



Board of Education Regular Meeting

Tuesday, May 12, 2020 at 7:00 P.M.

Virtual Meeting via Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81067293783?pwd=V01qUi95NHZFOGdkRmZKV2taYnFaQT09>

Meeting ID: 810 6729 3783

Password: 2nTKhC

Dial by your location: (929) 205-6099 US

Meeting ID: 810 6729 3783

Password: 579419

<b>Attendance:</b>	D. Harris, Chair	Present
	D. Bolton, Vice Chair	Present
	H. Frydman, Secretary	Present
	R. Ike	Present
	L. Easmon	Present
	T. Moore	Absent
	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

**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 7:02 p.m.

**2. Pledge of Allegiance**

All rose to recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

**3. New Board of Education – Member**

Mr. Harris welcomed new Board of Education member, Femi Bogle-Assegai. She thanked them for the warm welcome and looks forward to learning about Board processes.

**4. Moment of Reflection**

D. Harris asked for a moment of silence.



## 5. Consent Agenda

### A. Approval of Minutes – Regular Meeting – April 7, 2020

D. Bolton noted one edit to the meeting minutes from April 7, 2020 under Board Comments, it should state “part of the culture”, noting a typing error.

A motion was made by D. Bolton and seconded by R. Ike for the Bloomfield Board of Education to approve the minutes from the April 7, 2020 Regular Board meeting, as amended.

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

The motion passed 5-0-1.

## 6. Recognitions

### A. Students - CABE Student Leadership Award Recipients

The Connecticut Association of Boards of Education, Student Leadership Awards were presented to students from Carmen Arace Middle School, Global Experience Magnet School and Bloomfield High School. Dr. Thompson noted that this annual award program recognizes students in the middle and high schools who exhibit exemplary leadership skills. To qualify as a recipient of this award, students must demonstrate diplomacy, be willing to take on challenges, possess the ability to work with others, and have the capability to make difficult decisions.

## 7. 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).

Dr. Thompson provided an update relative to the Bloomfield Distance Learning Plan which was launched on March 30. The district has a goal of reaching 100% of student engagement and the district has successfully reached 99.7%.

Last week, Governor Lamont announced that CT public schools would be closed for the remainder of the academic year. Bloomfield’s last day of school is June 15. Students are expected to participate in distance learning until then. The CIAC has cancelled spring sports and is looking at criteria for fall participation. Discussion about fall sports is on-going.



Dr. Thompson further provided updates relative to a re-entry plan, communication, facilities, meal services, grants and technology support.

## 8. Public/PTO Comment

### Vudonzi Graham-Days, 89 Wintonbury Avenue

Ms. Graham-Days addressed the Board of Education. She shared concerns relative to the transition into the virtual Distance Learning arena. She asked the following questions: Have you looked at additional cost of IT support? Why were Chromebooks given to teachers? Were there additional needs for Chromebooks for our students?

## 9. Old Business

### A. Distance Learning Plan – Update

Stacey McCann, Chief Academic Officer noted the district is in the 6<sup>th</sup> week of implementing Bloomfield’s Distance Learning Plan. The district has made significant gains in student engagement. In addition, each school has put together individualized schedules for the social/emotional development. Some of the work being done in this area include:

- Morning announcements that provide positive school climate initiatives.
- Modifying schedules to ensure time is dedicated to social and emotional needs, intervention and enrichment opportunities.
- All district counselors, social workers and school psychologists have been available to support district families who are in need.

The district has also received feedback from students and parents about their engagement with Distance Learning. School Leaders are using this data to better support their community.

A recent district-wide professional development was held on April 28th for our teachers and best-practices in the use of technology platforms were shared.

Student Support Services is in the process of composing and implementing Individualized Distance Learning Plans that are in alignment with each student’s IEP or 504 plan.

## 10. New Business

### A. Review and Recommend Approval of the 2020-2021 Healthy Food Certification Statement

William Guzman, Chief Operations Officer presented the 2020-2021 Healthy Food Certification statement to the Board of Education. This is part of the district’s ongoing participation in the National Lunch Program.

Compliance in the program requires that we monitor the sale of foods at events during afterschool hours. Mr. Guzman noted the resolution is provided to us by the CT State Department of Education. Districts who participate in the free meal plans must take action annually.



A motion was made by D. Bolton and seconded by R. Ike for the Bloomfield Board of Education to approve the Healthy Food Option Certification. Pursuant to C.G.S. Section 10-215f, the Board of Education or governing authority certifies that all food items offered for sale to students in the schools under its jurisdiction, and not exempted from the Connecticut Nutrition Standards published by the Connecticut State Department of Education, will comply with the Connecticut Nutrition Standards during the period of July 1, 2020, through June 30, 2021. This certification shall include all food offered for sale to students separately from reimbursable meals at all times and from all sources, including but not limited to, school stores, vending machines, school cafeterias, and any fundraising activities on school premises sponsored by the school or by non-school organizations and groups.

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

The motion passed 5-0-1.

A motion was made by D. Bolton and seconded by R. Ike for the Bloomfield Board of Education to approve the Food Exemptions Statement. The Bloomfield Board of Education will allow the sale to students of food items that do not meet the Connecticut Nutrition Standards provided that the following conditions are met: 1) the sale is in connection with an event occurring after the end of the regular school day or on the weekend; 2) the sale is at the location of the event; and 3) the food items are not sold from a vending machine or school store. An “event” is an occurrence that involves more than just a regularly scheduled practice, meeting, or extracurricular activity. For example, soccer games, school plays, and interscholastic debates are events but soccer practices, play rehearsals, and debate team meetings are not. The “regular school day” is the period from midnight before to 30 minutes after the end of the official school day. “Location” means where the event is being held, and must be the same place as food sales.

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

The motion passed 5-0-1.



A motion was made by D. Bolton and seconded by R. Ike for the Bloomfield Board of Education to approve the Beverage Exemptions Statement. The Bloomfield Board of Education will allow the sale to students of beverages not listed in Section 10-221q of the Connecticut General Statutes provided that the following conditions are met: 1) the sale is in connection with an event occurring after the end of the regular school day or on the weekend; 2) the sale is at the location of the event; and 3) the beverages are not sold from a vending machine or school store. An “event” is an occurrence that involves more than just a regularly scheduled practice, meeting or extracurricular activity. The “school day” is the period from midnight before to 30 minutes after the end of the official school day. “Location” means where the event is being held, and must be the same place as the beverage sales.

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

The motion passed 5-0-1.

#### **B. Graduation - Class of 2020**

Stacey McCann, Chief Academic Officer, shared that the district looks forward to celebrating the Class of 2020. In an effort to follow the CDC guidelines and to ensure the safety and wellness of everyone, we have advised both high school principals to pursue a commencement that ensures social distancing.

The district started a committee comprised of administrators, school staff, students and parents. Students want to be celebrated but a traditional graduation will not take place. This year is the 100<sup>th</sup> graduation class for Bloomfield High School.

When the district has a finalized plan it will be shared with the Board of Education.

Dan Moleti, Principal of Bloomfield High School noted a survey was sent out to gather some feedback on graduation plans. Some considerations included a virtual graduation, car parade, a postponement of the ceremony or hosting at a drive-in.

#### **C. Early Start Update**

Anne Marie Cullinan, presented an Early Start update for the summer of 2020. The program will run from July 6 through July 24 and will be a virtual distance learning program.



She shared evidence for benefits of summer learning. The program will include:

- 18 instructional hours in reading/writing
- 15 instructional hours in math
- 8 hours of social emotional learning (SEL)

The district will be using Google Classroom and Zoom meeting. She noted the importance for teachers to have more face-to-face time with students and real time instruction.

Students will continue to be eligible for breakfast and lunch. In addition, school social workers will be available this summer to reach out if needed.

Virtual field trips with community partners will be a component of the program. The district is partnering with Prosser Library and AuerFarm, among other activities such as a virtual trip to the San Diego Zoo.

Registration will be open from May 11-20 and families have been notified.

Central Office will post positions, hire staff, ensure alignment of the curriculum, monitor attendance and oversee professional development.

R. Ike commended the district on creating a virtual summer program for our students.

D. Bolton asked Anne Marie Cullinan if the program is open to all Bloomfield students. She confirmed it is. She also noted that students who attend extension will be able to participate.

It was further noted that students would remain with their current teacher/grade of record for continuity. Only grade 8 students would transition during the summer program.

It was noted a “move up day” with virtual tours of new school has been considered by some principals in response as to how the school transition will be handled.

#### **D. Summer Academy Update**

Stacey McCann presented on the Summer Academy update for the traditional summer academy. This year will be different as it will be through the virtual learning platform.

It will be a three week program with core content areas in English Language Arts, Math and science.

This summer program will also provide an opportunity for students ending the school year with incompletes to complete work. The district will hire additional teachers to work with these students on an individualized basis.



The program will run from July 6-July 24 (4 hours per day) – this allows students to earn a ½ credit. Outside the summer academy they have the opportunity to make-up work and the program will be personalized, as needed.

The high school staff will have one-on-one office hours. The high school will partner with outside organizations by virtual internships and virtual community service projects.

The meal service will continue to be provided and the high school is working collaboratively with Global Experience Magnet School.

### **11. CABA Updates**

Don Harris reported that every Friday, he is on a Zoom call with Board Chairs from around the state with 60-80 participants. Mr. Harris met with the Chairman of CCM and they talked about the importance of municipalities and school districts collaborating.

He shared a draft of the OpEd article, co-written with Michael Freda, President of the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities.

### **12. Board Comments**

R. Ike welcomed new Board member. May and June are the biggest meetings where we recognize academic excellence with student awards. High school track is a huge community resource and but it unfortunately had to be closed to the public.

L. Easmon welcomed our new Board of Education member and congratulated our CABA Student Leadership award recipients. She noted she is looking forward to what we come up with in regards to graduation and hoping we can celebrate our seniors. She thanked the teachers and staff for their dedication so that our students can learn and get the resources they need.

F. Bogle-Assegai thanked the Board members for welcoming her. She shared that she is currently observing how the Board functions and Board of Education processes. She stated students have done well and should be recognized more at the meetings.

H. Frydman thanked the administrators for keeping the community and Board up to date. Recently, he had a student reach out to him who is volunteering in the community and he was very impressed. He wished all Bloomfield teachers a special thanks in honor of Teacher Appreciation week.

D. Bolton noted that last week was Teacher Appreciation week. She shared navigating distance learning is new for principals too and she recognized their work. She highlighted some Bloomfield administrators reading to our community and commended them. Ms. Bolton also commended Bloomfield on their Distance Learning Plan with a fantastic student engagement. She noted she is a member of an advisory group looking at Latino and African American studies in CT and will provide an update in June.

D. Harris welcomed Bogle-Assegai. He thanked Dr. Thompson for the daily messages.



He noted the next Board of Education meeting will be June 9, 2020. As we get updates, he will be sure we share the information.

**13. Adjournment**

At 8:34 p.m. a motion to adjourn was made by R. Ike and seconded by H. Frydman.

The motion passed unanimously.

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H. Frydman, Secretary

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J. Thompson, Ed. D., Superintendent