



BLOOMFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION - BOARD OF EDUCATION CURRICULUM COMMITTEE MEETING

Board of Education Curriculum Committee Meeting AT Thursday, April 25, 2024

Bloomfield Board of Education - Board Room 1133 Blue Hills Ave. Bloomfield, CT 06002, 1133 Blue Hills Avenue , Bloomfield, CT 06002

1. Establishment of a Quorum and Call to Order  
H. Frydman
2. Consent Agenda
  - A. Approval of Minutes - Curriculum Committee Meeting - March 26, 2024  
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3. New Business
  - A. Music and Performing Arts Update  
A.M. Cullinan, D. Jones, and S. Crimi 5
4. Adjournment  
H. Frydman



Board of Education – Curriculum Committee Meeting  
Tuesday, March 26, 2024 at 6:30 P.M.  
Bloomfield Board of Education, Board Room  
1133 Blue Hills Avenue  
Bloomfield, CT 06002

**ATTENDANCE:** H. Frydman, Chair Absent  
T. Mack-Mohammed Present  
F. Bogle-Assegai Present  
L. Easmon *ex-officio* Present

**ALSO PRESENT:** L. Simone T. Moore B. Silver  
D. Nesmith L. Lamenzo J. White  
J. Edwards B. Niemitz C. Davis

**1. Establishment of a Quorum and Call to Order**

L. Easmon called the meeting to order at 6:36 p.m. The roll was called and a quorum was present.

**2. Consent Agenda**

**A. Approval of Minutes – Curriculum Committee – January 23, 2024**

A motion was made by F. Bogle-Assegai and seconded by T. Mack-Mohammed for the Curriculum Committee to approve the meeting minutes from January 23, 2024, as presented.

F. Bogle-Assegai Aye  
T. Mack-Mohammed Aye  
L. Easmon Aye

The motion was passed unanimously 3-0-0.

**3. New Business**

**A. Building Thinking Classrooms in Mathematics**

Lisa Lamenzo, Director of School Improvement, Brenda Niemitz, Bloomfield High School Director of Numeracy and Science and Coralin Davis, Global Experience Magnet School Mathematics teachers provided the Curriculum Committee with an update on the Building Thinking Classrooms initiative.

The Building Thinking Classrooms (BTC) framework consists of 14 practices to create the optimal conditions for mathematical thinking, collaborating and learning. It is research based, promotes student engagement and increased critical thinking. The committee members participated in a sample lesson.



This initiative will be used by Grade 6-12 math teachers, special education teachers and instructional support staff. This year the program is being piloted by several teachers. Next year, it will be implemented to grade 6-12 mathematics classrooms.

A timeline was provided and information regarding professional development and family communication was shared.

Ms. Lamenzo noted how this initiative is directly related to the Portrait of a Graduate.

F. Bogle-Assegai asked if other districts use the BTC model and how long the model has been in use. It was noted that the team researching Building Thinking Classrooms framework visited Glastonbury Public Schools to see how it is being utilized. The author Peter Liljedahl translated his 15 years of research to develop these practices.

T. Mack-Mohammed inquired if this would be shared with younger grades. Ms. Lamenzo noted that the current math curriculum, Bridges, has similar strategies already incorporated.

L. Easmon and T. Moore asked how they get students to engage. Ms. Davis noted it is about establishing a culture in the classroom and building relationships – it is a collective approach.

## **B. District Increasing Educator Diversity Plan**

Jesse White, Principal at Bloomfield High School and Jaunice Edwards-Hassan, Director of the Donald F. Harris Agri-Science Center shared Bloomfield's proposed Increasing Educator Diversity (IED) Plan with the Curriculum Committee. This plan is required to be approved by the Board of Education in compliance with Public Act 23-167 Sec. 10. The diversity plan is intended to increase the recruitment, hiring and retention of educators of color. A link to the legislative mandate, effective July 1, 2023 was provided.

There are three areas of focus:

1. Recruitment – include broadening the candidate pool to better represent the student demographics.
2. Hiring and Selection – establish diverse committees to analyze current hiring procedures and practices to outline the ideal candidate profile and craft incentives.
3. Retention – create a support network and partnerships to foster retention of a diverse staff. This includes teacher preparatory pipelines, mentors, scholarships, partnerships with affinity groups and promoting cross-endorsements.

The district template plans and various resources were shared.

L. Simone inquired about the alternate routes for certification programs that Bloomfield participates in.



L. Simone and T. Mack-Mohammed both noted the importance of marketing, the state and town benefits, to recruit staff.

T. Mack-Mohammed noted the use of pointed recruitment at historically black colleges and universities (HBCUs).

A motion was made by T. Mack-Mohammed and seconded by F. Bogle-Assegai for the Curriculum Committee to recommend to the Board of Education for review and possible action – the increasing educator diversity plan - at the April regular Board meeting.

F. Bogle-Assegai	Aye
T. Mack-Mohammed	Aye
L. Easmon	Aye

The motion was passed unanimously 3-0-0.

#### **4. Adjournment**

At 7:40 p.m., a motion was made by L. Easmon and seconded by T. Mack-Mohammed to adjourn.

The motion passed unanimously 3-0-0.

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H. Frydman, Chair

Bloomfield Public Schools



FOCUS ON THE  
ARTS

2024



# FOCUS ON THE ARTS

## Performing Arts

Music, Band, Chorus and Theater

# Music Program in the Bloomfield School System

## *Mrs. Crimi & Ms. Jones*

- Elementary Music at Laurel and Metacomet
  - Community Forum
- General Music and Ukulele at CAIS & CAMS
- Music offerings at BHS



# Band and Chorus – K-12

*Mrs. Shanna Crimi & Ms. Dorothea Jones*

- Chorus at Laurel - Grade 2
- Chorus at Metacomet
  - Travel choir and concert choir
- Chorus at Arace
- Band at Arace
  - Community Involvement
- Voices of Inspiration and Concert Choir at BHS
- Band at BHS



# Theater

## *Mrs. Shanna Crimi*

- Theater District Wide
  - The Wiz 2008
  - Guys and Dolls 2009
  - Annie 2018
  - High School Musical 2019
- Theater at Arace
  - Seussical Jr 2011
  - Schoolhouse Rock Jr 2012
  - Midsummer Nights Dream 2013
  - Cinderella 2015
  - Descendants 2023
  - Cinderella 2024

# Musical Arts

- Music-making contributes to the development of essential cognitive systems, which include reasoning, creativity, thinking, decision making, and problem-solving



# Benefits of Arts Education for Students

- Students immersed in the ARTS get the opportunity to experience the world, and themselves in a different way: one that cultivates cognitive abilities, nurtures positive character traits and fosters critical thinking.



# Arts with the Brain in Mind

## The Benefits of Music Education:

- Builds Confidence
- Raises self-esteem
- Builds up critical thinking
- Nurtures self-discovery and personal meaning
- Teaches collaboration
- Promotes acceptance of new people and ideas
- Trains healthy risk-taking

# Arts Night Schedule

*Join us for an evening of Art and Music at the times below:*

Bloomfield High School – May 9, 2024, 6:30 pm

Carmen Arace Middle School – May 15, 2024, 6:30 pm

Laurel Literacy Academy – May 16, 2024, 5:30 pm

Metacomet Elementary School – May 21, 2024, 6:00 pm

Carmen Arace Intermediate School – May 22, 2024, 6:30pm

All Arts Nights will be held at their respective schools.

# Department Awards



