



Board of Education Special Meeting
Tuesday, May 10, 2022 at 7:00 P.M.

Join Zoom Meeting

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Meeting ID: 844 2393 5629 Passcode: sr63R8

Dial-In Number: (929) 205-6099

Meeting ID: 844 2393 5629 Passcode: 787567

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|--------------------|-------------------------|---------|
| Attendance: | D. Harris, Chair | Present |
| | H. Frydman, Vice Chair | Present |
| | J. Wilkerson, Secretary | Present |
| | R. Ike | Present |
| | L. Easmon | Present |
| | T. Moore | Absent |
| | F. Bogle-Assegai | Absent |

Also Present: J. Thompson, Superintendent of Schools
W. Guzman, Chief Operations Officer
D. Moleti, Human Resources Director
A.M. Cullinan, Curriculum Consultant
J. Titelbaum, District Data Systems Coordinator
E. Pierce, District Grants Specialist
S. Simpson, Director of Strategic Communications and Planning
J. White, Interim Principal, Bloomfield High School
J. Bernabe, Principal, Global Experience Magnet School
T. Ellis, Principal, Carmen Arace Middle School
S. Williams, Principal, Carmen Arace Intermediate School
T. Schondelmayer, District Athletic Director

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. Opening Statement

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

4. Consent Agenda

A. Approval of Minutes - Special Meeting - April 6, 2022

A motion was made by H. Frydman and seconded by R. Ike to approve the minutes from the April 6, 2022 special Board Meeting, as presented.



The motion passed unanimously.

5. Recognitions

A. CABA Student Leadership Award Recipients

The Connecticut Association of Boards of Education, Student Leadership Awards were presented to students from Carmen Arace Middle School, Global Experience Magnet School and Bloomfield High School. Dr. Thompson noted that this annual award program recognizes students in the middle and high schools who exhibit exemplary leadership skills. To qualify as a recipient of this award, students must demonstrate diplomacy, be willing to take on challenges, possess the ability to work with others, and have the capability to make difficult decisions.

B. Tammy Schondelmayer, The Board 6 Basketball Officials Gerald McGrath Commissioner's Award for Athletic Director of the Year

Mr. Donald F. Harris, Jr., Board Chair recognized Tammy Schondelmayer who received the Gerald McGrath Commissioner's Award for Athletic Director of the Year.

6. Presentations

A. Student Representative Report – Global Experience Magnet School

Two student representatives were introduced by the Chairman. Students shared a Power Point providing updates from Global Experience Magnet School (GEMS). Recent events at the school include a Variety Show and Penny Wars hosted by National Honor Society. An update on GEMS Experiences by grade was shared. Some recent events include Spirit days (dress down days) and a family skate day. GEMS Society Quarter 3 honorees was noted and post-graduate senior update was shared.

7. Public/PTO Comment

No public comments.

8. Superintendent's Report

A. Superintendent's Update

Dr. James Thompson, Jr. gave a report to members of the Board of Education on classroom walkthroughs to monitor the quality of classroom instruction and curriculum rigor. He noted the high stake assessments for grades 3-8 will begin on May 16, 2022.

Dr. Thompson noted that Bloomfield High School (BHS) and Global Experience Magnet School (GEMS) will conduct graduation ceremonies on Monday, June 13, 2022. The Bloomfield High School ceremony will start at 10:00 a.m., at Dunkin' Doughnuts Park in Hartford. The GEMS high school graduation ceremony will start at 3:00 p.m., at the Bloomfield High School courtyard.

In addition, he provided an update on district partnerships and a video update from COVID-19 liaison Wendy Shepard-Bannish.



A recorded video was shared with the Board members. Information relative to positivity rates, regional data trends, school testing updates, and information on mitigation strategies was shared.

R. Ike asked if it is still a requirement for staff to be vaccinated. Dr. Thompson noted the State of Connecticut ended the requirement for staff to be vaccinated.

H. Frydman inquired about the Choose Bloomfield signage. Dr. Thompson noted we have an active campaign to keep students in Bloomfield and for those who have left to return.

B. Financial Report – April 2022

Mr. William Guzman, Chief Operations Office reported on the financials as of May 5, 2022. He noted that \$509,000 or 1.12% of the adopted budget has yet to be expended or encumbered.

Mr. Guzman noted on the one-page report, account (01) Certified Salaries. The available balance increased by \$79,000 because the special education out-of-district receivables was booked.

The account (08) Tuition remains with a deficit. This deficit has increased by \$33,000 from last month, as additional invoices for services were received.

On page 4 of the 6-page report, the three sub-accounts for tuition continue to be over-budget. These deficits will be offset by anticipated revenue from the Excess Cost Grant in the amount of \$169,000 and by available balances in other accounts.

9. Old Business

A. Portrait of A Graduate – Strategic Plan

Dr. James Thompson, Jr., Superintendent opened the Portrait of a Graduate (POG) Strategic Plan presentation. He noted the work began in March of 2021 and forums were held with school and town community.

A POG Design Team was formed and they evaluated the responses from the forums and surveys to determine the qualities needed to for Bloomfield students to succeed in a 21st century global economy.

Sub-Committees were established to provide ideas for possible success measures for the strategic plan.

Anne Marie Cullinan, Curriculum Specialist reviewed the vision, mission and theory of action. Ms. Lynne Weisel, POG Design Team parent member, shared a timeline of the Portrait of a Graduate work. Jason Titelbaum, District Data Systems Coordinator shared how the team collaborated to develop the strategic plan goal areas, objectives, strategies and outcomes.



The goal areas and expected outcomes for each Portrait of a Graduate sub-committee was reviewed. The sub-committees include Holistic Accountability, Early Childhood, 21st Century Aligned Curriculum, Talented and Gifted, Educational Technology, Positive School Climate, Family and Community Engagement, and College and Career Readiness.

The sub-committees will continue to meet to monitor progress outcomes of the strategic plan once it is implemented.

H. Frydman asked how often they would be looking at the process of the Strategic Plan to see how it would be working. Dr. Thompson noted it is an ongoing plan and the teams will be meeting on a regular basis and reporting out to the Board of Education and community.

L. Easmon stated the plan is very good. She inquired about holistic accountability and asked if data team will be embedded into the plan. Jason Titelbaum noted that it will be embedded into existing practices but the goal of the strategy was for families to be able to easily access data. Ms. Easmon also inquired about new technology professional development (PD) for staff. Dr. Thompson noted it is a delicate balance. The district may need to look at PD over several years.

J. Wilkerson asked how the committees will evaluate the work of the strategic plan. Ms. Cullinan noted the role of the sub-committees going forward will be oversight of the goals.

R Ike inquired how the district thinks students and community will be impacted by the Portrait of a Graduate. Dr. Thompson noted the district will start to share the outcomes of this initiative immediately and will be reporting to the Board of Education regularly.

B. Policies for a Second Reading

1. Individualized Education Program/Special Education Program – 6159

Mr. William Guzman, Chief Operations Officer, presented policy 6159 - Individualized Education Program/Special Education Program for a second reading. This policy was presented to the Policy Committee on March 29, 2022 and April 26, 2022 and to the full Board for an initial reading on April 6, 2022.

This policy change is the result of a state court decision. All students with disabilities who have not reached the age of 22 years and have not received a high school diploma, remain eligible for special educational services under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

This policy is revised to be in compliance with the court ruling.



A motion was made by H. Frydman and seconded by R. Ike to approve the adoption of policy 6159 – Individualized Education Program/Special Education Program.

The motion passed unanimously.

2. Drug and Alcohol Testing for School Bus Drivers – 4212.42

Mr. William Guzman, Chief Operations Officer, presented policy 4212.42 - Drug and Alcohol Testing for School Bus Drivers was presented for a second reading. This policy was before the Policy Committee on March 29, 2022 and April 26, 2022 and to the full Board for an initial reading on April 6, 2022.

This policy results from an action taken by the United States Department of Transportation amending the rules for commercial driver's license drug and alcohol clearing house. This policy stated the transportation company ensures all contractors will establish a drug and alcohol testing program. This language is required by federal mandate.

A motion was made by H. Frydman and seconded by R. Ike to approve the adoption of policy 4212.42 – Drug and Alcohol Testing for School Bus Drivers.

The motion passed unanimously.

10. New Business

A. Possible Action on the Bloomfield Federation of Education Personnel Contract July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2026

Mr. Dan Moleti, Human Resources Coordinator, presented the Bloomfield Federation of Education Personnel (BFEP) Contract for review.

He noted the district recently completed negotiations with the Bloomfield Federation of Educational Personnel, which represents classified school staff in the district. Mr. Moleti noted the major provisions of the contract.

D. Harris asked who are included in the classified employee category. Mr. Moleti noted that the BFEP represents, instructional assistants, administrative assistants, data systems managers, and tutors.

A motion was made by H. Frydman and seconded by R. Ike to approve the tentative agreement between Bloomfield Board of Education and the Bloomfield Federation of Education Personnel for the period July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2026, as presented.

The motion passed unanimously.



B. Policy for an Initial Reading

1. Title IX Personnel/Students – 4000.1/5145.44

Mr. William Guzman, Chief Operations Officer, presented policy 4000.1/5145.44 - Title IX Personnel/Students for a first reading. This policy was first presented to the Policy Committee on April 26, 2022. It is a result of the Office of Federal Rights at the federal level proposing new rules to amend the Title IX regulation.

The new regulations list three conditions as listed on page 3 of proposed policy pertaining to sexual harassment. New provision also addresses prevention and response of the district.

L. Easmon inquired about the language in the policy. Mr. Guzman stated the language came from the Connecticut Association of Boards of Education (CABE) policy review office, but these changes pertain to all states as it was regulated by the Office of Civil Rights.

11. CABE Updates

Mr. Donald Harris noted that about three weeks ago Bob Radar, long-time CEO of CABE had announced his retirement effective June 30, 2022. The Executive Board met and chose not to go out for a major search, but instead recommended Patrice McCarthy as the new CEO as of July 1, 2022. She has been with CABE for thirty-one years.

12. Board Comments

R. Ike was pleasantly surprised to see students from Hartford who attend GEMS represented. He asked if they can get a list of towns who send students to GEMS and Wintonbury Early Childhood Magnet School (WECMS). He thanked the administrators and staff for their assistance in the April 19, 2022 Democratic town primary. He shared it is an exciting time of year and he enjoys the awards at the end of the school year.

L. Easmon said she enjoyed the presentations today. She is very pleased with the Portrait of a Graduate. She also congratulated the CABE student leaders and Ms. Schondelmayer as the Athletic Director of the Year. She also mentioned the district-wide arts event Harmony on June 2, 2022.

J. Wilkerson thanked Ms. Schondelmayer for her hard work for Bloomfield. He also congratulated the students and thanked the presenters. Mr. Wilkerson also asked if they could have the analytics mentioned by Mr. Ike but over the last several years. He congratulated Ms. Easmon on her recent election.

H. Frydman noted it was an excellent meeting. He enjoyed the presentations and accolades of our students. He also mentioned the excellent programs taking place such as the International Cultural Fair, the district-wide concert and high school graduations.



D. Harris thanked all the members of Portrait of a Graduate Design Team members. Mr. Harris asked to add the Harris Agri-Science Center town attendance as well. He offered his congratulations to Lynette Easmon on her recent appointment. He also extended a belated Mothers' Day to all.

13. Adjournment

At 8:46 p.m. a motion to adjourn was made by R. Ike and seconded by L. Easmon.

The motion passed unanimously.

J. Wilkerson, Secretary

J. Thompson, Jr., Ed.D., Superintendent