



Board of Education Special Meeting
Tuesday, November 12, 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: 862 0844 4147

Passcode: n8ywnq

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
	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
T. Ellis, Principal, Carmen Arace Middle School
D. Bunting, Principals, Carmen Arace Intermediate School
S. Wrona, District Safety Coordinator

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 7:02 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. Student Representative Report – Carmen Arace Middle and Intermediate Schools

Student representatives from Carmen Arace Intermediate School (CAIS) and from Carmen Arace Middle School (CAMS) introduced themselves and shared a Power Point



with the Board of Education. Students from CAIS and students from CAMS provided updates from their school including recent events, recognitions, clubs and activities.

5. Consent Agenda

A. Approval of Minutes – Regular Meeting – October 8, 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.

6. Superintendent’s Report

A. Superintendent’s Update

Dr. Bethany Silver, Interim Superintendent gave an update on professional development, the Next Generation Accountability Report from 2023-2024 school year and monthly student attendance rates, noting perfect attendance for one day at Metacomet. In addition, Dr. Silver shared highlights from the Academic Forum on October 30, 2024 and the upcoming Family Workshop series.

B. Human Resources/Staffing Update

Dr. Silver noted the district submitted the new teacher evaluation plan (TEVAL) to the State of CT Department of Education and thanked the TEVAL committee. Dr. Silver noted the district is utilizing a new platform for staff evaluations and professional development. This new system will be used for all certified and non-certified staff. Dr. Silver also shared the district vacancies.

C. Financial Report – October 2024

Mr. Domenic Greco, Director of Accounting reported on the financials as of November 8, 2024. He noted that 12.39% 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 16.44% yet to expended or encumbered. These majority of these funds are for the contributions, which will be paid in 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 accounts 1210 - Salaries, Professional Staff is over budget due to the cost of an occupational and physical therapist

requirements. The district has yet to book receivables for special education out-of-district tuition and the overage will be covered by these receivables.

7. 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 met to discuss Superintendent authority policy. They will also continue to look at cost savings as they prepare for the 2025-2026 budget.

B. Curriculum Committee

Curriculum Committee Chair, Howard Frydman met with staff liaison, Lisa Lamenzo, Director of School Improvement met on October 22, 2024. They discussed the district Attendance Toolkit and the Class Size Report. In November, they will discussing the 2023-2024 Next Generation Accountability Report and district Climate Survey.

C. Policy Committee

Policy Committee Chair, Femi Bogle-Assegai met with Dr. Silver and reviewed various policies on November 11, 2024. They reviewed two policies for a first reading.

8. Public/PTO Comment

Gail Jorden, 102 Wolcott Hill Road

Ms. Jorden came as the BEA President as the contract is on the agenda. She felt the union and administration collaborated well on the contract negotiations. She thanked the Board for their consideration.

Kathryn McCarthy, 72 Park Avenue

She thanked the Board for all of their hard work and having a virtual option available. She also thanked the teachers of Bloomfield for supporting her children.

Don Harris, 6 Bear Ridge

Mr. Harris shared his concerns on the protocol for the hiring committee of the Superintendent search. He wanted to bring to the public's attention the test scores for Bloomfield and Windham in comparison with other Alliance districts.

Dr. Suzette DeBeatham-Brown,

Dr. DeBeatham-Brown shared her thoughts on the October 2024 meeting. She thanked the Board for offering a virtual option for those who are unable to attend in person.

Lynn Wisale, 17 Maple Edge Drive

She thanked the Board for the Hybrid meeting option and the reminder with the link. The first step is to invite the community. She also thanked Dr. Silver for her service as Interim



Superintendent. She attended the SBAC forum and had some questions about numbers over time. How does SBAC scores translate to graduation rates.

Rickford Kirton, Bloomfield

Mr. Kirton thanked the Board for the virtual option. He sent the Board some questions relative to the hiring process of the Superintendent. He inquired what matrix and requirements were

Kate Keith, 16 Breezy Knoll Drive

She asked about the second reading of the bullying policy to make this a school climate policy. She noted this is driven by legislation but had concerns about the impact of bullying.

9. Old Business

A. Policies for Adoption

1. Connecticut School Climate Policy – 5131.911

Dr. Bethany Silver, Interim Superintendent, presented a second reading of policy 5131.911. She noted the name for this policy will be Connecticut School Climate Policy and is a complete language and cultural shift. This is a required policy change under Public Act 11-232, An Act Concerning the Strengthening of School Bullying Laws.

The language in this policy was provided by Connecticut Association of Boards of Education (CABE).

A motion was made by H. Frydman and seconded by T. Moore for the Bloomfield Board of Education to adopt policy 5131.911 – Connecticut School Climate Policy.

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. Transgender and Gender Non-Conforming Youth 5145.53

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

A motion was made by H. Frydman and seconded by T. Moore for the Bloomfield Board of Education to adopt policy 5145.53 – Transgender and Gender Non-Conforming Youth.



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. Review and Possible Action on the Proposed 2025 Board of Education Meeting Schedule

Board Chair, Lynette Easmon presented a draft of the 2025 Board meeting schedule. She noted there are changes to the standard meeting dates (second and fourth Tuesday) as noted on the proposed schedule.

A motion was made by H. Frydman and seconded by K. Dunbar for the Bloomfield Board of Education to approve the 2025 Board of Education meeting schedule, 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.

B. Family and Community Engagement and Afterschool Programming

Anjane Wright, District Coordinator of Extended Learning and Family Community Engagement shared a PowerPoint presentation with the Board of Education. She highlighted the goals of the office, to expand the afterschool programs and host events that engage families while collaborating with partners. The office has developed a hub of resources for families which is now available on the website. A Welcome Center was also created at the Board of Education.

Extended learning is being held at Laurel Literacy Academy while partnering with Auerfarm and the Bloomfield Extension program. Ms. Wright shared highlights from the School to Career Office and gave an update on potential additional extended learning opportunities, pending a grant from the State of CT.

Ms. Wright also developed a professional development for staff on family engagement.



A Family Workshop Series, in collaboration with partners, will be hosted throughout the year. The topics were based upon family and community interest.

K. Dunbar asked about a partnership with Bloomfield Public Library.

C. Discussion and Possible Action on the Bloomfield Educators Association (BEA) Contract July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2028

Attorney Melinda Kaufman presented the tentative Bloomfield Educators Association (BEA) agreement to the Board of Education. The tentative agreement was reached on October 1, 2024 and the contract has been ratified by the BEA.

A motion was made by H. Frydman and seconded by K. Dunbar for the Bloomfield Board of Education to approve the tentative agreement between the Bloomfield Board of Education and the Bloomfield Educators Association (BEA) for the period July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2028, 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.

D. Discussion and Possible Action on the Appointment of the Superintendent of Schools

Ms. Easmon, Board Chair, thanked the Board who served as the Superintendent Search Committee. She noted they worked with a search firm and spent many hours reviewing applications and the Board was looking for someone who has experience helping to grow scores, students and districts. Ms. Easmon shared a bio of Dr. Tracy Youngberg. Dr. Youngberg addressed the Board.

A motion was made by H. Frydman and seconded by T. Moore for the Bloomfield Board of Education to appoint Dr. Tracy Youngberg Superintendent of Schools effective December 12, 2024.

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

The motion passed unanimously 6-0-1.



11. Board Comments

L. Simone noted the district is filled with brilliant and insightful students. She talked about how the school administrators and teachers are building the character of our students outside academics. She noted there is work to do.

T. Moore noted he was disappointed in the comments from the last meeting. He encouraged the public to voice their opinion but to also listen. He would like for everyone to work together for the betterment of the school district.

T. Mack-Mohammed recognized the artwork of the students in the Board Room. She thanked Dr. Silver publicly for stepping in to help the district. She shared an opportunity for Career Pathways. She noted that are at a pivotal time and hopeful to move the district forward, focus on the positive that is ahead.

K. Dunbar emphasized the focus should be on how wonderful the students and teachers are. Ms. Dunbar attended the Academic Forum and received feedback with families including changing the narrative. She is excited to have Dr. Tracy Youngberg back in Bloomfield and noted several achievements of Dr. Youngberg. She also thanked Dr. Silver.

F. Bogle-Assegai thanked Dr. Bethany Silver for stepping in to complete the work during the transition period. Ms. Bogle-Assegai talked about the narrative shift around the school district in the town of Bloomfield. She further noted she is there to observe the new Superintendent and emphasized the importance of the leadership and welcomed Dr. Youngberg.

H. Frydman was impressed by the student speakers. He welcomed Dr. Tracy Youngberg. He also attended the Academic Forum and noted the parent engagement. The Zoom meeting was a work in progress and today is the first hybrid meeting. Wished all a happy Thanksgiving.

L. Easmon stated she is proud of the students and to hear our students are volunteering for public speaking roles. She welcomed Dr. Youngberg. She encouraged to the community to move forward. Ms. Easmon further stated how proud she is of the work the district is doing. She further commented on vacant positions, the academic forum and the new hybrid meeting structure. Ms. Easmon thanked Dr. Silver for all of her hard work in the district.

12. Discussions regarding Litigation Strategy and Personnel Matter (discussions proposed for Executive Session)

A motion was made by H. Frydman and seconded by T. Moore for the Bloomfield Board of Education to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing a litigation strategy and a personnel matter. They further invited Attorney Lauren Gambardella to participate.

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.

The Board members convened into Executive Session at 8:42 p.m. and returned to public session at 9:16 p.m.

12. Adjournment

At 9:16 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