



Board of Education Regular Meeting
Tuesday, January 12, 2021 at 7:00 P.M.
Virtual Meeting via Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86571735053?pwd=RDZFYIIIILzVQMUdYT1BYQzJvWTlyZz09>

Meeting ID: 865 7173 5053 Passcode: 9KKh1h

Dial-In at (929) 205-6099

Meeting ID: 865 7173 5053 Passcode: 956152

Attendance:	D. Harris, Chair	Present
	D. Bolton, Vice Chair	Present
	H. Frydman, 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
B. Silver, Assistant Superintendent of Accountability and Performance
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. 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. Opening Statement

Lynette Easmon, 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 in honor of those affected by the attack on Capitol on January 6, 2021.

4. Consent Agenda

A. Approval of Minutes – Regular Meeting – December 8, 2020

A motion was made by D. Bolton and seconded by R. Ike for the Bloomfield Board of Education to approve the minutes from the December 8, 2020 regular Board Meeting, as presented.

The motion passed unanimously.



5. Presentations

A. Announcement of Global Experience Magnet School Principal

Mr. John Robinson, Director of Technology/Human Resource Coordinator introduced the new Principal of Global Experience Magnet School (GEMS), Jeffrey Bernabe. He shared information about the interview process.

Mr. Bernabe has served for over a year in the capacity of Interim Principal at GEMS.

B. Announcement of District Coordinator of Extended Learning and Family and Community Engagement

Ms. Stacey McCann, Chief Academic Officer introduced Mrs. Quishema Jones District Coordinator of Extended Learning and Family and Community Engagement. Mrs. Jones is a resident of Bloomfield and has an extensive background working for non-profit organizations and leading youth and community programs.

C. Student Representative Report – Bloomfield High School

Two student representatives were introduced by the Chairman. Students shared a Power Point providing updates from Bloomfield High School. National Honor Society was held virtually on December 15, 2020 and was well attended. Virtual Parent Teacher conferences were held on December 9th and 10th. Information was shared about opportunities for BHS students such as remote Coding programs and Math Club. Bloomfield High School has a new schedule to put into place on January 19th. Recent events include Sophomore/Junior Planning Night and the Multicultural Club Book Drive. Senior college acceptances (full scholarships) were shared. Midterm exams will be held January 26th to the 29th.

6. Public/PTO Comment

No public comment.

7. 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 noted the district has provided resources to the school community on talking to children about the event that occurred at the U.S. Capitol Building on January 6, 2021.

He gave a report on the following topics:

- Health and safety update
- Transition to in-person learning
- Harlem Renaissance
- District Plan of Excellence 2021-2024
- Personnel update



B. Financial Report – December 2020

Mr. William Guzman, Chief Operations Office reported on the financials as of January 7, 2021. He noted that 3.53% of the adopted budget has yet to be expended or encumbered.

Mr. Guzman noted on the one-page report, major account (01) Certified Salaries showed a decrease in the deficit because three months of tuition receivables were posted for Special Education out-of-town services that Bloomfield provides. The deficit was \$289,000 last month and the receivables have since posted for these services.

Account (02) Non-Certified Salaries, the balance increased from \$497,507 to \$538,716 due to posting of the receivables for out-of-district services.

On Page 4 of the detailed report, accounts 5600 and 5630 (Tuition Public and Private) increased to \$276,000 from last month as a result of posting a receivable for the Excess Cost Grant provided by the state.

Page 4 account 5690, Tuition Magnet shows a deficit of \$145,000 and is the result of having 30 additional students enrolled in area Magnet Schools that were not budgeted for.

8. Old Business

A. Health and Safety Update

Wendy Shepard-Bannish, COVID-19 Liaison shared the state is at 10.72% positive rate as of today. The Health District noted there is a lag in the December data and the testing results. The new B-117 virus strain is now in Connecticut and is more transmissible. Mrs. Shepard-Bannish shared COVID-19 data specific to the school district.

Vaccinations are making progress in regards to distribution. School staff are in tier 1B and it is anticipated that on January 18th they will start administering to the second groups. Collecting information for VAMS (Vaccine Administration Management System) will start the scheduling process for group 1B.

9. New Business

A. Plan of Excellence 2021-2024

Dr. Bethany Silver, Assistant Superintendent of Accountability and Performance provided a Power Point presentation regarding the Plan of Excellence for 2021-2024. The District Data Team worked to craft a new three-year plan. Dr. Silver focused on how this plan will advance the district's work. She noted this plan is a working, living document and will be revised as needed. The highlighted sections shows new content, from the previous plan.

The Plan of Excellence sets high expectations for student outcomes and was drafted from the vision of our Board and community. It starts with the district's nine goals for the next three years.



The plan then outlines each priority. Each priority has four sections which show how the district will implement and monitor each indicator:

- Summary of Core strategies
- Summary of Action Steps
- Fidelity Indicators
- Indicator of Adult Steps

Dr. Silver described new strategies and indicators within each priority, as highlighted in the plan.

L. Easmon asked about the Portrait of the Graduate and noted her interest in hearing more information.

F. Bogle-Assegai stated the academic expectations at 80% are too low. She stated it is critical and important for the Board to set expectations high and would prefer to see expectations set at 100%. She also inquired if there is data to support the plan. It was noted there is no data from last year as the state high stakes assessments was not administered. The district has data going back two years.

R. Ike stated the district had a plan like this every year since 2012. Dr. Thompson noted the current plan that is about to sunset and that is why the district is drafting a new plan. All former plans can be accessed on our website.

B. Approval of Bloomfield Educators Association Contract July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022

Mr. John Robinson, Director of Technology/Human Resource Coordinator and School Board attorney Chris Chinni shared information relative to the new tentative Bloomfield Educators Association contract. This is a tentative agreement for one year to explore insurance options to reduce insurance costs.

The contract includes:

- 2.85% salary increase
- premium health care cost increase from 13% to 14% and
- a revision as to how the district tracks SPED caseloads

R. Ike asked about the stipend positions. Mr. Robinson clarified that stipends are for extra positions such as clubs and athletics.

Chris Chinni added it is a below average increase for the state overall. The district has had an exemplary relationship with the teachers union over time. It was a positive negotiation and additional time is needed to study the insurance.

A motion was made by D. Bolton and seconded by F. Bogle-Assegai 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.



D. Harris, Chair	Aye
D. Bolton, Vice Chair	Aye
R. Ike	Aye
T. Moore	Nay
F. Bogle-Assegai	Aye

The motion passed 4-1-0.

L. Easmon was not present during vote.

C. Approval of the proposed 2021-2022 Academic Calendar

Mr. William Guzman, Chief Operations Officer shared the proposed 2021-2022 academic calendar. The anticipated start date is September 1, 2021 with 6 full-day, professional development dates. The vacation schedules (including Spring Recess) align with neighboring towns. Federal and state holidays have been included with a tentative last date of June 14, 2022.

D. Bolton inquired if future snow days will be remote learning. Dr. Thompson noted the State Board of Education gave approval to transition to remote learning on inclement weather days for 2020-2021 only.

A motion was made by D. Bolton and seconded by R. Ike to approve the Bloomfield Board of Education 2021-2022 academic calendar, as presented.

The motion passed unanimously.

10. CABE Updates

Don Harris is hosting a webinar on Thursday at noon on Board relationships. Commissioner Dr. Cardona has been named as the Secretary of Education and he extended his congratulations.

11. Board Comments

R. Ike wished Dr. Bethany Silver the best in her new endeavor. Her expertise and reports will be missed by the members of the Board of Education. He welcomed the new staff, and stated people have a right to protest but not elicit violence.

F. Bogle-Assegai wished everyone a happy and healthy New Year. She congratulated all those staff who were promoted and those who are moving on.

T. Moore congratulated Dr. Silver and welcomed the new staff. He also noted he found the email with Board materials.

D. Bolton shared her appreciation that Mr. Angle's project was approved. She thanked Mrs. Wendy Shepard-Bannish for her reports as she is impressed with all her work. She offered Dr. Silver her congratulations and wished her success. D. Bolton also attended the Harlem Renaissance virtual celebration and stated the event was wonderful. She thanked the team members for their effort.



D. Harris thanked Dr. Thompson and staff for the Harlem Renaissance presentation. He reminded Dr. Thompson that the Board would like to invite Mr. Angle back to speak - and Dr. Thompson noted he is on the agenda for February. Mr. Harris thanked Dr. Silver, sharing she is the backbone of the district's data collection. He wished her luck in her new position.

12. Adjournment

At 8:38 p.m. a motion to adjourn was made by R. Ike and seconded by F. Bogle-Assegai.

The motion passed unanimously.

H. Frydman, Secretary

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