



Board of Education Regular Meeting  
Tuesday, December 10, 2024 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

[Click here](#) for the meeting link

Meeting ID: 869 1028 2345

Passcode: 8EPdRJ

<b>Attendance:</b>	L. Easmon, Chair	Present
	H. Frydman, Vice Chair	Absent
	F. Bogle-Assegai, Secretary	Present
	T. Moore	Present
	K. Dunbar	Absent
	T. Mack-Mohammed	Present
	L. Simone	Absent

**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

**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 7:01 p.m.

**2. Pledge of Allegiance**

All rose to recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Chair asked for a moment of silence in honor of Bloomfield Warhawks football player Jahkye Gayle.

**3. Opening Statement**

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

**4. Student Representative Report – Students from Donald F. Harris Sr. Agriscience & Technology Center**

Student representatives from Donald F. Harris Sr. Agriscience & Technology Center were introduced by Mr. Joseph Rodrigues. Mr. Rodrigues shared some information about



framework of the AgriScience program and shared a Power Point with the Board of Education. The students talked about their academics, FFA leadership opportunities and Supervised Agricultural Experiences (SAEs) which similar to internships. Mr. Rodrigues closed with the next steps for the AgriScience program which include enhancing community partnerships.

F. Bogle-Assegai asked Mr. Rodrigues to elaborate on the partnerships.

T. Mack-Mohammed inquired about the accessibility of the program to middle school students. The student representatives shared information about the Kids-n-Critters program.

L. Easmon asked about tracking students once they graduate. Mr. Rodrigues noted there is a 5-year follow-up state report that tracks graduates of the program.

## 5. Recognitions

### A. Recognition of Elk Spencer, Bloomfield's 2024 Teacher of the Year

The Board of Education honored Bloomfield's Teacher of the Year Elka Spencer and presented her with a token of appreciation. Dr. Silver shared accolades for Ms. Spencer's work as an educator with Grade 3 students.

### B. Recognition of D'Asia Duncan, Bloomfield High School Student Athlete

Dr. Silver recognized Bloomfield High School Junior, D'Asia Duncan. Miss Duncan traveled to Bahrain representing Team USA and AAU for the ISF Gymnasiade 2024 from October 23-31, 2024. D'Asia placed third in the 400 Meter Hurdles and earned a bronze medal. D'Asia also leads fundraising efforts for Breast Cancer Awareness at Bloomfield High School.

## 6. Presentations

### A. Introduction of Nicole Jones, District Teaching and Learning Specialist

Lisa Lamenzo, Director of School Improvement, introduced Nicole Jones, District Teaching and Learning Specialist, to the Board of Education. Most recently, she served as an Education Consultant in the Turnaround Office at the Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE). Throughout her career, Nicole has led initiatives to develop comprehensive curriculum, professional learning, and instructional practices.

### B. Introduction of McKenzie Hudson, Career and Community Support Specialist

Lisa Lamenzo, Director of School Improvement, introduced McKenzie Hudson, Career and Community Support Specialist. McKenzie Hudson has recently joined the School to Career and Family Engagement Offices. A proud Hartford native, McKenzie brings over a decade of experience in the nonprofit sector. McKenzie brings an inspiring energy and unwavering dedication to creating positive change.



## 7. Consent Agenda

### A. Approval of Minutes – Special Meeting – November 12, 2024

A motion was made by T. Mack-Mohammed and seconded by F. Bogle-Assegai for the Bloomfield Board of Education to approve the minutes from the November 12, 2024 special meeting, as presented.

Chair, L. Easmon noted one change under Public/PTO Comment on the spelling of Lynn Wisale last name should read Weisel.

L. Easmon	Aye
F. Bogle-Assegai	Aye
T. Mack-Mohammed	Aye
T. Moore	Aye

The motion passed unanimously 4-0-0.

## 8. Superintendent's Report

### A. Superintendent's Update

Dr. Bethany Silver, Interim Superintendent shared that the BHS Football team is advancing to the State Finals and the district was awarded the 21<sup>st</sup> Century grant to Metacomet and Carmen Arace Intermediate School. Dr. Silver congratulated Mrs. Anne Marie Cullinan who is retired and Coach Anne Burrows, who was awarded the 2024 Pathfinder Award by the CT Association of Health and Physical Education. Reports were provided on student attendance, facilities projects and new safety protocols. It was further noted the Climate Survey administration has been postponed.

### B. Human Resources/Staffing Update

Dr. Silver shared district vacancies for certified and non-certified staff.

### C. Financial Report – November 2024

Mr. Domenic Greco, Director of Accounting reported on the financials as of December 6, 2024. He noted that 10.62% 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 15.92% yet to expended or encumbered. The majority of these funds are for the pension contribution payments, which will be paid in late December. 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. The district has been in contact with CREC and expect invoices soon.

On page 1 of the six-page detail report, sub account 1210 - Salaries, Professional Staff is over budget due to the cost of an occupational and physical therapist



requirements. The district has booked some receivables for special education out-of-district tuition and the overage will continue to come down as receivables are booked.

On page 3 of the six-page report, sub account 3500 is currently over expended by approximately \$10,000. The district has yet to the receive revenue from e-Rate, which they receive on a monthly basis.

T. Mack-Mohammed inquired if the pension payment and magnet school is still pending. Mr. Greco confirmed and provided the estimated costs.

## **9. Board of Education Committee Reports**

### **A. Finance Committee**

The Finance Committee Chair, Kim Dunbar is absent.

### **B. Curriculum Committee**

Curriculum Committee Chair, Howard Frydman is absent.

### **C. Policy Committee**

Policy Committee Chair, Femi Bogle-Assegai met with Dr. Silver and reviewed various policies that are on the agenda for a first reading.

## **10. Public/PTO Comment**

No Public Comments.

## **11. New Business**

### **A. School to Career Office Update**

Christopher Prescott, School to Career Specialist and McKenzie Hudson, Career and Community Support Specialist shared a PowerPoint presentation with the Board of Education. They highlighted the progress of the School to Career office and provided an overview of the goals for the 2024-2025 school year. The School to Career office is grant-funded under the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving and the work started in 2022. They work with various community partners to provide internships, field experiences and panel discussion. In addition, the School to Career Office provides one-to-one coaching, workshops, and interest surveys. The department assists students in exploring their careers, building professional skills and partnering with mentors in careers of interest. One future goal includes expanding partnerships.

L. Easmon thanked them for the presentation and encouraged sharing information about their program through newspaper articles and marketing.

F. Bogle-Assegai inquired about partnering with the Community Engagement and School to Career offices and incorporating parent participation.

T. Moore inquired about marketing and getting parent involved. Ms. Hudson shared strategic ways to involve the parents including enhancing direct communication and being present at school events.



**B. Discussion and Possible Action on the United Public Service Employees Union Local 424 – Unit 12 (UPSEU) successor Contract that Expires on June 30, 2027**

Chair Lynette Easmon noted the Board of Education has been briefed on the contract and are aware of the proposed changes. This is a tentative contract so there will be no discussion.

A motion was made by T. Mack-Mohammed and seconded by F. Bogle-Assegai for the Bloomfield Board of Education and the United Public Service Employees Union Local 424 – Unit 12 (UPSEU) successor Contract expiring on June 30, 2027, as presented.

L. Easmon	Aye
F. Bogle-Assegai	Aye
T. Mack-Mohammed	Aye
T. Moore	Aye

The motion passed unanimously 4-0-0.

**C. Policies for an Initial Reading**

**1. Dress and Grooming – Students – 5132**

Dr. Bethany Silver, Interim Superintendent provided an initial reading of policy 5132. She noted there have substantial changes to this policy and was discussed at the Policy Committee meeting on November 21, 2024. A red-line version of the policy was shared with the Board of Education.

**2. Officers – 9120**

Dr. Bethany Silver, Interim Superintendent provided an initial reading of policy 9120. Policy 9120 has a conflict with the Town Charter and needs to be updated. The revision includes the Town Council electing a replacement in the event of a Board of Education vacancy.

**3. Filling Vacancies on the Board – 9221**

Policy 9221 is also before the Board of Education for a first reading. These updates will also bring the policy into alignment with the Town Charter.

**4. Time, Place, Notification for Meetings – 9321**

Dr. Silver presented updates to policy 9321 that includes updating the meeting dates to reflect second and fourth Tuesday of the month to align with current practices. The hybrid option has also been added to the policy.

**5. Agenda Construction and Posting – 9323**

Dr. Bethany Silver, Interim Superintendent provided an initial reading of policy 9323. This policy included changes to the posting of the agenda as it relates to new meeting practices.



## 12. Board Comments

T. Moore thanked everyone for coming out to the meeting and congratulated the Teacher of the Year, Elka Spencer. He also welcomed Ms. Hudson and Ms. Jones. He welcomed Dr. Youngberg and thanked Dr. Silver. He noted the Board is here for the students and staff and ensured they are working hard to highlight the academic successes.

T. Mack-Mohammed no comments.

F. Bogle-Assegai recognized those who recently received awards and welcomed our new staff. She also wanted to acknowledge the appreciation of all student presenters. She wished all a happy holiday.

L. Easmon sent her heartfelt condolences on behalf of the Board of Education to the family and friends of Jahkye Gayle. She thanked the student presenters from the AgriScience Center. She also wished Anne Marie Cullinan best wishes in her retirement. The High School chorus performed at the Wintonbury Historical Society on December 8<sup>th</sup> and at Holiday Tree Lighting on December 7<sup>th</sup>. She noted the high school winter concert will be held on December 11<sup>th</sup> and will feature the band and chorus. She congratulated Elka Spencer, Teacher of the Year. Dr. Youngberg will be starting on Thursday, December 12<sup>th</sup> and thanked Dr. Silver for her assistance during Bloomfield's transition. She further acknowledged Lisa Lamenzo and Domenic Greco for their support as well. She wished all a happy holiday.

## 13. Adjournment

At 8:11 p.m. a motion to adjourn was made by T. Mack-Mohammed and seconded by F. Bogle-Assegai.

The motion passed unanimously 4-0-0.

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F. Bogle-Assegai, Secretary

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B. Silver, Interim Superintendent