



BLOOMFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION - BOARD OF EDUCATION SPECIAL MEETING

Board of Education Special Meeting AT Tuesday, July 28, 2020

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83965025405?pwd=a3c4amdzSDZhcGZUOTZrd3R0TnROZz09> Meeting ID: 839 6502 5405 Passcode: eR8PTR Dial-In Number (929) 205-6099 Meeting ID: 839 6502 540, 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. Consent Agenda
D. Harris
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 - A. Bloomfield Public Schools' Draft Re-Entry Plan
District Leaders
5. New Business
 - A. Approval of Revised 2020-2021 Academic Calendar
W. Guzman
6. Adjournment
D. Harris



Board of Education Regular Meeting

Tuesday, June 9, 2020 at 7:00 P.M.

Virtual Meeting via Zoom Meeting

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83726302152?pwd=YjVxTHN3dDZYZmo1MGlhVU9VUDVDUT09>

Meeting ID: 837 2630 2152

Password: 3bZxrn

Dial by your location: (929) 205-6099

Meeting ID: 837 2630 2152

Password: 430300

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	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

A.M. Cullinan, Curriculum Specialist

W. Shepard-Bannish, Director of Student Support Services

D. Moleti, Principal, Bloomfield High School

T. Ellis, Principal, Carmen Arace Middle School

J. Bernabe, Interim Principal, Global Experience Magnet

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. Consent Agenda

A. Approval of Minutes – Regular Meeting – May 12, 2020

A motion was made by D. Bolton and seconded by T. Moore for the Bloomfield Board of Education to approve the minutes from the May 12, 2020 Regular Board meeting, as presented.



D. Harris	Aye
D. Bolton	Aye
H. Frydman	Aye
R. Ike	Aye
L. Easmon	Aye
T. Moore	Abstain
F. Bogle-Assegai	Aye

The motion passed 6-0-1.

4. Presentations

A. Connecticut Association of Public School Superintendents' Awards

Dr. James Thompson presented students from Bloomfield High School, Global Magnet Experience School, Carmen Arace Middle School and Carmen Arace Intermediate School with the CAPSS Superintendents' Award. All of the nominated students demonstrate 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. Carmen Arace Middle School and Carmen Arace Intermediate School recognized two students from each school. Global Experience Magnet School recognized four students in grades 6 through 12 and Bloomfield High School recognized four students in grade 9 through 12.

B. Unified Sports Program

Wendy Shepard-Bannish, recognized four athletes who received the Mike Savage Teammate Award. Teams were also nominated by coaches and had to show dedication, partnership and unity. The teams at Carmen Arace Middle School Bloomfield High School demonstrated true inclusion and equal access to all students.

Ann Malafrente Rookie School of the Year recipient shows enthusiasm, dedication and athleticism. The Carmen Arace Dream Team participated in soccer, basketball, bowling and Track and Field for the past 2 years.

5. Public/PTO Comment

No public comments.

6. Superintendent's Report

A. Superintendent's Update

Dr. James Thompson, Jr., Superintendent gave an update to the Board of Education members relative to the school closure.

Bloomfield Public Schools closed its seven school buildings indefinitely on Monday, March 16 in response to the emerging global pandemic known as COVID -19 (Coronavirus).



Surveys have been sent to families to get their perspective about the rigor, quality, and engagement of Distance Learning.

Dr. Thompson also reported that the district has formed a re-entry task force. Bloomfield has collaborated with other school districts in virtual seminars conducted by the Connecticut Center for School Change.

It was reported to the Board that Bloomfield High School's graduation rate was 93% in 2019, up from 92% a year ago, and up from 87% in 2015.

Graduation information for Bloomfield High School and Global Experience Magnet School was shared with the members of the Board.

Dr. Thompson further provided updates relative to communication, facilities, meal services, grants and technology support.

In addition, the Superintendent spoke about his personal experiences with racial inequity and the important role educators have in making sure our students have knowledge of Black History.

John Robinson, Director of Technology and Human Resources Coordinator announced the names of the school-based Teachers of the Year to the Board of Education.

7. Old Business

A. Distance Learning Update

Dr. Bethany Silver, Assistant Superintendent of Accountability and Assessment, provided the third update on the Distance Learning Plan. The presentation shared information relative to the quality of student engagement in the learning process.

We did reach a 100% engagement in Distance Learning. Distance learning started 11 weeks ago. Dr. Silver showed a chart with the level of student engagement with four levels. The levels are correlated to the number of learning tasks that each student completed. The purpose of this data collection is to understand how well students were engaged with their studies.

In summary, 80.4% of our students had evidence of significant engagement during the Distance Learning period.

Dr. Silver shared there have been challenging situations for families and students. She noted in these situations students were identified and interventions, adaptations, and supports were provided.

Students will be receiving Distance Learning Engagement comments on their report cards. Dr. Silver encouraged students who have incomplete grades to register for the Bloomfield summer academy programs.



The district's next steps include surveying students, families and staff, to understand their well-being, successes and challenges during the Distance Learning Period, as well as how we can support our community moving forward. Responses will guide our fall 2020 planning process.

D. Bolton would like to hear input or a presentation from the teachers at a future meeting to understand more about their experience with Distance Learning.

L. Easmon asked how the Distance Learning compares to in-person learning relative to how students are progressing academically. Are there measures to compare? The standards aligned assessments will be able to provide information relative to learning gains. She also inquired about the pass/fail and if this will affect their GPA. The district grading plan on our website describes how Bloomfield will recognize student efforts during the Distance Learning period. GPA will not be negatively impacted. Dr. Ellis noted the third quarter GPA will be reflected on the report card and the final fourth quarter will be a pass or incomplete for students in grade 8. An assessment was taken to help guide course placement for next year.

R. Ike asked if the district will be looking at using Distance Learning in the future. Dr. Thompson noted that it may be used, for instance, when the district has snow days.

8. New Business

A. Equity and Diversity Report

Stacey McCann, Chief Academic Officer, provided the Board with an update on behalf of our district's Diversity and Equity taskforce. She emphasized that the district has been engaged in the work of race and equity, dating back to February 2018.

The purpose of the taskforce is to develop and implement district-wide, culturally relevant educational practices, and a multicultural curriculum within our PK-12 community.

Ms. McCann shared that the district will engage in systemic change through Professional Development workshops to equip staff with the necessary tools to:

- Recognize Implicit biases (Personal/Systemic)
- Participate in "Courageous Conversations about Race"
- Celebrate cultural historical contributions
- Revise curriculum across all content areas

Over the past 2 years, Bloomfield has partnered with experts in this field to deliver professional development workshops.

Ms. McCann shared a document with Board members which represents a visual representative of the Diversity and Equity 3 year Professional Development plan.



In addition, she shared that teachers will engage in future professional development and curriculum writing.

9. CABE Updates

Don Harris reported that every Friday, he is on a Zoom call with Board Chairs from around the state with 60-80 participants. Discussions included Distance Learning, graduation, and re-entry.

CABE is sponsoring a webinar on June 12, 2020 at 11:00 a.m. on equity, diversity and inclusion.

10. Board Comments

R. Ike noted it is very difficult to not recognize the students receiving awards in person. He encouraged young students to continue following their dreams.

L. Easmon addressed the recent incident with George Floyd – she has engaged in important conversations with her children. She congratulated the Class of 2020 at both GEMS and BHS, the student nominees and all the teachers who received the school-based Teacher of the Year awards.

T. Moore welcomed the new Board member. He congratulated all the students who have received the awards. He told the students to keep up the good work. Mr. Moore thanked administration, teachers and all school personnel for their hard work.

F. Bogle-Assegai congratulated the young people on their successes and the teachers who had to prepare for Distance Learning. She was happy to hear that Distance Learning is here to stay and is hoping to assist in providing resources so teachers can continue with those platforms.

H. Frydman served as a painful reminder of inequities within our country. He urged others to use their voice and not allow for injustices. The younger generation can vote and encouraged young people to register. He congratulated the graduating seniors and noted it is difficult to miss out on senior events, but stated nothing cannot take away everything these graduates have achieved.

D. Bolton recognized Bloomfield students, staff and administrators for their flexibility during this time. She recognized Dr. Thompson on his Op Ed piece in the Hartford Courant on Sunday. The personal and historical perspective is valuable. Ms. Bolton serves on a state committee for developing scope and sequence African American/Latino courses. SERC is organizing the plan and hoping to be implemented by all agencies by July 2022. She also thanked Don Harris for Board leadership and Dr. Thompson for his district leadership.

D. Harris noted we may have to come back for another meeting in July. Board budget needs to be adjusted due to the cut from the Town. Congratulations to Dr. Thompson and staff, daily updates and teacher effectiveness for the Distance Learning, congratulations



to Bloomfield's school-based Teachers of the Year and student receiving CAPSS awards
It has been a tough year with COVID-19 and the racial injustices.

11. Adjournment

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

The motion passed unanimously.

H. Frydman, Secretary

J. Thompson, Ed. D., Superintendent



BLOOMFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION – SPECIAL MEETING

Thursday, July 9, 2020 at 6:00 p.m.

Bloomfield Board of Education

1133 Blue Hills Avenue

Board Room

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

Also Present: J. Thompson, Superintendent
W. Guzman, Chief Operations Officer
B. Silver, Assistant Superintendent of Accountability and Performance
J. Robinson, Director of Technology/Human Resource Coordinator
E. Pierce, District Grant Specialist
D. Greco, Director of Accounting

1. Establishment of a Quorum and Call to Order

D. Harris determined a quorum was present and the Bloomfield Board of Education special meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

All rose to recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. New Business

A. Adoption of the 2020/2021 Board of Education Budget

Dr. James Thompson, Jr., Superintendent gave an introduction to the revision of the 2020/2021 budget.

Mr. Guzman, Chief Operations Officer provided information to the Board of Education on the mitigation plan to address the Town’s Council’s approved budget.

The mitigating strategies include transportation carry over money and the implementation of some maintenance projects. In addition, the district reduced the budget by \$1.72 million by restructuring the OPEB and Pension line items. This restructuring was done through the Town Financial consultants Phoenix and Holcomb & Holcomb and will not impact the Town’s bond rating.

Mr. Guzman further noted with the impact of COVID-19, the district was able to have savings in accounts such as electricity, overtime and substitutes. In addition,



there are some carryover provisions from several grants such as Alliance, IDEA and Title I.

All positions in the Superintendent's proposed budget remain in the revised 2020/2021 budget.

L. Easmon asked for more information regarding the budget credit applied to transportation. She thought the credit was also applied to the previous reduction. There was a credit of \$45,000 from the previous year. Mr. Guzman clarified that the bus companies have been paid in full with an agreement to issue an additional credit in the 2020-2021 year.

A motion was made by D. Bolton and seconded by R. Ike for the Bloomfield Board of Education to approve the 2020-2021 revised Board of Education budget in the amount of \$45,164,111 as presented.

The motion pass unanimously.

B. 2019/2020 Budget Transfers

Mr. Guzman presented the budget transfers for fiscal year 2019-2020.

The transfers are presented to the Board of Education as per the requirements of Board Policy 3160. Further, the transfers are needed to balance the accounts in preparation for the ED001 report. The ED001 report informs district expenditures to the state and the state uses this information to calculate grants.

Auditors Blum Shapiro will complete their audit prior to December 31, 2020.

D. Bolton inquired about the adjustments to the salary for Steps to Success. Mr. Greco noted the salary adjustments for this program are based on student needs for the past academic year.

A motion was made by D. Bolton and seconded by R. Ike for the Bloomfield Board of Education to approve the proposed 2019/2020 budget transfers, as presented.

The motion passed unanimously.

C. Superintendent's Evaluation 2019-2020 (discussion proposed for Executive Session)

A motion was made by D. Bolton and seconded by H. Frydman for the Bloomfield Board of Education to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of the Superintendent's Evaluation. We further invite the Superintendent, Dr. James Thompson, Jr., Attorney Chris Chinni and John Robinson Director of Technology/Human Resource Coordinator to participate.

The motion was passed unanimously.



The Board members convened into Executive Session at 6:26 p.m. and returned to public session at 7:24 p.m.

D. Possible action concerning the Superintendent's contract

A motion was made by D. Bolton and seconded by R. Ike for the Bloomfield Board of Education to continue to employ Dr. Thompson as the Superintendent of Schools through the 2022-2023 with the terms of his contract to be negotiated.

The motion was passed unanimously.

4. Adjournment

At 7:25 p.m. a motion to adjourn was made by R. Ike and seconded by T. Moore.

The motion passed unanimously.

H. Frydman, Secretary

J. Thompson, Ed. D., Superintendent