



BLOOMFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION - BLOOMFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION SPECIAL MEETING

Bloomfield Board of Education Special Meeting AT Wednesday, April 6, 2022

Virtual - Zoom Meeting

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D. Harris
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D. Harris



Board of Education Special Meeting

Wednesday, March 2, 2022 at 6:00 P.M.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81495647536?pwd=MDY4Y0ZLN25sNEd1UzRkcHhvTTFMQT09>

Meeting ID: 814 9564 7536

Passcode: PPy482

Dial-In Number: (929) 205-6099

Meeting ID: 814 9564 7536

Passcode: 455550

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

Also Present: J. Thompson, Jr., Superintendent of Schools
S. McCann, Chief Academic Officer
W. Guzman, Chief Operations Officer
J. Robinson, Director of Technology/Human Resource Coordinator
J. Titelbaum, District Data Systems Coordinator
E. Pierce, District Grant Specialist
S. Simpson, Director of Strategic Communications and Planning
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 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. Possible Board Action on Transition to Mask-Optional Protocol

On February 24, 2022 the Board of Education voted to extend mask mandate through March 31, 2022 and on February 25, 2022 the CDC released new recommendations and guidance. Wendy Shepard-Bannish, COVID-19 Liaison provided additional information about the new announcement from the CDC. The Board Chair reiterated that approximately 67% families and 62% of staff were in favor of extending the mask mandate.

A motion was made by H. Frydman and seconded by J. Wilkerson that due to the newly released guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Bloomfield Board of Education hereby moves to end the mask mandate and transition to a mask-optional protocol effective March 3, 2022.



The Board of Education asked questions and provided comments.

H. Frydman received comments from families who were in favor of keeping the mask mandate in place.

L. Easmon inquired what the principals thought and thought perhaps the district would need transition time to move to mask-optional so protocols could be reviewed with students. Dr. Thompson noted that viewpoints are mixed. Mrs. Shepard-Bannish noted transportation would match the district decision.

L. Easmon also stated the Board should consider the age of Wintonbury students, as they are not vaccinated and asked if the board can consider mandates by school. Dr. Thompson stated it was advised by legal counsel for the decision to be district-wide.

J. Wilkerson reiterated the results of survey of were in favor of extending the mask mandate, but he was unsure of those sentiments would change based on the CDC guidelines. J. Titelbaum reviewed the mask survey results.

T. Moore is in favor of leaving the option up to the families.

R. Ike shared he strongly supports the district's efforts in health education however he is in favor of leaving the option of wearing masks to the parent or guardian.

L. Easmon asked for clarification if staff would be required to enforce wearing masks. She also reiterated that she would be in favor of changing the date to March 15th.

J. Wilkerson asked what the data trends looked at in district for staff and students, specifically at Wintonbury as well. Mrs. Shepard-Bannish reviewed the recent data.

F. Bogle-Assegai stated if we move to mask-optional we need to be very clear that staff will not be policing wearing masks. She would also suggest amending the motion so that there is a week before the transition.

H. Frydman noted that there would not be much of a change if the date was amended from the 31st to the 15th.

Vote:

R. Ike	Aye
T. Moore	Aye
L. Easmon	Nay
H. Frydman	Nay
J. Wilkerson	Nay
F. Bogle-Assegai	Nay
D. Harris	Nay

The motion failed 2-5-0.



3. Adjournment

At 6:39 p.m. a motion was made by R. Ike and seconded by H. Frydman.

The motion passed unanimously.

J. Wilkerson, Secretary

J. Thompson, Ed. D., Superintendent



Board of Education Regular Meeting
Tuesday, March 8, 2022 at 7:00 P.M. (Virtual)
Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86235361459?pwd=cGk2YlNjZDFxQ1Y0NXIUL2Z2eFRaQT09>

Meeting ID: 862 3536 1459 Passcode: KkqS4a

Dial-In Number: (929) 205-6099
Meeting ID: 862 3536 1459 Passcode: 025152

Attendance:	D. Harris, Chair	Present
	H. Frydman, Vice-Chair	Present
	J. Wilkerson, Secretary	Absent
	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
J. Robinson, Director of Technology/Human Resource Coordinator
A.M. Cullinan, Curriculum Consultant
W. Shepard-Bannish, Director of Student Support Services
J. Titelbaum, District Data Systems Coordinator
E. Pierce, District Grants Specialist
J. Bernabe, Principal, Global Experience Magnet School
D. Moleti, Principal, Bloomfield High School
J. White, Principal on Assignment, Bloomfield High 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

Howard Frydman, Board Vice-Chair, welcomed all attendees. The purpose and process of the Board of Education meeting was stated.

4. Consent Agenda

A. Approval of Minutes – Special Meeting – February 15, 2022

A motion was made by H. Frydman and seconded by R. Ike to approve the minutes from the February 15, 2022 special Board Meeting, as presented.

D. Harris	Aye
H. Frydman	Aye



R. Ike	Aye
L. Easmon	Aye
T. Moore	Aye
F. Bogle-Assegai	Abstain

The motion passed 5-0-1.

B. Approval of Minutes – Special Meeting – February 24, 2022

A motion was made by H. Frydman and seconded by R. Ike to approve the minutes from the February 24, 2022 special Board Meeting, as presented.

The motion passed unanimously.

5. Presentations

A. Student Representative Report – Global Experience Magnet School

Two student representatives were introduced by the Chairman. Students shared a Power Point providing updates from Global Experience Magnet School (GEMS). National Honor Society members are tutoring middle school students. GEMS created a book nook in the cafeteria and celebrated Black History month with a door decorating activity. GEMS Society recognizes and rewards students with high academic performance on a quarterly basis. The senior class is in the process of receiving college acceptances. GEMS participates in acts of kindness such as using sticky notes to showcase words of encouragement during midterms.

B. Recognition of John Robinson

Dr. James Thompson, Jr., Superintendent recognized John Robinson, Director of Technology and Human Resources Coordinator who will be retiring on April 1, 2022. He commended Mr. Robinson for his outstanding leadership and innovative ideas throughout his tenure in Bloomfield. The Board members extended their appreciation and congratulations to John Robinson.

6. Public/PTO Comment

Lynn Weisel, 17 Maple Edge Drive thanked the Board of Education and Dr. Thompson for their leadership during the pandemic. Her son started Kindergarten during COVID-19 and has had a great experience at Laurel. She wanted to share her appreciation.

Jennie Kelly, 31 High Hill stated 90% of school districts have lifted the mask mandate. Higher performing districts have already lifted the mandate. The Board based their decision on a survey in mid-February, and she questioned its validity. She further stated that long-term studies are showing masks don't help prevent the spread in school. She also stated, given the urgency of the situation, if the Board will consider appealing the mandate.

Tom Slavens, 6 Waverly Way, East Granby, his child attends Wintonbury. He is asking the Board to reconsider the mask mandate based on the new recommendations from the federal organizations such as the CDC. He further stated that students are not making the connections at school and noted the long lasting effects of masks on young students.



Tony Roy, 12 Knollwood Road is a resident of Bloomfield and employee of the district. He stated many of his students and families are relieved to continue with masks and added how resilient children have been. He stated his students are older and may not have the development effects of the younger student but has been very happy with the leadership of the district throughout the pandemic.

Angel Panther, 6 Waverly Way said her main concern is that her child comes home from Wintonbury daily with headaches. Her speech had been delayed and she is very concerned about her development. She stated wearing masks should be the choice of the parents and families. She would like the Board to consider going to mask optional as this would be a fair option at this time.

7. Superintendent's Report

A. Superintendent's Update

Dr. James Thompson, Jr. recognized the Board members in honor of Connecticut Board of Education Appreciation Month. He thanked the Board for their hard work and dedication to our school district.

Dr. Thompson also recognized Condoleezza Coleman, a senior at Bloomfield High School, who has been selected the 2022 Connecticut Distinguished Young Woman Award winner.

He also gave a report on Bloomfield's Talented and Gifted (TAG) program which provides services to students in grades 3-8. He noted the program is in its implementation stage. To date, the district has almost completed all student assessments, held staff meetings focused on the identification process and implemented curriculum work in the classrooms.

B. Financial Report – February 2022

Mr. William Guzman, Chief Operations Office reported on the financials as of March 3, 2022. He noted that \$625,700 or 1.34% of the adopted budget has yet to be expended or encumbered.

Mr. Guzman noted on the one-page report, two major accounts have deficits at this time (02) Non-Certified Salaries and (08) Tuition.

In respect to major account (02) there are two sub-accounts that are over budget, 1220 Salaries – Tutors due to additional English Language Learner tutors that were required for educational purposes and 1230 Salaries – Paraprofessionals required for Special Education needs.

On page 2 of the 6-page report, account 1290 is over expended due to custodial and maintenance overtime as a result of coverages due to absences and inclement weather overtime.



On page 4 of the 6-page report, major account tuition remains over budget due to the additional special education students attending out-of-district placements and the 49 additional students attending magnet schools.

H. Frydman inquired if the district anticipates any overages as a result of the rising fuel costs. Mr. Guzman noted the district will have to monitor the account as the district does purchase diesel fuel.

L. Easmon inquired what the district is doing to reach out to families who are opting to go to magnet schools. Dr. Thompson stated the district is focusing on efforts to inform families about what Bloomfield has to offer and will share their marketing plan at the committee meeting in April.

R. Ike noted, with the new Sheff vs. O'Neil settlement, the cost for magnet school tuition could go higher. He asked Mr. Guzman if the district could provide an update on how we purchase our utilities. Mr. Guzman noted we participate in cooperative purchasing for cost savings when we have the opportunity. He also spoke about the electrical savings as a result of the solar panel projects.

T. Moore inquired about trading schools and if there would be a cost savings to have trades in-district. Mr. Harris noted the district had some trades at the high school but the programming is not as comprehensive as the technical schools. Mr. Robinson noted a new teacher was hired in-district at the Agri-Science center and is looking to expand some programs at the high school, such as welding.

8. Old Business

A. Talented and Gifted Update

Anne Marie Cullinan, Curriculum Consultant, and TAG teachers, Juanita Richardson and Jeannie Pascon provided an update on the implementation of the Talented and Gifted program in Bloomfield.

To date, over 670 students in grades 4-8 have been assessed and staff meetings have been held to review the nomination process. The testing process using Naglieri Nonverbal Ability Test (NNAT3) was shared by Ms. Richardson. The identification of students was also reviewed with consideration to performance scores and teacher recommendations.

Ms. Pascon reviewed the curriculum development process and Renzulli's Enrichment Triad model. She reiterated the TAG program is comprised of both small group pull-outs and full class enrichment.

L. Easmon stated she is excited to see the progress of the TAG program and happy to see the district is exploring the Witness Stones program.

H. Frydman was hopeful to see some of the TAG student exhibits if the times permit.



F. Bogle-Assegai asked about the Witness Stones project and would like to hear additional information about the benefits. She also inquired if there has been any resistance from teachers about the implementation of the Renzulli program. She also asked if there is a limit of students to participate in TAG. Ms. Cullinan noted there is no a cap at this time but we have to be cognizant that there are two educators for the program. She also stated they are looking at giftedness in both academics and arts. The whole school model offers educators the opportunity to share professional development on how to differentiate instruction and is part of the plan for next year. It is a collaborative approach with the teachers.

9. New Business

A. Observation of Juneteenth for Discussion and Possible Action

Dr. James Thompson, Jr. provided a historical context to the Juneteenth holiday, which was enacted as a federal holiday by Congress in 2021. Governor Ned Lamont issued a proclamation last June declaring June 19, 2021 “Juneteenth Day in Connecticut.” A recommendation was made to adopt this as a district holiday.

A motion was made by H. Frydman and seconded by R. Ike to recognize Juneteenth (June 19) as a school district holiday beginning in academic year 2022-2023.

The motion passed unanimously.

10. CABE Updates

Mr. Donald Harris stated CABE is going on a retreat in two week. NSBA Convention is March 31st in San Diego.

11. Board Comments

R. Ike congratulated Mr. Robinson and Mr. Moleti who has been promoted. He also recognized Mr. White, who is the Interim Principal at Bloomfield High School. He also acknowledged the GEMS Board Representative, a sophomore, is taking college courses.

T. Moore thanked all the presenters and the information they shared. He encouraged the Board to look at all information relative to the mask mandate. He also noted the budget approval process and he did not accept the proposed budget due to the amount of money the district spends on salaries. He also shared concerns regarding the transportation costs. Mr. Moore follow-up about the NBC news attending a previous Board meeting. He stated he is here for the Town and not a political party.

F. Bogle-Assegai wished Mr. Robinson well in his retirement.

L. Easmon noted a follow-up email was provided regarding channel 30 and it was a recording line from their assignment desk. Ms. Easmon stated she struggled at the last meeting when deliberating about the mask mandate. She feels they did the greatest good

for the most people. She encouraged the community to attend the Board meetings. She congratulated Mr. Robinson on his retirement, Mr. Moleti and Mr. White. She thanked all



presenters and congratulated Ms. Coleman on her award. Happy International Women's Day.

H. Frydman thanked the speakers and sent out his congratulation to Condoleezza Coleman, a senior at Bloomfield High School. He extended his appreciation to John Robinson for his hard work. Mr. Frydman reminded attendees that the Board is presenting its approved budget to the Town Council on Thursday, March 10th.

D. Harris stated that over twelve years he feels the Board has operated as a non-partisan Board and the Board has not acted with political intentions. He thanked John Robinson for his dedication to the district. He thanked Anne Marie Cullinan and the TAG teachers for their presentation. He is excited for the start of this program in Bloomfield. He also thanked Mr. Bernabe and GEMS students for their report.

12. Adjournment

At 8:41 p.m. a motion to adjourn was made by R. Ike and seconded by H. Frydman.

The motion passed unanimously.

J. Wilkerson, Secretary

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

Bloomfield

BOE EXPENDITURE REPORT BY MAJOR OBJECT

Account Number / Description	Reclassified Budget 7/1/2021 - 6/30/2022	Expenses YTD 7/1/2021 - 6/30/2022	Encumbrances 7/1/2021 - 6/30/2022	Balance Before Req's Sub. 7/1/2021 - 6/30/2022	Submitted Requisitions 7/1/2021 - 6/30/2022	Balance After Req's Sub	Percent Remaining 7/1/2021 - 6/30/2022
01 CERTIFIED SALARIES	\$15,620,322.00	\$10,465,216.17	\$5,060,862.19	\$94,243.64	\$0.00	\$94,243.64	0.60%
02 NON-CERTIFIED SALARIES	\$7,886,997.00	\$5,741,967.18	\$2,070,116.77	\$74,913.05	\$0.00	\$74,913.05	0.94%
03 EMPLOYEE BENEFITS	\$10,935,619.00	\$7,861,903.72	\$2,438,371.63	\$635,343.65	\$2,000.00	\$633,343.65	5.80%
04 CONTRACTED SERVICES	\$2,160,530.00	\$1,423,701.98	\$542,514.98	\$194,313.04	\$15,000.00	\$179,313.04	8.99%
05 PUPIL TRANSPORTATION	\$3,226,013.00	\$1,971,528.29	\$1,176,191.07	\$78,293.64	\$2,117.25	\$76,176.39	2.42%
06 INSURANCE	\$212,721.00	\$158,312.60	\$47,530.40	\$6,878.00	\$0.00	\$6,878.00	3.23%
07 COMMUNICATIONS	\$137,465.00	\$82,845.34	\$25,321.51	\$29,298.15	\$0.00	\$29,298.15	21.31%
08 TUITION	\$4,077,759.00	\$2,625,142.00	\$2,360,550.12	\$(907,933.12)	\$0.00	\$(907,933.12)	(22.26)%
09 OTHER PURCHASED SERVICES	\$92,552.00	\$40,372.36	\$16,580.58	\$35,599.06	\$65.00	\$35,534.06	38.46%
10 SUPPLIES	\$489,671.00	\$303,876.47	\$96,975.39	\$88,819.14	\$473.11	\$88,346.03	18.13%
11 OPERATION & MAINTENANCE OF BUILDINGS	\$1,549,055.00	\$794,589.44	\$622,122.60	\$132,342.96	\$0.00	\$132,342.96	8.54%
12 TEXTBOOKS/LIBRARY BOOKS/OTHER SUPPL	\$72,192.00	\$34,369.45	\$9,982.49	\$27,840.06	\$1,910.28	\$25,929.78	38.56%
13 EQUIPMENT	\$126,150.00	\$49,202.88	\$40,933.19	\$36,013.93	\$2,306.45	\$33,707.48	28.54%
14 MISCELLANEOUS	\$151,521.00	\$109,551.13	\$26,235.22	\$15,734.65	\$0.00	\$15,734.65	10.38%
GRAND TOTAL	\$46,738,567.00	\$31,662,579.01	\$14,534,288.14	\$541,699.85	\$23,872.09	\$517,827.76	1.15%