



BLOOMFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION – REGULAR MEETING

Tuesday, November 8, 2022 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	Absent
J. Wilkerson, Secretary	Absent
R. Ike	Absent
L. Easmon	Present
T. Moore	Present (arrived at 7:20 p.m.)
F. Bogle-Assegai	Present

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
W. Shepard-Bannish, Director of Student Support Services
L. Lamenzo, Director of School improvement
J. Titelbaum, District Data Systems Coordinator
F. Macchi, Interim Principal, Global Experience Magnet School

1. Establishment of a Quorum and Call to Order

D. Harris determined a quorum was not present. The Bloomfield Board of Education Regular meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m. for non-voting agenda items until a quorum could be established. (Thomas Moore arrived at 7:20 p.m. and a quorum was present)

2. Pledge of Allegiance

All rose to recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Opening Statement

Lynette Easmon, Board member, welcomed all attendees. The purpose and process of the Board of Education meeting were stated.

4. Consent Agenda

A. Approval of Minutes – Regular Meeting – October 13, 2022.

Agenda item 4: Consent Agenda was moved to after the presentation of the financial report when the fourth Board of Education member arrived (T. Moore at 7:20 p.m. to make a quorum).

5. Presentations

A. Recognition of Susan Pinkham

William Guzman, Chief Operations Officer, recognized Susan Pinkham, Director of Food Services, who will be retiring on November 18, 2022. He acknowledged her



years of service and work ethic. A bouquet of flowers was presented. Don Harris also thanked Sue for her hard work especially during the pandemic.

B. Student Representative Report – Global Experience Magnet School

The Board of Education Student Representative from Global Experience Magnet School (GEMS) was introduced by the Chairman. The student gave a presentation on his experiences at GEMS over the past 7 years. He spoke about being flexible and taking advantage of opportunities. He was asked about the Student Council, which he was a part of last year. Student Council has not met this year.

6. Public/PTO Comment

Mary Kay Rendock – represented BEA/Carmen Arace. A student vs staff basketball game is being planned. BEA will have a float in the upcoming Holiday Parade in the Town. There are about 20 teachers who will participate. A “Stuff the Bus” food drive event is also planned.

7. Superintendent’s Report

A. Superintendent’s Update

Dr. James Thompson, Jr. provided an update to the Board of Education members for the month of November. He noted the student performance workshops that will be held in the upcoming week with members of the Town Council.

Dr. Thompson announced the Performing Arts department is planning a theatrical production for the spring. Students from Bloomfield High School and Carmen Arace Middle School will be performing in the musical, *Descendants*, in March of 2023. Auditions will start the week of November 14th.

He further noted the West Hartford-Bloomfield Health District’s provided an official notification letter to share with families. The letter addresses the spread and prevention of respiratory viruses. He further noted that Wendy Shepard-Bannish will provided additional health updates.

F. Bogle-Assegai asked if the Performing Arts Department had contact with Capital Community College. Dr. Thompson said that he would find out and follow-up with the Board.

B. Financial Report – September 2022

Mr. William Guzman, Chief Operations Office reported on the financials as of November 3, 2022. He noted that 12% of the adopted budget has yet to be expended or encumbered.

Mr. Guzman noted on the one-page summary report, major account 03 Employee Benefits has a balance as the funds have yet to be encumbered for pension and other post-employment benefits. Also on the summary page, major account 08 Tuition is showing a balance as funds for magnet school tuition have yet to be booked.



On page 1 of the six-page detail report, sub account 1210 – Salaries Professional Staff and 1240 – Salaries Clerical are over budget as the district has yet to book revenue for special education services. Mr. Guzman further noted tuition sub accounts 5600 and 5630 are over expended as the Excess Cost Grant receivables have yet to be posted. These are expected to be posted in December.

D. Harris inquired about the tuition line item. Mr. Guzman explained that the districts are still getting billed and numbers are being finalized. Once all bills are received, the numbers will be adjusted.

C. Health Update

Wendy Shepard-Bannish, Director of Student Support Services and COVID-19 Liaison gave a COVID-19 and health update. She mentioned that COVID-19 has been more manageable this year. On October 28, 2022 a Parent Advisory from the West Hartford-Bloomfield Health District was sent. More respiratory viruses are anticipated and the community may see an uptick in flu numbers. She further noted the mitigation measures remain the same.

L. Easmon asked if the district anticipates issues with staff attendance after receiving boosters.

D. Harris asked if vaccines could be given in school. Mrs. Shepard-Bannish felt that it could be challenging to make those arrangements and the local health offices have adjusted their hours to provide later hours during the week.

Mr. T. Moore arrived at 7:20 p.m. and a quorum of the Board was established.

4. Agenda Item 4: Consent Agenda was

A. Approval of Minutes – Regular Meeting – October 13, 2022

A motion was made by L. Easmon and seconded by F. Bogle-Assegai for the Bloomfield Board of Education to approve the minutes from the October 13, 2022 regular Board meeting, as presented.

The motion passed unanimously.

8. Old Business

A. Policy for a Second Reading

1. Talented and Gifted – 6172.1

Mr. William Guzman, Chief Operations Officer, presented a second reading policy 6172.1. This policy was first presented to the Policy Committee on May 24, 2022 and to the full Board on June 7, 2022.

The Policy Committee again reviewed this policy on October 25, 2022.

This policy is a result of Public Act 21-199 section 2 which requires Boards of Education to develop a policy for the equitable identification of Talented and Gifted students. The legislation further notes that there must



be multiple methods of identification. This is a mandated policy with specific definitions and language to be included. Districts are mandated under this public act to have a process for the referral, identification and evaluation of these students. Bloomfield's Talented and Gifted program meets all requirements of this public act.

F. Bogle-Assegai asked if this policy is a requirement of legislature. Mr. Guzman noted that it is.

A motion was made by L. Easmon and seconded by F. Bogle-Assegai to approve the adoption of policy 6172.1, Talented and Gifted.

The motion passed unanimously.

9. New Business

A. Policies for an Initial Reading

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

Mr. William Guzman presented an initial reading of policy 6141.51 on behalf of Anne Marie Cullinan. This policy is a result of Public Act 21-199 and requires each local Board of Education to establish criteria for enrollment in advanced courses. Mr. Guzman noted page 2 of the policy lists the guiding principles for fostering equity in student participation in advanced courses.

Mr. Guzman mentioned the policy has been vetted by principals and reviewed by the Policy Committee on October 25, 2022.

L. Easmon asked if the language was by the Board of Education or from the state. Mr. Guzman noted it was developed by the Connecticut Association of Board of Education (CABE).

2. Challenging Curriculum Instruction – 6141.52

Mr. Guzman presented an initial 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. It addresses the identification and creation of an academic plan for students in grades 8 and 9.

Mr. Guzman noted that these policy requirements are met though the district's Talented and Gifted program, career pathways programs, and other advanced courses such as AP or dual-credit courses. He also mentioned the policy has been vetted by principals and reviewed by the Policy Committee on October 25, 2022.



F. Bogle-Assegai asked what the difference between the policies and Mr. Guzman explained they are homogeneous. These policies go hand-in-hand to instill excellence and rigor.

F. Bogle-Assegai asked how the Portrait of a Graduate incorporates these requirements. Mr. Guzman noted a future presentation will be provided to the Policy Committee at its next meeting.

B. Possible Action on the 2023 Board of Education Meeting Schedule

Mr. William Guzman, Chief Operations Officer shared the proposed 2023 Board meeting schedule. He noted the February meeting was moved to the first Tuesday due to the budget presentation and workshops. The April regular Board meeting was moved to the third Tuesday due to the spring recess.

A motion was made by L. Easmon and seconded by F. Bogle-Assegai for the Bloomfield Board of Education to approve the 2023 Board of Education meeting schedule, as presented.

The motion passed unanimously.

10. CABA Updates

Mr. Donald Harris, Jr. reminded Board of Education members about the CABA/CAPSS convention will be held in Mystic, CT November 18-19, 2022. There is still an opportunity to sign up to attend. This year has the highest number of registrations.

Mr. Harris will be attending National School Boards Association (NSBA) Culture Diversity Conference in Miami, FL 12/8 – 12/10. He will also attend the NSBA Conference in Orlando in April.

11. Board Comments

L. Easmon wished everyone a happy Election Day. She further congratulated Sue Pinkham on her retirement. She enjoyed the student's presentation from GEMS.

F. Bogle-Assegai had no comments.

T. Moore apologized for his tardiness.

D. Harris announced the passing of two Bloomfield community members: Howard Hunter, 92 years old, was a Career Teacher at Bloomfield High School during the 90's and early 2000's. He also mentioned the passing of Chester (CJ) Gaston from the Class of 1994. He wished all a happy Thanksgiving.

12. Adjournment

At 7:51 p.m. a motion to adjourn was made by L. Easmon and seconded by F. Bogle-Assegai.

The motion passed unanimously.



J. Wilkerson, Board Secretary

J. Thompson, Ed. D., Superintendent