



BLOOMFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION – REGULAR MEETING

Tuesday, February 7, 2023 at 7:00 P.M.

Bloomfield Board of Education, Board Room

1133 Blue Hills Avenue

Bloomfield, CT 06002

Attendance: D. Harris, Chair	Present
H. Frydman, Vice Chair	Present
J. Wilkerson, Secretary	Present
R. Ike	Present
L. Easmon	Present
T. Moore	Present
F. Bogle-Assegai	Present (<i>by phone</i>)

Also Present: J. Thompson, Superintendent of Schools
W. Guzman, Chief Operations Officer
D. Nesmith, Assistant Superintendent for Accountability and Performance
D. Moleti, Human Resource Coordinator
A.M. Cullinan, Curriculum Consultant
E. Pierce, District Grants Specialist
D. Greco, Director of Accounting
L. Lamenzo, Director of School Improvement
W. Shepard-Bannish, Director of Student Support Services
J. Titelbaum, District Data Systems Coordinator

1. Establishment of a Quorum and Call to Order

D. Harris 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. Poem in Honor of Black History Month

Bloomfield High School student Lysa-Raye McCaw read the poem *I, Too* by Langston Hughes in honor of Black History Month.

4. Opening Statement

Joseph Wilkerson, Jr., Secretary, welcomed all attendees. The purpose and process of the Board of Education meeting was stated.

5. Consent Agenda

A. Approval of Minutes – Special Meeting – January 10, 2023

A motion was made by R. Ike and seconded by H. Frydman for the Bloomfield Board of Education to approve the minutes from the January 10, 2023 special Board meeting, as presented.



D. Harris	Aye
H. Frydman	Aye
J. Wilkerson	Aye
R. Ike	Aye
L. Easmon	Abstain
T. Moore	Aye
F. Bogle-Assegai	Aye

The motion passed 6-0-1.

6. Presentations

A. Student Representative Report – Global Experience Magnet School

The Board of Education Student Representatives from Global Experience Magnet School (GEMS) were introduced by the Chairman. The students gave a presentation on recent events at GEMS such as student council elections, “ugly sweater” day, family outing to the Wolf Pack Game, and the “Save a Life” Tour. The two representatives gave reports on the SAT scores, College Acceptances, student exhibitions and the SuitUp Competition in Boston. Travel experiences at GEMS have resumed and students will be traveling to Washington D.C. and San Francisco. Black History month celebrations are also planned for the month of February.

7. Public/PTO Comment

No public comments.

8. Superintendent’s Report

A. Superintendent’s Update

Dr. James Thompson, Jr. provided an update to the Board of Education members. He shared an update on Black History Month celebrations occurring throughout the month of February. All of the schools will be in engaged in activities that pay tribute to the significant influence of Black people in shaping American history and culture. Dr. Thompson provided examples of activities at each school.

9. Old Business

A. Policies for a Second Reading

1. Advanced Courses or Programs, Eligibility Criteria for Enrollment Instruction – 6141.51

Mr. William Guzman, Chief Operations Officer presented a second reading of policy 6141.51 and 6141.52. He noted that both of these policies were presented to the Policy Committee for an initial reading on October 25, 2022 and a second reading on January 24, 2023. These policies went before the full Board of Education on November 8, 2022 for an initial reading.

Policy 6141.51 is a result of Public Act 21-199 and requires each local Board of Education to establish criteria for enrollment in advanced courses. On page 2 of the policy lists the guiding principles for fostering equity in student participation in advanced courses.



A motion was made by H. Frydman and seconded by R. Ike approve the adoption of policy 6141.51 – Advanced Courses or Programs, Eligibility Criteria for Enrollment Instruction.

The motion passed unanimously.

2. Challenging Curriculum Instruction – 6141.52

Mr. William Guzman, presented a second reading of policy 6141.52. This policy is a result of Public Act 21-199 Section 5. The purpose of this policy is to provide access to advanced curriculum for students who are eligible and demonstrate potential.

Mr. Guzman noted that this policy requirements are met though the district's Talented and Gifted program, career pathways programs, and other advanced courses.

A motion was made by H. Frydman and seconded by R. Ike to approve the adoption of policy 6151.52 - Challenging Curriculum Instruction.

The motion passed unanimously.

10. New Business

A. Presentation of Superintendent's Proposed 2023-2024 Budget

James Thompson, Jr., Superintendent presented the 2023-2024 Superintendent's Proposed Budget. This year's budget proposal of \$53.14 million represents and overall increase of \$4.3 million, or 8.8%.

Dr. Thompson noted the key drivers as contractual increases in staff salaries, special education costs, and medical health insurance. He further noted the district's commitment to aligning resources to support students and their achievement. Dr. Thompson stated that reasonable class sizes would be maintained and support would continue to be provided to recently established initiatives.

Mr. Guzman introduced a summary of the Superintendent's proposed budget and reviewed the major cost drivers.

Over the last ten years, the average increase per year has been 3.29%. Mr. Guzman noted account numbers (01) Certified Salaries, (02) Non-Certified Salaries and (03) Employee Benefits comprise 69.33% of the total budget. This is typical for a school budget.

The last slide shows the percentage increases and decrease by the fourteen major accounts. He noted tuition, employee benefits, and salaries are all contractual obligations and makeup 7.68% of the 8.8% increase. The employee medical health insurance increase is determined by the district insurance consultants Brown & Brown.



Mr. Guzman further noted that these numbers may change based on the Governor's budget and the allocation of the Education Cost Sharing (ECS) grant.

There will be a special meeting on February 23, 2023 for public comment and Board action on the proposed budget.

Individual workshops have been scheduled for all Board of Education members to review the budget and ask questions.

The Superintendent's proposed budget booklet will be available on the District website following the meeting.

B. Review and Approval of the Proposed 2023-2024 Academic Calendar

Mr. William Guzman, Chief Operations Officer presented the proposed 2023-2024 academic calendar. It reflects the 180 school days required by law. The first day is scheduled for Wednesday, August 30, 2023. The calendar includes six teacher in-service days as required by contract. The spring recess aligns with surrounding districts.

A motion was made by H. Frydman and seconded by R. Ike for the Bloomfield Board of Education to approve the 2023-2024 academic calendar, as presented.

The motion passed unanimously.

11. CABE Updates

Mr. Donald Harris, Jr. attended the Equity Symposium and Advocacy Institute in Washington, D.C., January 26 – 31, 2023. This conference is sponsored by the National School Boards Association (NSBA). This conference included a Day on the Hill, where the delegation met with political leaders from Connecticut. They discussed the increased cost of Special Education services.

12. Board Comments

R. Ike wished all a happy Black History Month. He also asked to get an update on school lunch programs. He applauded the district and students from GEMS who exceeded the state average mean scores on the fall 2022 SATs.

L. Easmon extended a happy Black History Month to all. She thanked the students for their presentations. She stated she is looking forward to reviewing the proposed budget booklet. She also thanked all for their condolences.

J. Wilkerson thanked all the presenters this evening. He noted it is good to see the district honoring prominent black figures. He also looks forward to meeting with administration about the budget. Mr. Wilkerson also acknowledged the great achievements of Carmen Arace Intermediate School and Metacomet Elementary School who were honored as *Schools of Distinction* by the Connecticut State Department of Education.



F. Bogle-Assegai congratulated the young people who have applied and been accepted to colleges or universities. She also looks forward to reading the proposed budget and seeing how it aligns to the district goals.

H. Frydman extended his condolences to Ms. Easmon. He thanked the staff for being at the Board meeting. He stated the review and approval of the budget is a very serious and difficult responsibility of the Board. He welcomes the community to speak at their next meeting. He noted he is excited for the planned events in honor of Black History Month and noted February is also Heart Healthy month. He is excited for those GEMS students who will be traveling.

D. Harris wished all a happy Black History Month. On February 23, 2023 Mr. Harris will be in attendance at the Legislative Office Building as Bloomfield community members are being honored. He wished all a Happy Valentine's Day.

13. Adjournment

At 7:55 p.m. a motion to adjourn was made by R. Ike and seconded by L. Easmon.

The motion passed unanimously.

J. Wilkerson, Board Secretary

J. Thompson, Ed. D., Superintendent