



BLOOMFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION - REGULAR MEETING

Regular Meeting AT Tuesday, May 12, 2020

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81067293783?pwd=V01qUi95NHZF0GdkRmZKv2taYnFaQT09>

Meeting ID: 810 6729 3783 Password: 2nTKhC Dial by your location: (929) 205-6099 US Meeting

ID: 810 6729 3783 Password: 579419, 1133 Blue Hills Avenue , Bloomfield, CT 06002

1. Establishment of a Quorum and Call to Order
D. Harris
2. Pledge of Allegiance
D. Harris
3. New Board of Education Member - Welcome
D. Harris
4. Moment of Reflection
D. Harris
5. Consent Agenda
 - A. Approval of Minutes - Regular Meeting - April 7, 2020 3
D. Harris
6. Recognitions
 - A. Students - CABE Student Leadership Award Recipients
J. Thompson, D. Moleti, J. Bernabe, T. Ellis
7. Superintendent's Report
 - A. Superintendent's Update
J. Thompson
8. Public/PTO Comment
9. Old Business
 - A. Distance Learning Plan - Update
S. McCann
10. New Business
 - A. Review and Recommend Approval of the 2020-2021 Healthy Food Certification Statement
W. Guzman
 - B. Graduation - Class of 2020
S. McCann, D. Moleti, J. Bernabe
 - C. Early Start Update
A.M. Cullinan
 - D. Summer Academy Update
S. McCann



11. CAFE Updates
D. Harris
12. Board Comments
13. Adjournment
D. Harris



Board of Education Regular Meeting

Tuesday, April 7, 2020 at 7:00 P.M.

Virtual Meeting via Zoom Meeting

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/759500372?pwd=WnZ3NFhIZVVRTk1aQ2Jwam1oQnhKQT09>

Meeting ID: 759 500 372

Password: 660604

Dial by your location 1-929-205-6099

Attendance:	D. Harris, Chair	Present
	D. Bolton, Vice Chair	Present
	H. Frydman, Secretary	Present
	R. Ike	Present
	L. Easmon	Present
	T. Moore	Present

Also Present: J. Thompson, Superintendent
W. Guzman, Chief Operations Officer
S. McCann, Chief Academic Officer
B. Silver, Assistant Superintendent of Accountability and Performance
J. Robinson, Director of Technology/Human Resource Coordinator
W. Shepard-Bannish, Director of Student Support Services

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. Consent Agenda

A. Approval of Minutes – Special Meeting – February 18, 2020

A motion was made by D. Bolton and seconded by L. Easmon for the Bloomfield Board of Education to approve the minutes from the February 18, 2020 Special Board meeting, as presented.

The motion passed unanimously.

B. Approval of Minutes – Special Meeting – February 27, 2020

A motion was made by D. Bolton and seconded by L. Easmon for the Bloomfield Board of Education to approve the minutes from the February 27, 2020 Special Board meeting, as presented.

The motion passed unanimously.



4. Superintendent's Report

A. Superintendent's Update

Dr. James Thompson, Jr., Superintendent gave an update since Bloomfield Public Schools closed its seven buildings indefinitely on Monday, March 16 in response to the emerging global pandemic known as COVID -19 (Coronavirus).

Dr. Thompson noted that on March 13, 2020 students were given supplemental assignments - in their Virtual Backpack – to guide them in academic instruction. On March 30, the district launched its Bloomfield Distance Learning Plan for pre-K to grade 12 students. Distance Learning is defined as a form of education in which instruction is delivered via the internet or other forms of digital technologies.

Dr. Thompson has been meeting with district and school leaders on a regular basis. He also conducts weekly meetings with the district's crisis team and participates in regular phone conference calls with Education Commissioner Dr. Miguel Cardona and Governor Ned Lamont.

Additional updates relative to communications, facilities, meal services, grants and the school scheduled was shared. Dr. Thompson recognized the Board of Education members, district staff and families for their collaboration and cooperation during this difficult time.

R. Ike inquired about the extension of school closure and graduation. Dr. Thompson noted they are expecting to hear more information in regards to these topics from the Commissioner by the end of the week.

H. Frydman asked if the district has begun preparation for a virtual graduation ceremony. Dr. Thompson responded the district is waiting to receive guidance from the Commissioner regarding the length of the school year.

B. Financial Report – March 2020

Mr. William Guzman, Chief Operations Office reported on the financials as of March 2020. He noted the one-page report was available through the agenda posted on CABA e-meeting.

Mr. Guzman noted deficits in the salary account and the tuition account due to outside placements.

He noted there may be some potential savings in operations in maintenance of buildings account due to the closure of schools.

Kelly substitute and overtime shows a savings (\$12,000). The district is monitoring day to day and a more extensive report can be provided following the closure.



The six page report was not provided. L. Easmon asked if Mr. Guzman can send one out to the Board of Education.

T. Moore asked if the custodial staff will have overtime due to the school closures. Mr. Guzman noted their completing cleaning of the schools during their regularly scheduled hours.

L. Easmon inquired about the cost from the schools closure. She asked if the district will need to go the Town Council for additional funds or will the district be able to cover the expenses. Mr. Guzman reported the request may be of a lesser amount. The district is still paying full salaries for staff.

R. Ike asked will the Town and Board be available for reimbursement (federal/state). Mr. Guzman noted we are assessing the expenditure during the closures and some of those should be reimbursed.

D. Bolton asked if there are any staff members who were negatively affected during this time. MOUs with two non-certified bargaining groups were signed to continuing paying staff. The district is making a concerted effort to pay staff through the end of the year.

L. Easmon asked will we get a credit for bus transportation. Mr. Guzman noted this question will be answered in-part from the Governor's Executive Order.

C. Executive Order 7R

William Guzman, Chief Operations Officer reported the Governor signed Executive Order 7R on March 31, 2020. There are several areas that concern public school districts. There are three provisions: ensure the continuation of funding to Boards of Education, continuation of payment of public school staff, preservation of transportation and Special Education Services. The school districts will be renegotiating their contracts. The goal of continuing payments to providers is so they can pay their employees and ensure continuity of services should schools reopen.

About 99% of our staff is being paid. If schools should restart all of these employees will be in place to continue and open up school operations going forward which is the purpose of Executive Order 7R.

Mr. Guzman noted Executive Order 7R requires Bloomfield to make amendments to our current contracts with Dattco and Access. Bloomfield is currently working to negotiate a contract with the assistance of Shipman and Goodwin.

T. Moore asked to clarify what the Executive Order from the Governor means for transportation providers. This is an Executive Order from the Governor that states the district must negotiate the contracts with vendors to ensure continuity of services.



R. Ike asked would they amend the Executive Order if there is no school through the end of the year. Mr. Guzman noted that is at the Governor's level.

5. Presentations

A. Bloomfield Public School's Distance Learning Plan

Stacey McCann, Chief Academic Officer shared information regarding the creation of the Distance Learning Plan, launched on March 30, 2020. This document contains important resources for parents, teachers and students. It was authored by district level administrators and school leaders with full support of our Board members.

Distance Learning is defined as a form of education in which instruction is delivered via the internet or other forms of digital technologies. The creation of the document took into consideration student learning styles and student access to technology.

Ms. McCann reported participation has been uneven with 60-89% in the first week and an increase in participation the following week. Teachers and staff are making personal phone calls to ensure 100% participation.

Ms. McCann reviewed the first four pages of the Distance Learning Plan. The plan can be accessed through Virtual Backpacks on the website.

The district has received positive comments regarding communication and engagement from families. There are about 8 more weeks of instructional time until the end of the school year.

Wendy Shepard-Bannish, Director of Student Support Services provided an overview of Special Education services and 504 with the guidance provided from federal and state level as well as the Office of Civil Rights. There is no current language that guides them during a national pandemic. Bloomfield is moving forward and all service providers are reaching out to families.

The first week was reaching out to families to see how students can participate and the next level of work is to incorporate student learning styles so they can access the curriculum.

Staff are becoming proficient in conferencing/technology platforms. Mrs. Bannish noted the next level of work is figuring out how to convene PPT and 504 meetings.

John Robinson, Director of IT/Human Resources Coordinator report on page 8, Role and Responsibilities. He noted administrators and school leaders are meeting daily. Certified and support staff are communicating with families and support staff are reaching out to families that may need additional support.



Chromebooks were distributed to over 400 families and another 160 families on Thursday.

R. Ike commented he was happy to hear Chromebooks are going to our families. He asked if all students have internet access. Mr. Robinson noted not all families do but a list of vendors providing free or reduced cost services is available on our website.

H. Frydman inquired about the 65% participation rate in week 1. Ms. McCann noted the range of 69-85% varies from school to school (PreK is lowest engagement). Engagement increased in week 2.

D. Bolton shared her concern about those students who have not connected and how will the district monitor. Ms. McCann noted they are making contact with all families. All schools have reported they have reached out and are keeping record of those families they have not been able to connect with.

T. Moore asked if a family has a personal reason to refuse internet can it be held against the student. Ms. McCann stated it is the district's goal is to engage our families as many ways as possible, digital is one way and paper copy is another option.

It was further noted that attendance is something that is still on the table and the district is awaiting guidance from the CT State Department of Education. Guidance regarding the school year, grading, attendance, and a few other items should be coming from the state.

L. Easmon asked if the district is providing resources for Special Education students and resources for the parents. Mrs. Bannish noted part of her work is to search for resources for parents and giving supports for families in crisis.

6. Public/PTO Comment

Rickford Kirton, 7 Hickory Lane

Mr. Kirton noted his child has a substitute as his homeroom teacher at Carmen Arace Middle School. He asked what the district is doing to adjust to those substitute teachers. He commented that if students are coming back in the fall of next year, there are other parents who are not there, some of those students will fall behind; how will the district adjust with those shortfalls when they return? Mr. Kirton made an inquiry regarding the contract with the bus company. He stated each company has to continue paying their staff and they will receive funding from the federal government – will Bloomfield school district be considering that in the negotiations.

7. New Business

A. Discussion on Community Service Events

Howard Frydman, Board member shared ideas relative to having students participate in community events or interactions through technology. Some ideas



were setting up a virtual pen pals – which might include a study buddy with other students in other towns or states.

He noted how children can have more access to the arts by participating in virtual activities (art classes, cooking demos). He asked if any of these submitted proposals could be considered by the district. Dr. Thompson stated the staff will meet and come back with some suggestions.

8. CABA Updates

Don Harris reported that he has been in contact with CABA and its Executive Director on a daily basis. He has been on multiple calls with Board chairs across the state. Everyone has been working from home. He continues to participate in Webinars and calls with the Governor and Commissioner.

9. Board Comments

R. Ike commended Dr. Thompson and his team for the daily updates. They applauded the Distance Learning Plan which was made from scratch in these unprecedented times.

L. Easmon stated she is very impressed how everything has been handled – leaps and bounds above other districts. Everyone was prepared due to the communication we received in advance. Thank you to everyone for your hard work.

T. Moore thanked Dr. Thompson and his team. He stated he was really happy with what has been taking place during this time.

H. Frydman echoed other Board members' comments. He thanked the families and staff members for their strength during this difficult time. Happy Passover, Good Friday and Happy Easter.

D. Bolton thanked everyone for their time and effort in drafting the Distance Learning Plan as this has not been par to of the culture. She recognized the teachers for shifting their teaching styles as this must be very difficult to manage and she recognizes them. She noted there have been other districts that have not heard from their Superintendent.

D. Harris thanked Dr. Thompson, Central Office, support staff and teachers, it is a team effort and he is very impressed. Please follow the Governors recommendations – stay home, stay safe, and protect your children.

10. Adjournment

At 8:20 p.m. a motion to adjourn was made by D. Bolton and seconded by R. Ike.

The motion passed unanimously.

H. Frydman, Secretary

J. Thompson, Ed. D., Superintendent