



BLOOMFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION – REGULAR MEETING

Tuesday, June 4, 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 (*arrived at 7:05 p.m.*)
F. Bogle-Assegai, Secretary Present (*arrived at 7:04 p.m.*)
T. Moore Present
K. Dunbar Present
T. Mack-Mohammed Present
L. Simone Present

Also Present: B Silver, Acting Superintendent
T. Curtis, Interim Assistant Superintendent
D. Greco, Director of Accounting
A.M. Cullinan, Curriculum Consultant
E. Pierce, District Grants Specialist
J. Titelbaum, District Data Systems Coordinator
J. White, Principals, Bloomfield High School
Salvadora Etienne, Dean of Students, Global Experience Magnet School
T. Ellis, Principal, Carmen Arace Middle School
S. Williams, Principal, Carmen Arace Intermediate 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

Tiffany Mack-Mohammed welcomed all attendees. The purpose and process of the Board of Education meeting were stated.

4. Consent Agenda

A motion was made by T. Mack-Mohammed and seconded by T. Moore for the Bloomfield Board of Education to approve the minutes from the May 14, 2024 regular Board Meeting, as presented.

L. Easmon	Aye
T. Moore	Aye
K. Dunbar	Aye
T. Mack-Mohammed	Aye
L. Simone	Aye



The motion passed unanimously 5-0-0.

5. Recognitions

A. Connecticut Association of Public Schools Superintendent's (CAPSS) Student Award Recipients

Dr. Bethany Silver, Acting Superintendent presented students from Bloomfield High School, Global Experience Magnet School, Carmen Arace Middle School and Carmen Arace Intermediate School with the CAPSS Superintendents' Award. All of the student recipients have demonstrated distinguished leadership qualities. Awards are based on community service and service to others; academic prowess; and leadership service to the school community. A brief statement about the achievements of each student was read by the principals of each school.

B. Recognition of Wendy Shepard-Bannish, Director of Student Support Services

Dr. Bethany Silver, Acting Superintendent recognized Mrs. Wendy Shepard-Bannish, Director of Student Support Services at Bloomfield Public Schools who is departing Bloomfield Public Schools. She thanked Mrs. Shepard-Bannish for her contributions to Bloomfield Public Schools.

C. Recognition of Sarah Williams, Principal of Carmen Arace Intermediate School

Dr. Bethany Silver, Acting Superintendent noted that Mrs. Sarah Williams, Principal of Carmen Arace Intermediate School will be leaving Bloomfield Schools at the end of this academic year. She stated Principal Williams has been an exceptional leader and extended her sincere appreciation to Principal Williams for her outstanding contributions.

6. Presentations

A. Student Representative Report – SOAR Students

Ms. Juanita Richardson, the Middle School SOAR Teacher introduced two student representatives to talk about their experience in the Talented and Gifted program and their projects. Students in the SOAR program are required to do a research project and creatively showcase their topic. Two students shared their experiences and what they learned through participating in the program.

B. Introduction of Michael Cornish, Human Resource Generalist

Dr. Tiffani Curtis, Interim Assistant Superintendent, introduced Mr. Michael Cornish who joined Bloomfield Public Schools from Hartford Public Schools where he worked in Office of Talent Management specializing in benefits and attendance.

The Board Chair took a recess for students to dismiss from 7:35 p.m. to 7:41 p.m.

7. Public/PTO Comment

No comments.

One person signed up but left before Public Comments.

8. Superintendent's Report

A. Superintendent's Update



Dr. Bethany Silver, Acting Superintendent provided an update to the Board of Education on recent district events including:

- Special Person Night at CAIS
- Unified Prom
- Entrepreneurship Accelerator Cohort Pitch Competition
- Education Celebration

Dr. Silver also shared upcoming events.

B. Financial Report – May 2024

Mr. Domenic Greco, Director of Finance reported on the financials as of May 31, 2024. He noted that 1.23% or \$695,071 of the adopted budget has yet to be expended or encumbered.

Mr. Greco noted on the one-page summary report, major account 01 Certified Salaries, is over budget by \$25,151 and this overage continues to decrease every month and includes the April receivables. Next week, when the May and June receivables for special education out-of-district tuition is booked, it will eliminate the deficit in this account.

It was also noted account 08 Tuition is over budget by \$56,801. This account has an overage due to an 11 additional students attending magnet school that the district did not budget for. This overage will be eliminated when funds are received from the State of Connecticut for magnet school reimbursements.

Mr. Greco also highlighted page 1 on the six-page expenditure report. Account 1210 Salaries, Professional Staff and 1240 – Salaries, Clerical are over budget. These overages will be offset by special education out-of-district tuition billing. Any overages will be managed by budget transfers prior to June 30, 2024.

Cost service managers have started the process of closing out purchase orders for the 2023-2024 fiscal year. The finance department is also working hard to spend down grants.

H. Frydman asked about the 1% set aside account is about \$500,000. Would the district consider putting the money in a CD. Mr. Greco has inquired with the Town. This is an account held by the Town and Mr. Frydman expressed interest bearing account.

F. Bogle-Assegai asked about the severance account. Mr. Greco noted that several staff members left whose contract included severance pay and attributes to the overage in that account.

9. New Business

A. Policy for an Initial Reading

1. Remote Work – 4113.6/4213.6



Dr. Bethany Silver shared a first reading of the remote work policy. The purpose of this policy is to provide guidelines for situations permitting staff to remote at a location other than their office provided by the Board of Education. The policy provides criteria for remote work and administrative regulations for requesting remote work.

This is an option for employees other than those identified as essential in certain situations.

10. Old Business

A. Policies for a Second Reading

1. Play-Based Learning – 6142.104

Ms. Anne Marie Cullinan, Curriculum Specialist, presented a second reading of Policy 6142.104 Play-Based Learning. The changes to this policy are mandated under Public Act 23-101 (An Act Concerning the Mental, Physical, and Emotional Wellness of Children), and Public Act 23-159 (An Act Concerning Teachers and Paraeducators).

Ms. Cullinan noted this new policy is to ensure compliance with a law passed in 2023 requiring schools to provide play-based learning for kindergarten and preschool students. It also permits a teacher to utilize play-based learning for grades one to five.

Beginning in the 2024-2025 school year, play-based learning must be incorporated into annual professional development programming for pre-K through grade five teachers.

L. Simone asked how the teachers assess the development of the competencies aligned to play-based learning. A.M. Cullinan noted many assessments are observations of connecting language or concepts. Ms. Simone also inquired how progress is shared with families. Development skills are shared with families through parent meetings.

F. Bogle-Assegai asked about guided play and objectivity. Ms. Cullinan noted the importance of professional development for assessments.

A motion was made by T. Mack-Mohammed and seconded by K. Dunbar for the Bloomfield Board of Education to adopt policy 6142.104 – Play-Based Learning.

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



The motion passed unanimously 7-0-0.

2. Attendance - Unexcused Absences – Truancy - Students – 5113.2

Dr. Bethany Silver, Acting Superintendent presented a second reading of Policy 5113.2 Attendance – Unexcused Absences – Truancy. The updated language to this policy is a result to changes in legislation including new definitions. The revised policy language is adopted from CAGE model policy.

A motion was made by T. Mack-Mohammed and seconded by K. Dunbar for the Bloomfield Board of Education to adopt policy 5113.2 – Attendance, Unexcused Absences, Truancy – Students.

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

The motion passed unanimously 7-0-0.

3. Purchasing – Soliciting Prices - 3323

Dr. Bethany Silver, Acting Superintendent presented a second reading of Policy 3323 Purchasing – Soliciting Prices. The revision on this policy changes the purchasing and bid thresholds with current practices in place with Town and other school districts across the state.

K. Dunbar inquired about section II, A. For purchases less than \$10,000 regarding waivers. The competitive quotes are waivers for purchases under \$10,000. Over \$10,000 requires three competitive quotes. There are processes followed to ensure we are obtaining good pricing including state contracts.

A motion was made by T. Mack-Mohammed and seconded by K. Dunbar for the Bloomfield Board of Education to adopt policy 3323 – Purchasing – Soliciting Prices.

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

The motion passed unanimously 7-0-0.



11. Board Comments

L. Simone shared some positive accolades from administration about Bloomfield students and honorees. She noted that the community has to hear the amazing and positive attributes of Bloomfield students.

T. Moore stated he is proud of Bloomfield students. He encourages the community to come out to the Board meetings. He was very happy to attend the Education Celebration on May 29, 2024. Mr. Moore noted the changes of the Board of Education and is encouraged by where the Board currently stands.

T. Mack-Mohammed is pleased to see the number of guests in the audience. She commended the families and the students. She thanked Mrs. Sarah Williams for her tremendous work. Ms. Mack-Mohammed would like to see more about the SOAR programming. Thanked all for the expression of sympathy.

K. Dunbar noted the school year is coming to an end and stated there have been challenges, growth and achievements. She would like to see positive information shared with the community. She also thanked parents for their support and partnership. She thanked her fellow Board members.

F. Bogle-Assegai stated it was a pleasure to see students and families in attendance. The Board has high expectations for administration, teachers and students. Ms. Bogle-Assegai noted the district is in a building phase. She thanked all for a successful year.

H. Frydman noted the Board has made some positive decisions this year and has come together with one common goal. He encouraged all to attend the high school awards. He thanks Mrs. Sarah Williams for her services and welcomed Mr. Cornish. He noted all the wonderful events coming up including graduation.

L. Easmon welcomed Mr. Cornish and looks forward to continued collaboration with Central Office staff. She congratulated student honorees. She thanked all district staff and wished Mrs. Williams all the best. She thanked her colleagues and Central Office leadership. She noted the mayor's anti-litter campaign art contest.

12. Adjournment

At 8:30 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, Acting Superintendent