



BLOOMFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION – REGULAR MEETING

Tuesday, September 15, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85406301357?pwd=QlBkWGszWkNTWDFuSE1KZmdKQTVsQT09>

Meeting ID: 854 0630 1357

Passcode: js6C7q

Dial-In

929-205-6099 US (New York)

Meeting ID: 854 0630 1357

Passcode: 610039

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
B. Silver, Assistant Superintendent of Accountability and Performance
J. Robinson, Director of Technology/Human Resource Coordinator
A.M. Cullinan, Curriculum Consultant
W. Shepard-Bannish, Director of Student Support Services
D. Moleti, Principal, Bloomfield High School
J. Bernabe, Interim Principal, Global Experience Magnet School
T. Ellis, Principal, Carmen Arace Middle School
S. Williams, Principal, Carmen Arace Intermediate School
P. Guzzo, Principal, Metacomet Elementary School
J. Dwyer, Principal, Laurel Elementary School
S. Straker, Interim Principal, Wintonbury Early Childhood Magnet 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 7:01 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

All rose to recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Moment of Silence

Chairman Harris asked for a moment of silence in honor of Donald Pisati and Marcus Jennings.



4. Opening Statement

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

5. Consent Agenda

A. Approval of Minutes – Special Meeting – July 28, 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 28, 2020 special board meeting, as presented.

The motion passed unanimously.

6. Public/PTO Comment

Susan Sumberg, President of the BEA

Susan Sumberg addressed the Board of Education, as President of the Bloomfield Education Association. She stated she was very pleased to report the opening of school went nicely for the teachers especially in the area of health and safety. There is going to be bumps in the road and we are all here to work together.

7. Superintendent's Report

A. Opening School Report

Dr. James Thompson, Jr. provided an update to the Board of Education members on the opening of schools. Dr. Thompson noted that as the district moves into the second week of school, the focus is on:

- Maintaining the health and safety protocols established to keep everyone safe.
- Maintaining high academic expectations for our students and the implementation of a rigorous curriculum.
- Monitoring the quality and consistency of virtual engagements.
- Continuing to meet with district and school leaders on a regular basis to monitor focus areas.

Dr. Thompson gave reports in the areas of technology, personal protective equipment, transportation, meals, and communication. He shared the district's next steps:

- To review the district's contingency plan to respond to any scenario in which a school or the entire district would have to transition to a five-day Enhanced Distance Learning Plan.
- To have principals to review school contingency plans again to ensure their staff and students are fully prepared if a decision is made to transition.

8. New Business

A. District Updates

1. Health and Safety



Wendy Shepard-Bannish, Director of Student Support Services shared information relative to the Health and Safety Protocols and how to access the document on the website. She noted it will be updated as required. Metrics to monitor public health data and information about containment of illness was shared with the Board. Decisions regarding quarantining or closures are made under the guidance of the Department of Public Health. Mrs. Shepard-Bannish reviewed key COVID-19 signs and symptoms, defined close contact, and staff responsibilities when notified of a positive case.

T. Moore asked if a sick child is unable to be picked up right away - what would happen. Students need to be picked up within one hour.

L Easmon asked if the schools have utilized the isolations yet. No. Further it was inquired what would change to consider going back to five days full-time. Since August 31st Bloomfield has a total of 31 new positive cases.

2. Enhanced Distance Learning

Anne Marie Cullinan, Curriculum Consultant, shared updated information relative to the Enhanced Distance learning. The district used data from the end of the spring and summer programs – feedback from families and teachers to plan for Enhanced Distance learning. They created an outline of a schedule, teaching expectations, online tools/technology, and required more face-to-face learning for better engagement. A technology class will be provided for families to support their children.

3. Transportation

William Guzman, Chief Operations Office provided an update on transportation to the members of the Board. The two vendors for Bloomfield are Dattco and Access Transportation (for special education students). Dattco currently is running 18 buses with 288 students in Cohort A and 307 in Cohort B, with about 6-8 students per bus, per run. Buses are sanitized between each run.

The Bloomfield Police Department were available to assist with traffic concerns on the first days of school.

4. Facilities

Mr. Guzman also reported on facilities updates. Schools opened on Tuesday, September 8th. Several items that had to be in place for the opening were PPE supplies for students and staff, hand sanitizer, soap, water, desk shields, masks, and other items. The district contracted with a storage facility to house desks and other classroom furniture. In addition, an engineering firm was hired to commission the ventilation system. A cleaning company has been



contracted to clean the school buildings. The summer meal program has been extended through the winter.

5. Technology

John Robinson, Director of Technology, Human Resources Coordinator, reported technology updates. Over 1,100 Chromebooks on back order and will be received at the end of September. Devices ordered through grants including the state have been delayed into October.

Bloomfield is making progress in other technology areas including laptops from the Dalio Partnership, hot spots for families and the distribution of webcams to staff.

6. Staffing

Mr. Robinson also reported to the Board of Education on staffing as of the opening of schools. He indicated vacancies, new hires and district needs in the areas of math teachers and substitute teachers.

One Board member inquired how many teachers are teaching remotely. Mr. Robinson noted he can get this information at the next meeting.

B. School Updates

The principals from each school provided a report on the opening of 2020-2021. Information provided included highlights, information relative to instruction, and next steps.

C. Indigenous Peoples' Day

Mr. Harris made a proposal to change the name of Columbus Day (October 12, 2020) to Indigenous Peoples' Day. He noted the importance to retell history to speak for the native people not the colonizers.

Lynette Easmon, Howard Frydman and Delores Bolton were in agreement to the proposal. It was noted by F. Bogle-Assegai the holiday is not celebrated in other states.

A motion was made by D. Bolton and seconded by R. Ike for the Bloomfield Board of Education to approve the name change of the holiday scheduled from "Columbus Day" to "Indigenous Peoples' Day" on the Bloomfield academic calendar.

The motion passed unanimously.

9. CABE Updates

Don Harris reported that the Connecticut Association of Boards of Education (CABE) hosted a summer leadership workshop (6 total sessions) and was well presented and informational. Mr. Harris appointed to serve on the NSB Disabling Institutional Racism in Education, or DIRE Board.



10. Board Comments

R. Ike commented this was a very good meeting, comprehensive – John Robinson letting the Board know in advance the staffing in the schools was appreciated. He encouraged people to vote.

H. Frydman thanked Dr. Thompson and staff on their job of getting students back to school. Mr Frydman also thanked Dr. Thompson for providing the daily updates and videotaping his comments to the community.

L. Easmon attended the memorial service for Mr. Jennings and was very touched by the tribute. She gave a shout-out to Mrs. Williams for her response to parents and families. She stated she was very proud of Bloomfield and doing a great job!

F. Bogle-Assegai stated preparation clearly pays off and thanked the principals. It looks very cohesive. She said it feels like Bloomfield is on the right track.

T. Moore said Bloomfield is well prepared for the opening of school and this was not an easy task. He stated his appreciation.

D. Bolton thanked the administrators for their presentations. She serves on the advisory group for the Black and Hispanic studies curriculum. Statewide the group is working on this and will be offered in school next year. Curriculum will be submitted to the State Board of Education and has gone through a panel of experts.

D. Harris echoed comments and thanked the principals for their outstanding presentations. He stated he is a proud chairman of the Bloomfield Board of Education. The next regular meeting is October 13, 2020

11. Adjournment

At 9:10 p.m. a motion to adjourn was made by R. Ike and seconded by L. Easmon.

The motion passed unanimously.

H. Frydman, Secretary

J. Thompson, Ed. D., Superintendent