



Board of Education Regular Meeting
Tuesday, February 9, 2021 at 7:00 P.M.
Virtual Meeting via Zoom

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81057436947?pwd=UnYzWG5KZXdmcWJXb1Z1TWdhVjBIZz09>

Meeting ID: 810 5743 6947 Passcode: JB1QmZ

Dial-In at (929) 205-6099

Meeting ID: 810 5743 6947 Passcode: 295539

Attendance:	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 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
E. Pierce, District Grants Specialist
W. Shepard-Bannish, Director of Student Support Services
J. Bernabe, Principal, Global Experience Magnet School
D. Moleti, Principal, 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. Negro National Anthem

Timothy Haggin sang the Negro National Anthem.

4. Opening Statement

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

Board Chairman asked for a moment of silence to honor Frank DePippo who passed away on Sunday, February 7, 2021. He was a long-time teacher and coach in Bloomfield.

5. Consent Agenda

A. Approval of Minutes – Regular Meeting – January 12, 2021



A motion was made by D. Bolton and seconded by R. Ike for the Bloomfield Board of Education to approve the minutes from the January 12, 2021 regular Board Meeting, with edits as presented.

Lynette Easmon noted she was not present during the voting of the BEA contract.

Femi Bogle-Assegai requested her comment regarding district academic goals to be at “100% of students...” to be noted in the January meeting minutes.

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

The motion passed 5-0-1.

6. 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). They reported on the change of their schedule to accommodate online learning and provide more support. GEMS is distributing a monthly newspaper to keep students updated on clubs and school activities. They also created a Black History Month GEMS website highlighting student projects and resources on historically Black Colleges and Universities. The students also gave reports on recent events such as partnerships with the community, the Global Experience Magnet School promotional video, and recent guest speakers.

B. Presentation on Donors Choose - Microcontrollers to Make Coding Hands-on for Computer Science Students

Bloomfield High School teacher Mr. Andrew Angle shared a power point presentation on the Micro:bit and why it could benefit Bloomfield. The Micro controller is a self-contained computer and is sponsored by Microsoft. This is an example of a physical computer. It can be programmed using a Chromebook, PC, or a phone using the Bluetooth connection. Students can use this to code and build working models. Mr. Angle noted the Donor Choice program was fully funded and every student in his Honors Computer Science class received their own microcontroller.

7. Public/PTO Comment

No public comment.

8. Superintendent's Report

A. Superintendent's Update



Dr. James Thompson, Jr. provided an update to the Board of Education members on the status of the schools. Dr. Thompson shared information on Bloomfield's observation of Black History month and the Harlem Renaissance.

He also gave a report on the following topics:

- Health and safety update
- District Plan of Excellence 2021-2024

9. Old Business

A. Health and Safety Update

Wendy Shepard-Bannish, COVID-19 Liaison shared updated information from the COVID-19 data center. Positivity rates and secondary indicators are trending down. The positive case data monitoring is updated weekly. The majority of positive cases are students and about 40% are staff. As of the presentation, 42% of positive cases are from remote community members and there is 0% indication of spread in the school community.

Vaccinations by Connecticut towns was shared. The second tier of school staff vaccinated were the allied health workers (speech/language, psychologists, social workers, etc.). Today, vaccinations were extended to the 65+ age group.

B. Approval of Bloomfield Educator's Association Contract July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022

Mr. John Robinson, Director of Technology/Human Resource Coordinator noted the 2021-2022 contract were was revised after the last meeting. Page 48 was edited as the stipend dollar amounts were not correctly aligned on the table. The stipend dollar amounts were eorrected and have been reviewed by the Bloomfield Educator's Association.

A motion was made by D. Bolton and seconded by R. Ike for the Bloomfield Board of Education to rescind the January 12, 2021 vote on the contract with the Bloomfield Education Association.

The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by D. Bolton and seconded by H. Frydman to approve the tentative agreement between Bloomfield Board of Education and the Bloomfield Educators Association for the period July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022, as presented.

The motion passed unanimously.

10. New Business

A. Presentation of Superintendent's Proposed 2021-2022 Budget

James Thompson, Jr., Superintendent presented the 2020-2021 Superintendent's Proposed Budget. This year's budget proposal of \$46.74 million represents and overall increase of \$1.57 million, or 3.49%.



Dr. Thompson noted the key drivers as contractual increases in staff salaries, health insurance, and transportation costs for in-district and special needs students. He further noted the district's commitment to aligning resources to support students and their achievement. Dr. Thompson stated no programs would be eliminated, reasonable class sizes would be maintained, and a concerted effort would be made to acquire additional grants.

Mr. Guzman introduced a summary of the Superintendent's proposed budget and reviewed the major cost drivers.

Over the last nine years, the average increase per year has been 1.96%. Mr. Guzman noted that last year's appropriation increase of 4% was approved by the Town Council and this year's request is about .5% less at 3.49%. It was reiterated that this is a maintenance budget. The budget was reviewed with the cost center managers and the principals also solicited input from the PTO membership/parent groups in January 2021.

Account numbers (01) Certified Salaries, (02) Non-Certified Salaries and (03) Employee Benefits comprise 73.65% of the total budget. This is typical for a school budget.

The last slide shows the percentage increases and decrease by the fourteen major accounts. He noted pupil transportation had a significant increase of 16.99%. This account and other accounts will be reviewed in detail at the budget workshops.

Mr. Guzman highlighted the sections of the budget booklet, noting pages 7 (revenue state and federal grants) and the district priorities in section two. Section three provides the school summary data including demographics, school summary budget, and class size reports. Section five shows the executive summary for each of the fourteen major accounts. Starting on page 75, the budget booklet provides the entire budget in detail.

There will be a special meeting on February 25, 2021 for public comment and Board action on the proposed budget.

Individual workshops have been scheduled for all Board of Education members to review the budget and ask questions.

The Superintendent's proposed budget booklet will be available on the District website tomorrow, February 10, 2021.

B. Approval of Bloomfield Administrator's Association Contract July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2024

Mr. John Robinson, Director of Technology/Human Resource Coordinator shared the district recently completed negotiations with the Bloomfield Administrators Association.



The major provisions of the contract are that it is a three year contract and the salary increase of the contract per year is 2.83%. The premium cost share increase is 1% annually and is competitive with other districts in the state.

A motion was made by D. Bolton and seconded by R. Ike to approve the tentative agreement between Bloomfield Board of Education and the Bloomfield Administrators Association for the period July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2024.

The motion passed unanimously.

11. CABE Updates

Mr. Donald Harris is attending the National School Boards Association (NSBA) Equity symposium online.

12. Board Comments

R. Ike wished everyone a Happy Black History Month.

H. Frydman thanked Dr. Thompson and Mr. Guzman for preparing the budget information. He offered his condolences for Mr. DePippo's family. Thanked Dr. Silver for all her hard work. He is thoroughly enjoying the Harlem Renaissance events.

L. Easmon wished all a Happy Black History month and congratulated all the students on the honor roll list from Bloomfield High School. She also encouraged everyone to complete the library survey. There was a presentation by the CEEC at the Town Council meeting regarding electric buses and Ms. Easmon would like to get some more information.

F. Bogle-Assegai echoed the congratulations for the Harlem Renaissance programs and she stated she has enjoyed attending the events. She thanked Mr. Angle for coming to share his work with the Computer Science students.

D. Bolton shared her appreciation for Mr. Angle's project. She also thanked Dr. Thompson and his team for the Harlem Renaissance events although she would like to have more advance notice. She also thanked Wendy Shepard-Bannish for her presentations and noted the precautions in place in-district are working well.

D. Harris thanked Mr. Angle for taking the time to come out and explain what he does with his students. The Harlem Renaissance program was outstanding and he acknowledged the team effort. He also noted the Bloomfield Board of Education has been involved with the electric buses for about a year. He extended his sympathies to the DePippo family.

13. Adjournment

At 8:35 p.m. a motion to adjourn was made by D. Bolton and seconded by L. Easmon.

The motion passed unanimously.



H. Frydman, Secretary

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