Board of Education Special Meeting
Tuesday, February 17, 2026 at 7:00 P.M.
Hybrid Meeting
In-Person Location: Bloomfield Board of Education, Board Room
1133 Blue Hills Avenue, Bloomfield, CT 06002
Virtual Option: Zoom
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87050833083?pwd=xa9q0Lg8zovH5MblY0NaQ9dqCaOMin.1
Meeting ID: 870 5083 3083 Passcode: 726145

Attendance:	L. Easmon, Chair	Present
	T. Mack-Mohammed, Vice Chair	Present
	F. Bogle-Assegai, Secretary	Present *(joined virtually, left at 8:27 p.m.)
	H. Frydman	Present (left at 8:33 p.m.)
	K. Dunbar	Present
	L. Simone	Present
	C. Jones	Absent

Also Present: T. Youngberg, Superintendent of Schools
D. Greco, Executive Director of Finance and Operations
L. Lamenzo, Executive Director of Teaching, Learning, and Leadership
J. Preuss, Director of Assessment, Accountability, and Performance
J. Dwyer, Principal, Laurel Literacy Academy
P. Guzzo, Principal, Metacomet Elementary School
D. Bunting, Principal, Carmen Arace Intermediate School
A. Wright, Interim Principal, Carmen Arace Middle School
L. Gambardella, Board of Education Attorney, Crumbie Law

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 7:00 p.m.

2. **Pledge of Allegiance**
   All rose to recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. **Opening Statement**
   L. Simone welcomed all attendees. The purpose and process of the Board of Education meeting were stated.

4. **Consent Agenda**
   A. **Approval of Minutes – Special Meeting – January 13, 2026**
   A motion was made by T. Mack-Mohammed and seconded by K. Dunbar for the Bloomfield Board of Education to approve the consent agenda, as presented.

L. Easmon, Chair	Aye
T. Mack-Mohammed, Vice Chair	Aye

F. Bogle-Assegai, Secretary	Aye
H. Frydman	Abstain
K. Dunbar	Aye
L. Simone	Aye

The motion passed 5-0-1.

5. **Recognitions**
   A. **Introduction of Tamika Lipscomb, Director of Extension**
   Domenic Greco, Executive Director of Finance and Operations introduced Tamika Lipscomb as the new Director of Extension and shared a short bio.

6. **Presentations**
   A. **Student Representative Report – Visual and Performing Arts**
   Student representatives from Bloomfield High School and Carmen Arace schools provided an update on their upcoming musical performances. Disney's The Lion King Jr. will be performed at Bloomfield High School on March 6th and 7th at 6:30 p.m. Performances will take place at the high school auditorium, located at 5 Huckleberry Lane in Bloomfield. At Carmen Arace, the cast of Shrek Jr. is hard at work preparing for opening night on March 27th. The production features an impressive 42 students from grades 5–8, showcasing the school's strong commitment to the arts and student involvement. Students from Carmen Arace gave a short performance.

7. **Superintendent's Report**
   A. **Superintendent's Update**
   Dr. Tracy Youngberg, Superintendent shared updates on the following items:
   - Governor's Visit to BHS
   - 2026-2027 Budget Timeline Adjustments – an updated timeline was provided to the Board of Education
   - RFP Selection Committee
   - Black History Month
   - Immigration Enforcement in Schools – a community update was provided on February 3, 2026
   - New Courses in 26-27 @ Bloomfield High School
   - BHS Gym Dedication – This event honor Mr. Donald F. Harris, Jr. is scheduled for Friday, February 20, 2026 at 6:45 p.m.
   - School to Career Dress for Success Donations
   - Partnership with the University of Hartford – A list of upcoming events was shared with the Board. The first event is Warhawk/Hawk day for current Juniors on February 25, 2026.
   - BPS Connections with UCONN and USJ
   - Farewell to CAIS & GEMS Committee – Dr. Youngberg noted the GEMS farewell event is scheduled for June 3, 2026 at 5:00 p.m. and the CAIS celebration will be held on June 11, 2026 at 5:30 p.m.

- Community Forum on School Uniforms – The community forum will be held at the March Board of Education meeting on March 10, 2026 at 7:00 p.m.
- Monthly District Celebrations
- Board Ambassadors Program – One Board Member will be assigned to each school to strengthen the connection between the BOE and our school communities.

B. Human Resources – Staffing Report

Dr. Tracy Youngberg provided a staffing update on behalf of Grace Martinez, Executive Director of Talent Management & Community Partnership. The report provided updates for the month of January 2026 including new hires, transfers, and resignation and/or retirements.

C. Financial Report – January 2026

Domenic Greco, Executive Director of Finance and Operations reported financials as of February 5, 2026. He noted that 3.77% 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 overbudget by almost $800,000 dollars. This overage is a result of positions added at the beginning of the school year. The district is also anticipating a reduction of tuition due to the reduced number of Hartford students attending Global Experience Magnet School (GEMS). Mr. Greco noted major object 03 Employee Benefits still shows a balance of 1.6 million dollars as funds for pension contributions have yet to be encumbered. Major object 08 Tuition is showing over budget as tuition costs for magnet schools and special education magnet school students, has been booked. The other major object is 11 Operations is overbudget by about $340,000 as the district expects to receive funds from the Town for the 1% set aside account.

On page 1 of the six-page detail report, the balance of object 01210, Salaries – Professionals, has been reduced from last month due to the hiring of two new IT technicians. On page 5, object 03500 Technical Services is showing over budget by about $32,000 due to eRate reimbursements that have yet to be received.

8. Board Committee Reports

A. Finance Committee

K. Dunbar Committee Chair noted they met on February 3, 2026 and discussed items in preparation of the 2026-2027 budget and the RFP for a Comprehensive Review of School Facilities.

B. Curriculum Committee

T. Mack-Mohammed, Committee Chair noted they received a report from Principal Jesse White on the upcoming NEASC decennial visit in the spring. She also shared that Lisa Lamenzo, Executive Director of Teaching, Learning and Leadership and Nicole Jones, Teaching and Learning Specialist presented on the department goal of "Creating a Shared Understanding of Tier I and Intentional Lesson Planning".

C. Policy Committee

L. Easmon reported on behalf of F. Bogle-Assegai, Committee Chair. She noted the committee reviewed several policies and decided to return all of the policies back to committee to review in March, with the exception of the three Library policies that were moved forward with a single revision.

9. Public/PTO Comment

No public comment.

10. Old Business

A. Reading and Possible Adoption of Policies

1. Library Material Review & Reconsideration – 1312.3/6161.12
2. Library Collection Development and Maintenance – 1312.4/6161.13
3. Library Display and Program – 1312.5/6161.14

The Board of Education opted to waive the second reading and adopt this policy as the added language is required and these were recently adopted in November 2025. These policies were reviewed during the Policy Committee meeting on February 3, 2026.

A motion was made by T. Mack-Mohammed and seconded by L. Simone for the Bloomfield Board of Education to approve the following three policies, with revisions, as listed under agenda item 10A.

1. Library Material Review & Reconsideration – 1312.3/6161.12
2. Library Collection Development and Maintenance – 1312.4/6161.13
3. Library Display and Program – 1312.5/6161.14

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

The motion passed unanimously 6-0-0.

11. New Business

A. iReady Mid-Year Benchmark Assessment Data K-8

Lisa Lamenzo, Executive Director of Teaching, Learning and Leadership and Jennifer Preuss, Director of Assessment, Accountability, and Performance presented the i-Ready mid-year benchmark assessment data for grades K-8. The vision, mission and goals were shared with as part of the PowerPoint presentation.

Ms. Preuss provided an overview of the i-Ready diagnostic and explained its purpose. She then shared each school's student performance in Math and ELA, showing changes from the Beginning of Year (BOY) to the Middle of Year (MOY) across three proficiency levels. Ms. Preuss also provided information on growth metrics and

sharing this data with families. There are interactive family night events scheduled to help parents better understand the iReady data.

L. Simone inquired about trends and asked if they can show comparisons in next year's presentation (to current year data).

H. Frydman asked about the testing windows and how we compare to neighboring towns. Ms. Preuss noted we would not have access to other district benchmark data.

F. Bogle-Assegai would be interested to see across the board what all grade 5 classes are doing for Black History month, and across the district versus highlighting one teacher and classroom.

T. Mack-Mohammed inquired about our district pivot points and the need to shift focus based upon data. Mr. Guzzo responded with school specific actions. She

K. Dunbar asked about the adaptive testing how it determines skill levels. Ms. Preuss noted there are multiple opportunities throughout the test for students to move and down in their skill levels. She further inquired about where students be relative to grade level. Ms. Preuss noted students should be meeting grade level expectations by the end of the school year.

It was noted there is one more benchmark this year.

L. Easmon asked how we are preparing lesson based upon the benchmark data. Ms. Lamenzo noted the district is teaching to the standards. She further noted iReady a snapshot of data and noted classroom assessment should be ongoing.

B. Review and Possible Action on the 2026-2027 Academic Calendar

Three options were presented to the Board of Education regarding the 2026-2027 academic calendar. The options were discussed. Option #3 with a full day professional development moved from May to June 1, 2027 and keeping only a half-day professional development on May 12, 2027.

A motion was made by T. Mack-Mohammed and seconded by K. Dunbar for the Bloomfield Board of Education to approve option #3, of the proposed 2026-2027 academic calendar, with the changes as discussed.

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

<u>The motion passed unanimously 6-0-0.</u>

12. Board Comments

L. Simone thanked all the school leaders for their hard work and leadership. She was very impressed with the new classes at BHS and the partnerships with the local colleges. She is excited to see the future results of the teaching and learning strategies being implemented.

K. Dunbar is excited to see the growth in the district. She gave kudos to Mrs. Dwyer, whose school has shown notable growth. She also welcomed Tamika Lipscomb, the new Director of Extension. She wished all happy Valentines Day, President's Day and Black History month.

H. Frydman thanked the principals for attending the meeting and acknowledged their efforts and hard work. He was very impressed by the presentation by the Performing Arts department and their showcase of the upcoming musicals. He shared information on the upcoming budget meetings and encouraged the public to participate. Mr. Frydman sent condolences regarding the passing of Femi Bogle-Assegai's mother.

T. Mack-Mohammed welcome the new Director of Extension. She publicly acknowledged the principals and noted she is looking forward to their Board Assignments to support each school. She noted Black History Month and noted it is not only one month and appreciates the district's new slogan "Building Our Legacy, One Student at a Time".

L. Easmon thanked the students and leaders for their presentations. She congratulated the Boys and Girls track teams on their recent championships. She thanked Coach Outlaw for his tenure as the football coach. Ms. Easmon wished all a happy Black History month and commented on the artwork in the Board Room from students at Metacomet Elementary School.

13. Other Business

A. Updates regarding pending and potential claims and litigation (discussion proposed for Executive Session)

1. Shanene Manson v. BOE
2. Amber Tate v. BOE
3. Registered Public Access Television discussion

A motion was made by T. Mack-Mohammed and seconded by K. Dunbar for the Bloomfield Board of Education to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing the pending and potential claims and ligation listed under item 13A of the Board agenda. They further invite Attorneys from Crumbie Law Firm and Superintendent, Dr. Tracy Youngberg, to participate in executive session. They further moved to invite Attorney Kimberly Bosse to participate solely in the discussion of Item 13.A.1, Shanene Manson v. BOE.

L. Easmon, Chair	Aye
T. Mack-Mohammed, Vice Chair	Aye

H. Frydman	Aye
K. Dunbar	Aye
L. Simone	Aye

The motion passed unanimously 5-0-0.

The Board members convened into Executive Session at 8:33 p.m. and returned to public session at 9:50 p.m. (Members Femi Bogle-Assegai and Howard Frydman did not attend Executive Session)

14. Adjournment

At 9:50 p.m. a motion to adjourn was made by K. Dunbar and seconded by T. Mack-Mohammed.

L. Easmon, Chair	Aye
T. Mack-Mohammed, Vice Chair	Aye
K. Dunbar	Aye
L. Simone	Aye

The motion passed unanimously 4-0-0.

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F. Bogle-Assegai, Board Secretary

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T. Youngberg, Superintendent of Schools