



BLOOMFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION – REGULAR MEETING

Tuesday, September 13, 2022 at 7:00 P.M.

Bloomfield Board of Education, Board Room

1133 Blue Hills Avenue

Bloomfield, CT 06002

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

Also Present: J. Thompson, Superintendent
W. Guzman, Chief Operations Officer
D. Nesmith, Assistant Superintendent for Accountability and Performance
D. Moleti, Human Resource Coordinator
A.M. Cullinan, Curriculum Consultant
W. Shepard-Bannish, Director of Student Support Services
L. Lamenzo, Director of School improvement
J. Titelbaum, District Data Systems Coordinator
J. White, Principal, Bloomfield High School
F. Macchi, Interim Principal, Global Experience Magnet School
T. Ellis, Principal, Carmen Arace Middle School
S. Williams, Principal, Carmen Arace Intermediate School
P. Guzzo, Principal, Metacomet Elementary School
J. Dwyer, Principal, Laurel Elementary School
S. Straker, Principal, Wintonbury Early Childhood Magnet 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 7:01 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

All rose to recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Opening Statement

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

4. Consent Agenda

A. Approval of Minutes – Regular Meeting – June 7, 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 June 7, 2022 regular Board meeting, as presented.



The motion passed unanimously.

B. Approval of Minutes – Special Meeting – June 7, 2022

Discussion: J. Wilkerson noted that the name listed on page 2 for Secretary was incorrect.

A motion was made by H. Frydman and seconded by R. Ike for the Bloomfield Board of Education to approve the minutes from the June 7, 2022 special Board meeting, with amendment to page 2, as discussed.

The motion passed unanimously.

C. Approval of Minutes – Special Meeting – June 28, 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 June 28, 2022 special Board meeting, as presented.

The motion passed unanimously.

5. Recognitions

A. Donation from Niagara Bottling

Greg Graugard, Niagara Bottling Plant Director introduced his team. Mr. Graugard presented a check to Bloomfield Public Schools in the amount of \$42,000 to be divided evenly among the seven schools. Niagara Bottling is partnering with the school district and would like to provide classroom supplies or other instructional needs to the teachers. The Board of Education thanked Niagara for its generous donation.

6. Public/PTO Comment

No public comment.

7. Superintendent's Report

A. Opening School Report

Dr. James Thompson, Jr. provided an update to the Board of Education members on the opening of schools. Dr. Thompson noted that the district's goals for the upcoming year:

- Developing an Early Literacy Academy
- Expanding corporate partnerships to support career pathways for high school students
- Implementing the Portrait of a Graduate strategic plan.

Dr. Thompson shared that positive reports were provided from each of the schools regarding the transition back to school.

B. COVID-19 Update

Mrs. Wendy Shepard-Bannish, Director of Student Support Services and COVID-19 Liaison shared the new COVID-19 Data Information Center located on the



district website. This site provides real-time data on positive case reports in the district, updated district guidelines and other resources.

Mrs. Shepard-Bannish stated there have been 48 positive cases reported since the start of school. The Superintendent's Office is no longer sending out daily positive case notification as it can be accessed on the website. She also noted that schools are still notifying families of close contacts, but are no longer contract tracing. The district has ordered additional test kits and N-95 masks.

The Board inquired about mandated vaccinations and religious exemptions. Mrs. Shepard-Bannish noted that currently the COVID-19 vaccination is not required. She also shared that mandatory immunizations and vaccines are no longer eligible for religious exemptions.

C. Human Resources Update

Mr. Daniel Moleti, Human Resources Director provided an update on the number of new staff and vacancies within the district. He noted the district has welcomed over 40 new staff members as of July 1, 2022. The district continues to actively recruit to fill those vacancies currently covered by long term substitutes.

R. Ike asked the percentage of substitutes and long-term substitutes currently covering classroom throughout the district. Mr. Moleti noted this information would be provided.

J. Wilkerson inquired about incentives for recruiting teachers.

8. New Business

A. School Updates

Mr. Desi Nesmith, Assistant Superintendent for Accountability and Performance presented a high-level overview of the first week of school. Mr. Nesmith provided information relative to supporting principals with professional development and expectations for classroom learning. He stated all district staff had an opportunity to participate in professional development on August 29th and 30th. His team visited all seven schools on the first days of school and shared highlights with the Board.

Mr. Nesmith noted administration will be working with principals to identify key levers for academic success such as attendance.

B. Review and Possible Action on the 2022-2023 Academic Calendar

Mr. William Guzman, Chief Operations Officer proposed a revised academic calendar for 2022-2023. The only suggested revision to the approved calendar was changing the full-day professional development from October 5, 2022 to October 26, 2022. The change is being requested in recognition of staff who observe Yom Kippur. Mr. Guzman noted the calendar still reflects the required 180 school days and contractual 6 professional development days.



A motion was made by H. Frydman and seconded by R. Ike for the Bloomfield Board of Education to approve the amended 2022-2023 academic calendar, as presented.

The motion passed unanimously.

C. Adoption of the Flexibilities for Implementing the CT Guidelines for Educator Evaluation for the 2022-2023 School Year

The State Board of Education approved recommendations to continue the flexibilities in 2022-2023 for implementing the guidelines for teacher evaluations. These flexibilities allow for districts to prioritize the need to focus on social/emotional and equitable learning, academic achievement and family engagement.

R. Ike asked to have a copy of the memorandum outlining the flexibilities be sent to the Board of Education.

A motion was made by H. Frydman and seconded by R. Ike for the Bloomfield Board of Education to approve the flexibilities for implementing the CT Guidelines for Educator Evaluation for the 2022-2023 school year.

The motion passed unanimously.

9. CABA Updates

Mr. Donald Harris, Jr. reported he will be attending the National School Boards Association (NSBA) - Council of Urban Boards of Education (CUBE) Annual Conference in Miami, FL from September 29 through October 1, 2022. This is an intensive two-day conference focusing on diversity, equity and inclusion.

Mr. Harris also attended the Connecticut Association of Boards of Education (CABA) Board meeting last week. He noted Patrice McCarthy is the new Executive Director. He asked any Board of Education members interested in attending the CABA/CAPSS Convention, November 18-19, 2022, to reach out to Krista Cherry.

10. Board Comments

R. Ike shared it was unreal to be back to an in-person meeting. He congratulated the seven students from Bloomfield High School who were recognized for national merit on the SAT's. He inquired about future hybrid Board meetings.

T. Moore noted it was good to be back in-person. He inquired about recognitions from the town or school district for September 11 (9/11). He also had a concern that virtual Board meetings were gone for good.

L. Easmon thanked the presenters for their information. She also acknowledged and thanked Niagara Bottling and looks forward to seeing how the schools utilize their funds. Ms. Easmon welcomed back Desi Nesmith and Lisa Lamenzo. She looks forward to a great school year.



J. Wilkerson noted tonight is his first in-person meeting. He welcomed Mr. Nesmith and Ms. Lamenzo to the Bloomfield team. He also thanked the staff and Dr. Thompson for their hard work.

H. Frydman welcomed back Mr. Nesmith and Ms. Lamenzo. He attended the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for the new pre-K program at Laurel Elementary School, called The Nest. Mr. Frydman helped with a donation of pens to Bloomfield High School from Windsor Federal Bank. He wants to see kids getting the best education possible.

D. Harris shared he was happy to be back in-person for meetings. He welcomed back Mr. Nesmith and Ms. Lamenzo. He was also in attendance at the Ribbon Cutting and encouraged Board members to take a walkthrough of the new preschool classroom. Mr. Harris also thanked Niagara Bottling for their generous donation. Mr. Harris was present on the first day of school at Carmen Arace welcoming students. He also thanked Mr. Moleti and the Human Resources department for their hard work in getting staff on-boarded for the start of school.

11. Adjournment

At 7:58 p.m. a motion to adjourn was made by R. Ike and seconded by J. Wilkerson.

The motion passed unanimously.

J. Wilkerson, Board Secretary

J. Thompson, Ed. D., Superintendent