programming, which include the Extended School Year (ESY) program for Special Education students, the high school credit recovery and Incoming 9th Graders Bridge program. She recommends a potential opportunity for 2-4 weeks for a summer extension program as \$87/week.

H. Frydman inquired about the number of retirees and various contracts, that may be coming up for renewal. Retirements is currently at 2 certified and the rest are non-certified. In terms of contracts, regular transportation is through 2028 and special education transportation has one more year. He noted legal fees this year are unusually high due to negotiations.

Board members expressed appreciation for clarity of the budget and strategic changes presented.

T. Mack-Mohammed commented a need to review the number of out-of-district tuition costs and educate families. Dr. Youngberg noted the need to develop a long-range strategic plan.

L. Easmon stated it was beneficial to hear the rationale behind the planning and developing of the budget. She encouraged the public to view the budget online and join the March 3, 2025 meeting for Public Comments.

4. Adjournment

At 8:31 p.m. a motion to adjourn was made by H. Frydman and seconded by F. Bogle-Assegai.

The motion passed unanimously 6-0-0.

L. Easmon, Chair

T. Youngberg, Superintendent