



Board of Education Regular Meeting  
Tuesday, June 7, 2022 at 7:00 P.M.  
Virtual via Zoom

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84868671700?pwd=LzJNZXNZeXRZK3AvVEZZaVZuTGZnQT09>

Meeting ID: 848 6867 1700      Passcode: at86eM

Dial-In Number: (929) 205-6099

Meeting ID: 848 6867 1700      Passcode: 572964

**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

**Also Present:** J. Thompson, Superintendent of Schools  
W. Guzman, Chief Operations Officer  
S. McCann, Chief Academic Officer  
A.M. Cullinan, Curriculum Consultant  
E. Pierce, District Grants Specialist  
D. Moleti, Director of Human Resources  
W. Shepard-Bannish, Director of Student Support Services  
J. Titelbaum, District Data Systems Coordinator  
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

**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 – Regular Meeting – May 10, 2022**

A motion was made by H. Frydman and seconded by R. Ike for the Bloomfield Board of Education to approve the minutes from the May 10, 2022 regular Board Meeting, as presented.



The motion passed unanimously.

**5. Recognitions**

**A. Connecticut Association of Public Schools Superintendents' Awards**

Dr. James Thompson presented students from Bloomfield High School, Global Experience Magnet School, Carmen Arace Middle School and Carmen Arace Intermediate School with the CAPSS Superintendents' Award. All of the recipients have shown academic prowess, citizenship and leadership qualities. Dr. Thompson stated that these students represent the best of Bloomfield schools and the community. A brief statement about the achievements of each student was read by the principals of each school.

**B. Bloomfield High School Girls' and Boys' Outdoor Track Teams**

Mr. Donald F. Harris, Jr., Board Chair recognized both girls' and boys' outdoor track teams for their CIAC Class S State Championship Titles. The girls' team, coached by Anne Burrows, have won 13 of the last 14 state titles. The boys' team, coached by Garfield White have won 13 of the last 15 state titles.

**6. Presentations**

**A. Student Representative Report – Bloomfield High School**

One student representative was introduced by the Chairman and she shared a Power Point providing updates from Bloomfield High School (BHS). Recent events at the school include the Believe Academy Unified Prom on May 4, 2022 and the Quarter 3 Honor roll celebration with an ice cream sundae truck. In addition Student Council hosted field day on May 13, 2022. Students were also recognized with the Connecticut High School Fine Arts awards. The BHS French Spanish Honor Society inducted underclassman in a ceremony on May 10, 2022. Other recent events include the BHS Spring Music concert on May 19, 2022, and a CCC Unified Track Meet on the same day. The senior prom was held on May 20, 2022 at The Farmington Club. Senior Signing Day and the Internal Cultural Fair was held on May 26, 2022.

**7. Public/PTO Comment**

Christian Wolliston, 99 Rockwell Avenue. Mr. Wolliston wanted to recognize Coach Yolanda and Coach White who were an important part of the boys' track team. He stated he is a current student, loves the school and enjoys being a part of it. He is graduating but looks forward to coming back.

**8. Superintendent's Report**

**A. Superintendent's Update**

Dr. James Thompson, Jr. gave a report to members of the Board of Education on promoting reading and literacy at Laurel Elementary School. In the fall of 2022, the district will be increasing the number of pre-school seats available to Bloomfield families. There will be 14 pre-K seats in a new classroom located at Laurel Elementary School.



The district is also developing a Laurel School Literacy Academy focusing on reading and comprehension. The new academy will support our goal of having all students reading on grade level or above by grade 3.

Laurel Elementary School has launched a Little Free Library program on its campus. The Little Free Library is designed to promote early literacy, independent reading and family engagement. The idea, which originated from the school's PTO, is for families to have 24-hour access to children's books donated by the Prosser Public Library and the community.

Dr. Thompson gave an update on district partnerships. The district, in collaboration with Goodwin University, Capital Workforce Partners and the Town of Bloomfield is providing a paid summer jobs-training program for about 20 graduating seniors. Participants will take courses at Goodwin and get hands-on training and also have the opportunity to earn college credits.

Both Bloomfield High School and Global Experience Magnet School (GEMS) will conduct graduation ceremonies on Monday, June 13. The last day of school is June 20, 2022 for all schools expect for GEMS, which will be June 21, 2022.

## **B. Financial Report – May 2022**

Mr. William Guzman, Chief Operations Office reported on the district financials as of June 3, 2022. He noted that \$275,800, or .62% of the adopted budget has yet to be expended or encumbered.

Mr. Guzman noted on the one-page summary report, the account (08) Tuition remains in deficit. This deficit has decreased by approximately \$200,000 because the Excess Cost Grant was posted to this account.

On the detailed report, there are several accounts that have deficits. Sub-account 1115 Salaries Admin is over-budget by \$12,000 due to staff changes in that line. On page 2, sub-accounts 1270 and 1280 salaries for monitors and support staff are over-expended because of the non-certified substitutes that were needed this year. In addition, sub-account 1290 support overtime remains over-budget because of maintenance and custodial overtime due to inclement weather. The 2220 social security account has a deficit due to unanticipated retirements that resulted in social security payments.

## **9. Old Business**

### **A. Policy for a Second 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 second reading.

This policy was first presented to the Policy Committee on April 26, 2022 and again on May 24, 2022. The full Board of Education initially reviewed this policy on May 10, 2022.



This policy is a result of the Office of Civil Rights at the federal level proposing new rules to amend the Title IX regulations and became effective in August 2020. The new regulations define sexual harassment and the conditions are noted on page 1 and 2 of the new policy.

The new provisions address prevention and response of the district. Mr. Dan Moleti is the Title IX coordinator for the district.

A motion was made by H. Frydman and seconded by R. Ike for the Bloomfield Board of Education to approve the adoption of policy 4000.1/5145.44 – Title IX – Personnel/Students.

The motion passed unanimously.

## 10. New Business

### A. Summer Programs at Bloomfield High School

Mr. Jesse White, Interim Principal at Bloomfield High School (BHS) presented information on the high school summer programming for 2022. This summer school will offer a traditional program with credit recovery and acceleration for up to one credit. The program will run from July 11-July 29, 2022. In addition, a freshman academy for incoming grade 9 students will be provided. This program will acquaint them to the building, teachers and curriculum and students can earn ½ an elective credit. Students will be required to read “Twice toward Justice” with a thematic curriculum with an experiential component focused on entrepreneurship. Transportation, breakfast and lunch will be provided daily.

### B. Special Education Highlights

Mrs. Wendy Shepard-Bannish, Director of Student Support Services shared highlights from Student Support Services. The department works to provide transition services, embrace exceptionalities to provide services and provide inclusive opportunities for their students.

Tracy Stead, led the development of the Wish Academy which teaches independent skill building. The project aims to enrich, embed and empower. It coordinates with the DREAM academy to expand program offerings to other students in the building. Some centers in the WISH classroom include the WISH Café, student jobs, sensory station and home living center. The academy promotes embedding academic and practical, hands-on skills; while considering a child’s strengths and looking at the “whole child”. Some highlights from the program were shared.

L. Easmon commented that it is positive to see activities in which students partake.

### C. Policy for an Initial Reading

#### 1. Talented and Gifted Students Program – 6172.1



Mr. William Guzman, Chief Operations Officer, presented policy 6172.1 – Talented and Gifted Students Program for a first reading. This policy was first presented to the Policy Committee on May 24, 2022. Revisions were mandated under Public Act 21-199 which required districts to pass a policy for the equitable identification of Talented and Gifted students, and the use of multiple methods of identification. Districts are obligated to have a process for the identification, referral and evaluation of students in grades K – 12. It further states parents must be provided written notice that their child has been referred as a Talented and Gifted child. This is a mandated policy and the new Talented and Gifted program in Bloomfield meets the requirements of this policy.

### **11. CAFE Updates**

Mr. Donald Harris noted that he will be in attendance at a meeting tomorrow with CAFE and CAPSS regarding the convention in November. In August he will be attending a leadership conference on behalf of CAFE in San Antonio, TX. He will also be attending a Council of Urban Boards of Education (CUBE) conference in Miami in early September on behalf of CAFE. He also mentioned that Bob Rader is retiring effective June 30, 2022 and will be replaced by Patrice McCarthy, who currently serves as the Deputy Director.

### **12. Board Comments**

R. Ike noted that recognizing academic achievement at the May and June Board meetings is very special. He was at Bloomfield High School last week, students were very respectful and it was a pleasure to be a guest there. He wished everyone a happy summer and congratulated the students.

T. Moore congratulated the award recipients. He is looking forward to seeing his fellow Board members in-person.

F. Bogle-Assegai stated she is very proud of the all CAPSS award recipients tonight. She also acknowledges the increase in the number of students achieving honor roll. She wished all an enjoyable summer.

L. Easmon congratulated the awardees tonight and is thankful we can honor our student successes. She attended the music and arts festival and it was fantastic. She is looking forward to data coming out of the Portrait of a Graduate implementation. She wished all a good summer.

J. Wilkerson congratulated the awardees and their accomplishments. He is looking forward to working with all in the upcoming year. He extended a congratulations to the graduating seniors. He gave accolades to the directors for the outstanding music and arts district-wide concert.

H. Frydman thanked the Board of Education staff for their guidance. He was at the middle school when they grade 4 students were touring the intermediate school and was



happy to see them. He noted the exciting end of year activities, such as the concerts, step-up ceremonies and award programs.

D. Harris thanked the Board for all their birthday wishes. He graduated from Bloomfield High School in 1962 and Monday will be his 60 year anniversary of his graduation. Krista will send out to the Board members the end-of-year events. He noted the Bloomfield High School graduation will be Monday, June 13 at 10:00 a.m. at Dunkin Donuts stadium. The Global Experience Magnet school high school graduation will be on Monday, June 13 at 3:00 p.m. at the high school. He wished all a wonderful summer.

### 13. Adjournment

At 8:22 p.m. a motion to adjourn was made by R. Ike and seconded by L. Easmon.

The motion passed unanimously.

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J. Wilkerson, Secretary

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