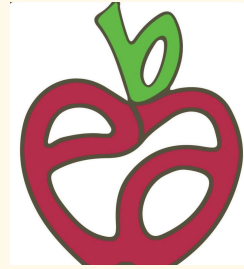


BEA
2026 MAY



Bits and Briefs





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www.blmfldea.org



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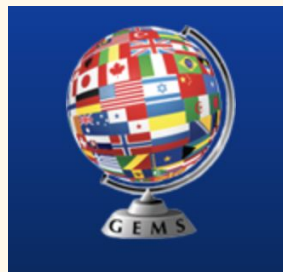
bloomfieldeducationassociation@gmail.com



BEA Monthly Spotlight



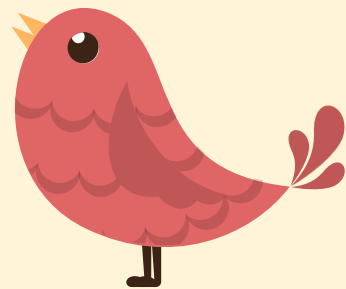
Nominate a co-worker [here](#) to share with us all of the phenomenal work they are doing!



BEA Monthly Spotlight



Shout out to Kate Wasco of Laurel Literacy Academy. Colleagues share that Kate brings her artistic talents to all the students at Laurel Literacy Academy. When you walk into her classroom, you see beautiful colors and pictures of artists all around. She recently displayed a beautiful "Very Hungry Caterpillar" in the main hallway. All the kindergarten students participated in this project. In the month of May, Kate displays all the art show projects around the school. Our hallways look like a beautiful museum. Way to go Kate!



Take Action!



NOMINATIONS



Elections time! Self-nominations are accepted!

Please click the link below to nominate Officers for the 26-27
School Year:

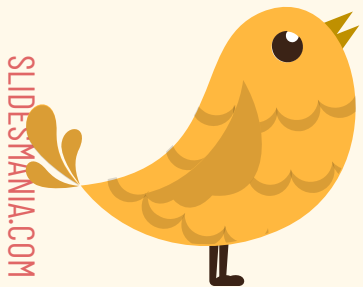
Executive Officer Nominations

Metacomet, BHS, and GEMS are at capacity
for Building Reps for 2026-2027

Summer Leadership is upon
us! Register HERE, this FREE
event fills up quickly!



Click on the image
to see the full
catalog!



Thank You!



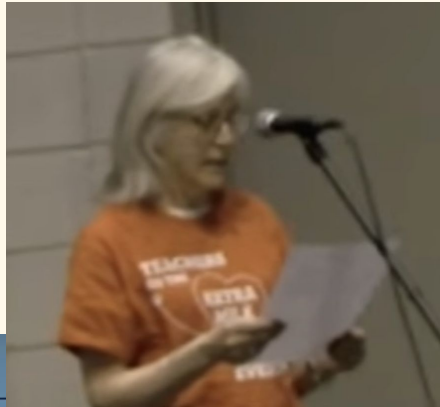
So thankful to all of our members who wrote letters to Town Council members, attended meetings, spoke up, helped organize students to speak or perform, read statements from those who couldn't make it in person, passed out signs and t-shirts, organized dinners, and have been a shoulder to lean on during this challenging process. I am proud of our work together, there is still hope that we will get more than the 2.91% increase as many residents are working towards a budget referendum. The budget passed with a 5-4 vote, that is not a landslide, I haven't given up yet!





Thank You!!





Thank You!



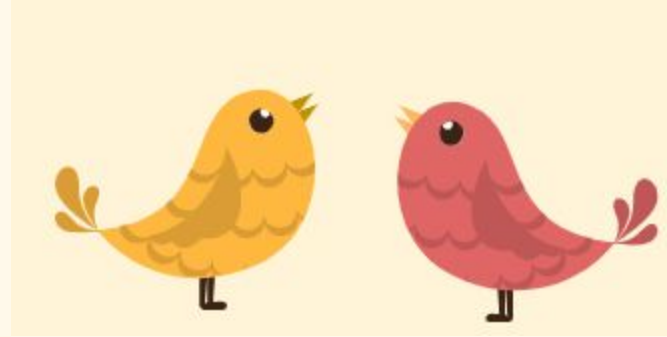
Stay in the Know!



Update on Bloomfield Budget

Currently the town has allocated a 2.91% increase to the Board of Education budget. That is approximately \$1 million dollars less than what Dr. Youngberg requested to ensure no layoffs. Additionally, they will not be funding any Capital Improvement Projects (i.e. water heaters at BHS, fixing the water leak beneath Metacomet, etc.) which also reduces the amount going towards staff salary and benefits even more. Presently, there are 10 members that have received notification that there is a reduction in force and they are no longer employed with Bloomfield as of June 18, 2026.

Stay in the Know!



Potential Open Enrollment School Visit Dates

- May 20 – GEMS
- May 22 – Metacomet
 - May 27 – Laurel
- June 3 – Wintonbury
 - June 8 – BHS
 - June 10 – ARACE

Stay in the Know!



Board of Education Meetings

- [Link to BOE Agendas](#)
- [Link to BOE Policies](#)
- [Link to BOE Zoom videos](#)

Date	Type of Meeting	Time	Location
January 13, 2026	Regular Meeting	7:00 PM	Hybrid Meeting*
January 27, 2026	Committee Meetings	6:00 PM	Board Room, BOE
February 10, 2026	Regular Meeting	7:00 PM	Hybrid Meeting*
February 26, 2026	Special Budget Meeting	7:00 PM	Hybrid Meeting*
March 10, 2026	Regular Meeting	7:00 PM	Hybrid Meeting*
March 24, 2026	Committee Meetings	6:00 PM	Board Room, BOE
April 7, 2026 ¹	Regular Meeting	7:00 PM	Hybrid Meeting*
April 28, 2026	Committee Meetings	6:00 PM	Board Room, BOE
May 12, 2026	Regular Meeting	7:00 PM	Hybrid Meeting*
May 26, 2026	Committee Meetings	6:00 PM	Board Room, BOE
June 2, 2026 ²	Regular Meeting	7:00 PM	Hybrid Meeting*
September 8, 2026	Regular Meeting	7:00 PM	Hybrid Meeting*
September 22, 2026	Committee Meetings	6:00 PM	Board Room, BOE
October 13, 2026	Regular Meeting	7:00 PM	Hybrid Meeting*
October 27, 2026	Committee Meetings	6:00 PM	Board Room, BOE
November 10, 2026	Regular Meeting	7:00 PM	Hybrid Meeting*
December 8, 2026	Regular Meeting	7:00 PM	Hybrid Meeting*

References

1: Meeting moved to first Tuesday due to Spring Recess

2: Meeting moved due to High School Commencement ceremony

**Hybrid meetings will be in-person at the Board of Education and virtual via Zoom*

Stay in the Know!



Proposed Bylaw Amendments

Please review the Proposed Bylaw Amendments by clicking the document below. A hard copy will be in the Teacher's Lounge at each school. Please discuss support or concern of the proposed amendments with your Build Rep. Building Reps will vote on changes at our June meeting.

2026 Proposed Bylaw Amendments

New language: bold, italics
[Removal: bolded brackets]

ARTICLE 3 – POWER OF OFFICERS

Section 1: President

The President shall:

- Preside over meetings of the Representative Council, its Executive Committee, and the general membership, appoint the chairpeople of standing committees, appoint special committees
- Be an ex-officio member of all standing committees
- Be the executive officer of the Association
- Represent the Association before the public, either personally, or through delegates and shall perform all other functions usually attributed to this office.
- Authorize orders and co-sign BEA checks drawn upon the BEA's treasury, when a second signatory is required.
- Attend CEA meetings throughout the year to maintain knowledge of current issues

Stay in the Know!

Click on the image
to learn more!



Monumental Effort Realized as Governor Signs Fair Teacher Termination Bill Into Law

The governor signed HB 5003 into law, ensuring that serious disciplinary and termination decisions are made through a fair, consistent, and objective process.

[LEARN MORE](#)

Stay in the Know!

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- 1** The average public school teacher salary rose from \$71,985 in 2023–24 to \$74,495 in 2024–25—a nominal gain of 3.5%. Full-time education support professionals earn \$38,494/year on average. The average higher education faculty salary is \$105,657—a nominal gain of 3.6% year over year.
- 2** Politicians have allowed educator wages to stagnate. This policy failure is the direct result of elected leaders who put billionaires before students, who have overseen growing income inequality, and who have allowed CEO earnings to soar while educator wages don't keep up with inflation.
- 3** Unions provide a big advantage for educator pay. Teachers earn 24% more and school support staff earn 13% more in states where they have collective bargaining rights, and unionized higher education faculty in all types of institutions earn more than their non-unionized peers.

\$48,112

National Average Starting Teacher Salary

POST THIS 

\$74,495

National Average Teacher Salary

POST THIS 

Click the article to learn more!

PRESS RELEASE

NEA reports show educator pay falling behind inflation over the past decade, highlight the power of unions

Becky Pringle: When we invest in educators, we strengthen our schools and our future

Exclusive CEA Membership Champion Deals! Click [here](#) to learn more

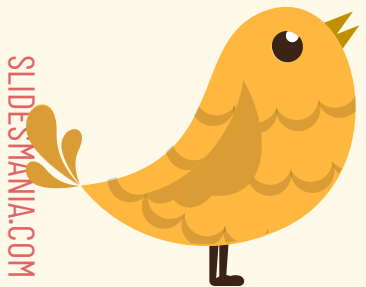


Connecticut Sun

Uncasville

The Connecticut Sun are offering discounted tickets to CEA members at select Teacher Appreciation Games throughout the season.

[Read more](#)



BEA Officers

President: Gail Jorden

Vice President: Marissa Mancini

Treasurer: Lynn DeBlasio

Secretary: Lynne Dumas

Membership Chair: Melinda Mellady



Building Representatives

Wintonbury (Pre-K)

Amy Lomnicky 2024-2026

Jennifer Pearl 2025-2027

Laurel (Grades Pre-K – 2)

Rose Rose - 2024-2026

Melanie Gabel 2025-2027

Metacomet (Grades 3 – 4)

James Verano 2025-2027

Elka Spencer 2025-2027

Carmen Arace (Grades 5 – 8)

Cheryl Bleiler 2026-2026

Dorothea Jones 2025-2027

GEMS (Grades 6 – 12)

Amelia Dodd - 2024-2026

Thomas Rubino 2025-2027

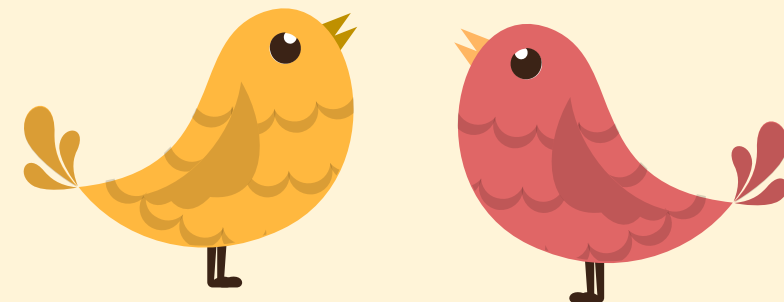
Bloomfield High School (Grades 9 – 12)

Shannon Trombino 2025-2027

Jennifer Neal 2025-2027

Colleen McCaughey 2025-2027

Mary Jarvis 2025-2027



Chairs, Committees, and Vital Roles 2025-2026

Grievance Chair: [Katrina Kucinkas](#)

Grievance Committee:

Marissa Mancini

Rose Rose

Pamela Parker

Felicia Johnson

Shannon Trombino

Constitution and Bylaws Revision

Chair: Lynne DeBlasio

Constitution and Bylaws Revision

Committee:

Elka Spencer

Jennifer Neal

Melinda Mellady

Tom Rubino

Racially and Ethnically Diverse Affairs

Committee Chair: [Elka Spencer](#)

Website Design: [Lamar Turner](#)

Young and Union Ambassador: [Michelle Bibeau](#)

Political Action Chair: [Magnolia Coates](#)

Political Action Committee:

Tom Rubino

Madeline Holliday

