



Board of Education Regular Meeting

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

Virtual Meeting via Zoom Meeting

Join Zoom Meeting

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Meeting ID: 837 2630 2152

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Dial by your location: (929) 205-6099

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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