



**Doyle Center for Professional Development
7273 Wing Lake Road, Bloomfield Hills, Michigan 48301**

**MINUTES FROM THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE
BLOOMFIELD HILLS SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**March 15, 2026
4:00 p.m.**

I. Call to Order

A. Call to Order

Tareq Falah, President, called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m.

B. Attendance

Carolyn Noble, Secretary, took attendance, and the board members constituting a quorum were:

Meagan Hill, President
Tareq Falah, Vice President
Carolyn Noble, Secretary
Paul Kolin, Treasurer
Jason Abel, Trustee
Lindsay Baker, Trustee
Michelle Southward, Trustee (arrived at 4:25 p.m.)

Members of the district's administration were in attendance as follows:

Rick West, Superintendent
Rebecca Catherincchia, Executive Administrator
Joe Duda, Assistant Superintendent of HR
Karen Huyghe, Director of Communications
Kandice Moynihan, Assistant Superintendent of Business Services

II. Public Comment

There were no requests for public comment.

III. Superintendent Goals Progress Update

Rick West presented a progress update on the superintendent goals as part of his evaluation, which included executive staff evaluations, the district strategic plan, student growth assessment plan, facilities plan and sinking fund, balanced budget for the 2026-27 school year, and belonging.

The board will receive a presentation on progress on the student growth assessment plan as part of general discussion on the March 23, 2026 regular meeting.

Goal 5: A balanced budget for the 2026-27 school year

Superintendent Goal 5 directs the superintendent to develop and adopt a balanced budget for the 2026-27 school year that aligns with strategic priorities, reflects stakeholder input, ensures sustainability of essential programs and services, and meets all state and local compliance requirements. Monthly progress will be made in committees, and progress checkpoints will be reported to the Board beginning November 2025, with a final balanced budget presented for approval no later than the meeting of June 15, 2026.

Board Policy 5002 states by law, the Board is required to adopt a balanced budget prior to July 1 of each year, to be in place for the ensuing school year. The budget is a formalized statement of anticipated revenues, expenditures of the District, and fund balance and includes all district fund categories that are used to carry-out the District's educational goals and objectives. The budget will be prepared and published in conformity with the most recent, applicable GASB requirements. The Board will maintain a minimum year-end general fund balance that will fall between 15 and 20% of the expenditure budget in that fund. Administration will provide the Board with a three-year forecast for the general fund, inclusive of the ensuing year. If the forecast provided shows that the general fund balance will go below 15% of projected expenditures for a given year, the Administration will develop a plan to restore the established minimum fund balance. The Superintendent is responsible for preparing the budget and its timely presentation to the Board. Following adoption by the Board, the Superintendent will regularly inform the Board of actual or anticipated variances that may occur during budget implementation and recommend any action that may be required to be taken by the Board.

Bloomfield Hills Schools is projecting a deficit of \$(5,259,645) for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027; a deficit of \$(6,790,696) for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2028; and a deficit of \$(8,060,508) for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2029.

Part of Goal 5 involves reducing the district's costs associated with maintaining the operations of the farm and nature center. It was reported that the Oakland County Parks and Recreation Commission (OCPRC) unanimously approved the two interlocal agreements for Bowers Farm and E.L. Johnson Nature Center. The agreements are for 30 years with termination clauses and financial parameters on both sides. The properties will be called Bloomfield Oaks and E.L. Johnson Nature Center and Discovery Oaks at Bowers Farm. Bloomfield Hills Schools will commit \$1.5M for the capital improvements of ADA compliance and site draining, which the investment will be matched by Oakland County Parks. OCP will then invest and revisit the capital management plan every four years. Board members shared feedback on the agreements, as presented and approved by the OCPRC. The feedback will be shared with the district's legal counsel for incorporating into the agreements to be presented for board action on March 23, 2026. Once the school board approves, the interlocal agreements will be presented to Oakland County for approval. Entering into this agreement is a cost-savings of approximately \$1,000,000 in the first year.

At the meeting of February 23, 2026, the board approved the resolution to eliminate infant and toddler care programming. Discontinuation of these offerings is a cost-savings of approximately \$600,000 (all costs considered). Since that meeting, the district has been working to find solutions to minimize impact to families, and is exploring the creation of a hybrid classroom to accommodate the twelve impacted toddlers with birthdays between September and December. Staffing ratios will then transition to 1:8 in January 2027. Preschool tuition will increase from \$10,400 to \$11,500 annually, with full and half-day options offered. BHS has seven GSRP classrooms, and will be looking to add up to two more based on demand.

The superintendent shared an overview of the district's budget development process, which included an overview on the school aid fund, revenue sources, gross appropriations, unfunded actuarial accrued liability, foundation allowance, enrollment projections, general fund budget forecasts and expenditures by object and function.

Other topics discussed as part of the budget development dialogue included preliminary conversations around opportunities for limited school of choice programming, exploring K-8 staffing ratios based on projected enrollment, an analysis on class sizes for K-8.

Budget assumptions include a foundation allowance increase of \$300 per pupil, a projected loss of 129 students, salaries and benefits to increase to account for contractual obligations, 31aa revenue increase of \$500,000, and staffing/departamental reductions of \$3,000,000.

The superintendent shared he will be presenting the district's bi-annual updates to building PTO and staff meetings over the next several weeks and touched on school aid advocacy. It was also shared the regional enhancement millage is scheduled to be voted on by Oakland Schools Board of Education on March 24 at 6:30 p.m., and then once adopted will be placed on the ballot for the August 4 election.

IV. Adjournment

There being no further business, President Falah adjourned the meeting at 7:55 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Carolyn Noble
Bloomfield Hills Schools Board Secretary

CN/rc