



BLOOMFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION – SPECIAL MEETING

Thursday, July 28, 2020 at 6:00 p.m.

Virtual Meeting

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83965025405?pwd=a3c4amdzSDZhcGZUOTZrd3R0TnROZz09>

Meeting ID: 839 6502 5405

Passcode: eR8PTR

Join via Dial-In Number

(929)205-6099

Meeting ID: 839 6502 5405

Passcode: 843513

Attendance:	D. Harris, Chair	Present
	D. Bolton, Vice Chair	Present
	H. Frydman, Secretary	Present
	R. Ike	Present
	F. Bogle-Assegai	Present (<i>entered meeting at 6:05 p.m.</i>)
	L. Easmon	Present
	T. Moore	Present

Also Present: J. Thompson, Superintendent
W. Guzman, Chief Operations Officer
B. Silver, Assistant Superintendent of Accountability and Performance
S. McCann, Chief Academic Officer
W. Shepard-Bannish, Director of Student Support Services
W. Casper, Director of Facilities and Transportation Coordinator
S. Pinkham, Director of Food Services

1. Establishment of a Quorum and Call to Order

D. Harris determined a quorum was present and called the Bloomfield Board of Education special meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

All rose to recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Consent Agenda

A. Approval of Minutes – Regular Meeting – June 9, 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 June 9, 2020 regular Board Meeting, as presented.

The motion was passed unanimously.



B. Approval of Minutes – Special Meeting – July 9, 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 July 9, 2020 special Board Meeting, as presented.

The motion was passed unanimously.

4. New Business

A. Bloomfield Public Schools' Draft Re-Opening Plan

Dr. James Thompson, Jr., Superintendent gave an introduction to the Board of Education on Bloomfield Public Schools' Fall Re-Opening Plan. A Power Point presentation was shared and provided detailed information, aligned with the 59-page re-opening plan. Dr. Thompson noted the full plan is available on the Bloomfield website.

Dr. Thompson shared information relative to the three models submitted to the State Department of Education:

- Opening schools 5 days a week, for full-day, in-person instruction;
- A hybrid model that combines in-class instruction and remote learning; and
- A continuation of at-home distance learning begun in March, 2020.

William D. Guzman, Chief Operations Officer along with Wayne Casper, Director of Facilities/Transportation Coordinator and Susan Pinkham, Director of Food Service presented information on building operations. Information relative to:

- Classroom setup and building signage
- Ventilation systems
- Bathroom protocols and cleaning
- Water systems
- Cleaning protocols
- Serving meals
- Transportation (health and safety protocols)

Wendy Shepard-Bannish, Director of Student Support Services addressed the Board of Education with information regarding the health practices and protocols for the re-opening of schools. In addition, Melanie Griffin, Bloomfield Head Nurse and Aimee Krauss, Director of Health - West Hartford Bloomfield Health District spoke in regards to practices and protocols. Further, information regarding Daily Health Screening, Containment Plans and how a positive COVID-19 diagnosis gets reported.

Dr. Bethany Silver, Assistant Superintendent of Accountability and Assessment shared the learning transition plan with the Board members. In her presentation, the hybrid model was explained.



Stacey McCann, Chief Academic Officer shared the various roles the Bloomfield community has in safely re-opening schools. Additional information was shared regarding Bloomfield's special populations and district assessments.

Ms. McCann gave an update on the district's communication plan and shared that presentations will be provided to school staff and families during the next two weeks.

Mrs. Wendy Shepard-Bannish noted that services will be put into place to support the social-emotional and mental health of students, families and staff. She recognized that many people may be struggling during this time and require additional services.

Mr. Guzman reported on after school programs including extended day, extension program and athletics.

Further, Mr. Guzman shared information relative to the planning of staff vacancies and substitutes for the re-opening. He noted that staff are currently being surveyed in regards to their return. Additionally, he noted additional professional development days that were permitted through a resolution passed by the State Board of Education.

Dr. Thompson concluded the presentation with a special thanks to Board members, administrators, teachers, staff and families.

Mr. Frydman inquired if staff and students will have their temperature checked upon entry into the building. Wendy Shepard-Bannish noted that per the guidelines from the Department of Public Health (DPH) they would be asking families and staff to conduct their own health screenings. Aimee Krauss, Director of Health - West Hartford Bloomfield Health District shared information relative to the universal health screenings from the CDC and DPH.

Mr. Frydman also asked how many students will be in each classroom. It was noted this depends on the size of the space. Many principals are repurposing areas such as the school library and cafeteria for additional space. Students are required to wear masks.

Ms. Easmon asked why the buses cannot be sanitized between each run. Mr. Casper stated they will be sanitized after the morning run and afternoon runs but not in-between the school runs. The reason is that it would require later, staggered start time and end times due to the time needed to clean. The district is considering bus monitors and assigned seating.

Mr. Ike asked if the Board members could get a tour of a school and if the district is eligible for reimbursement for COVID-19 related expenses. Dr. Thompson noted they can schedule an in-person or virtual tour. Mr. Guzman stated the



district is still determining the cost for additional expenses such staff and technology. The district does anticipate funds from the CARES Act.

Ms. Bolton inquired about the model recommended. Dr. Thompson noted the district is moving forward with the in-person fulltime instruction but is prepared to implement any model based upon guidance from the state or health department.

Mr. Moore inquired about the isolation room. Wendy Shepard-Bannish noted that is part of the containment plan.

5. New Business

A. Approval of the Revised 2020-2021 Academic Calendar

William Guzman, Chief Operations Officer presented a draft revised 2020-2021 calendar to the Board of Education. He noted the first day of school has been moved to Tuesday, September 8, 2020. The first four days of school, September 8-11, 2020 will be early dismissal days.

On July 14, 2020 the State Board of Education passed a resolution to waive up to three days of the school year to provide staff and families with additional time to safely transition back to school. The resolution reduced the number of required school days from 180 to 177 to provide for three additional days for training given the unusual circumstances.

A motion was made by D. Bolton and seconded by R. Ike for the Bloomfield Board of Education to approve the revised 2020-2021 academic calendar, as presented.

The motion was passed unanimously.

6. Adjournment

At 7:33 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