

December 2025
BEA Bits and Briefs

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www.blmfldea.org



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www.blmfldea.org



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BEA Monthly Spotlight

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



BEA Monthly Spotlight



Jacqueline Springer, a 6th grade teacher at Carmen Arace Intermediate School is being recognized by her colleagues for working tirelessly to connect with members and is someone who is willing to help anytime there is something that needs to be done. She is always willing to listen and takes the time to understand the issues that have come up. Way to represent our members Jacqui, keep up the great work!

BEA Monthly Spotlight



Jennifer Coleman of Laurel Literacy Academy is a second grade teacher that is being recognized by her colleagues for, “bringing a little bit of sparkle to everything she does.” She is the first one to come up with a creative idea. Jen had the second graders create Thanksgiving balloons to go along with the Balloons over Broadway book. The children then paraded around the school with their balloons. Her class and the LLA community are grateful for all you do! Keep the great ideas coming Jen!

BEA Monthly Spotlight



Irene Glassman is a Literacy Interventionist at Metacomet Elementary School. Her colleagues share that since her recent arrival at Meta, Irene has become a core presence in the Meta community. She actively contributes to programs and events. Her willingness to assist with classroom testing and instructional support with a cheerful, uplifting spirit makes a meaningful difference every day! Thank you Irene for all you do!

BEA Monthly Spotlight



Dorothea Jones teaches band to students in 5th-8th grades at Carmen Arace. Her colleagues are recognizing her for working diligently on making sure to connect with members and problem-solve through issues that have come up. She is a great team player and makes sure to always take the time to understand others. Dorothea is someone who is easy to talk to and makes sure that the person she is talking to knows they are her priority. Thank you!

BEA Monthly Spotlight



Debra Anderson is a Math Coach at Metacomet Elementary School. Her colleagues would like to give her a shout out for creating the new character - the Math Ninja! Incorporating karate skills with math learning and of course, a theme song, really captured the attention of our students. We look forward to more visits!



TOWN OF
BLOOMFIELD
CONNECTICUT

SOCIAL & YOUTH SERVICES

11/13/25

Gail Jorden / BEA
185 School Street
Bloomfield CT 06002

Dear Gail,

On behalf of the Bloomfield Food Bank, we extend our heartfelt gratitude for your generous support and ongoing commitment to helping our neighbors in need

Your kindness provides essential nourishment and hope to families facing food insecurity in our community. In recent weeks, we've seen a significant increase in the number of families seeking assistance and we solely rely on donations. Your generous contribution will make a meaningful and immediate difference.

Thank you once again for your generosity and continued partnership in serving those in need.

Warmest regards,

Christine Russo
crusso@bloomfieldct.gov

A Note of Thanks

Stay in the
know!

Monthly Rep Council Meeting Schedule:

1/8 Wintonbury
2/5 Metacomet Library
3/5 Arace Library
4/2 Laurel
5/14 BHS Ag Center

All meetings are 4:00-5:15pm and all members are encouraged to attend!

Signed MOA's for 2025-2026

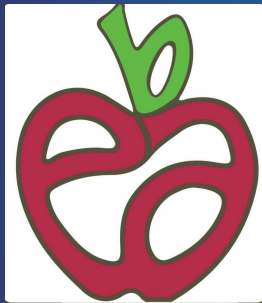
Please click [here](#) to see the Memorandums of Agreement that have been signed thus far for this year.

Stay in the know!

Just a few reminders:

- If you are interested in working to develop plans to attract and retain racially and ethnically diverse educators, please reach out to Elka Spencer at espencer@blmfld.org to join our Bloomfield Racially and Ethnically Diverse Affairs Commission.
- Attention educators that are concerned about the future of education! We are looking for volunteers to join our Political Action Committee. Reach out to Maggie Coates at mcoates@blmfld.org for more information.
- Blitz Deep Dive - Follow Up Questions from Dr. Youngberg regarding the top 5 concerns and changes with responses from our Uniserv Rep.

Bloomfield BOE Updates



Bloomfield Board of Education Meeting Schedule 2025

Updated on 9/15/2025

| Date | Type of Meeting | Time | Location |
|---------------------------------|------------------------|---------|-----------------|
| January 14, 2025 | Regular Meeting | 7:00 PM | Hybrid Meeting* |
| January 28, 2025 | Committee Meetings | 6:00 PM | Board Room, BOE |
| February 11, 2025 | Regular Meeting | 7:00 PM | Hybrid Meeting* |
| February 27, 2025 | Special Budget Meeting | 7:00 PM | Hybrid Meeting* |
| March 11, 2025 | Regular Meeting | 7:00 PM | Hybrid Meeting* |
| March 25, 2025 | Committee Meetings | 6:00 PM | Board Room, BOE |
| April 8, 2025 | Regular Meeting | 7:00 PM | Hybrid Meeting* |
| April 22, 2025 | Committee Meetings | 6:00 PM | Board Room, BOE |
| May 13, 2025 | Regular Meeting | 7:00 PM | Hybrid Meeting* |
| May 27, 2025 | Committee Meetings | 6:00 PM | Board Room, BOE |
| June 3, 2025 ¹ | Regular Meeting | 7:00 PM | Hybrid Meeting* |
| September 9, 2025 | Regular Meeting | 7:00 PM | Hybrid Meeting* |
| September 30, 2025 ² | Committee Meetings | 6:00 PM | Board Room, BOE |
| October 9, 2025 ³ | Special Meeting | 7:00 PM | Hybrid Meeting* |
| October 28, 2025 | Committee Meetings | 6:00 PM | Board Room, BOE |
| November 18, 2025 ⁴ | Regular Meeting | 7:00 PM | Hybrid Meeting* |
| December 9, 2025 | Regular Meeting | 7:00 PM | Hybrid Meeting* |

References

- 1: Meeting moved to first Tuesday in anticipation of the last day of school being June 10, 2025
- 2: Meeting moved to fourth Tuesday (September 30) in observance of Rosh Hashanah
- 3: Meeting moved to first Thursday due to schedule conflict
- 4: Meeting moved to third Tuesday (November 18) in observance of Veterans Day

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

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Bloomfield Board of Education Meeting Schedule 2026

Adopted 11/18/2025

| 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

- [Link to September 9, 2025 Meeting](#), [Link to November 18, 2025 Meeting](#)

- [Link to BOE Agendas](#)

- [Link to BOE Policies](#)

- I was impressed by how many of our members were online last month, keep it up! Feel free to use our BEA logo as your image so that we know it's our people out there watching! Don't know how, just email us and we will be happy to help you figure it out.



slidesmaniac.com

Click on the article to read more!

What's Happening in the World of CEA?



Record Number of Educators Elected to Serve Their Communities

Fifty-seven CEA members won in elections in more than 40 different towns and districts across the state.

[LEARN MORE](#)

Click on the article to read more!

What's
Happening in
the World of
NEA?

NEA NEWS

IDEA is 50 Years Old – And at Risk

You can help spread the word about the importance of IDEA this holiday season.



Celebrate good times!



Our Early Career Educators had an opportunity to come together to socialize and discuss the life of being a new educator in Bloomfield!

Upcoming Events!

LIGHT UP THE TOWN

Holiday Parade & Tree Lighting Ceremony



Join us for the Town of Bloomfield's annual Holiday Parade and Tree Lighting Ceremony welcoming in the holiday season. The holiday parade, stepping off at 6pm, features local fire departments and community organizations alike. The arrival of Santa Claus on his signature classic fire truck leads the way to Town Hall for a bright and festive Tree lighting ceremony. Following the parade Santa will be available for photos with children of all ages.

**SATURDAY
DEC
06
6 PM**

The Town will be awarding trophies to parade participants in the following categories: Best Appearing Engine, Best Antique Engine, Best Ladder Truck, Best Business Vehicle/Antique, Farthest Distance Travelled Apparatus, Drill & Dance Team, Most Spirited and Entertaining, and Best Fraternal Organization.



Upcoming Events!



REDAC Winter Social

Date : Tuesday, December 9, 2025

Inclement Weather Date - Thursday, December 11, 2025

Location : The Republic

39 Jerome Ave. Bloomfield, CT

** across the street from the post office*

Time : 3:30 pm - 5:30 pm

*Please RSVP to elkaford@gmail.com by
Friday, December 5.*

Racial and Ethnic Diversity Affairs Commission (REDAC) is a standing commission within CEA whose purpose is to attract as well as to promote the voices of racially and ethnically diverse members and build leadership capacity among those members.

Upcoming Events!

📅 Event Series: Building Rep Academy

Building Rep Academy

December 15 @ 4:30 pm - 5:30 pm (🎧) Virtual Event

Are you a superstar Building Rep in your school? Do you want to be? CEA's Building Rep Academy might be for you! Please join CEA Training & Organizational Specialist, Chris Teifke, in these relevant and engaging sessions to gain the information you need to enhance your work as a Building Representative in your Local Association.

Please join us for the entire series, with each monthly session covering a different topic!

Session 1, September 22: Representing Members

Session 2, October 27: Grievance vs. Gripe

Session 3, November 17: Establishing Yourself as a Building Rep

Session 4, December 15: Advocacy and Organizing ←

Upcoming Events!

December 2025

THU

18

December 18 @ 4:00 pm - 6:15 pm

Retirement Workshop - Virtual

Virtual CT, United States

CEA Retirement Specialist Robyn Kaplan-Cho, will cover a wide range of issues related to the State Teachers' Retirement System and will offer time for questions following the presentation.



THU

18

December 18 @ 5:30 pm - 7:00 pm [Racial and Ethnic Diversity Affairs Commission Meeting](#)


Racial & Ethnic Diversity Affairs Commission Meeting

Virtual CT, United States

Committee Meeting



Upcoming Events!

January 8, 2026 @ 4:00 pm - 5:00 pm  [CEA Pride Meeting](#)

CEA Pride Meeting

Virtual CT, United States

 **Virtual Event**

Join us online every second Thursday of the month for CEA Pride meetings. We will discuss current issues, supports, and advancing LGBTQ+ rights for staff and students. All are welcome!...



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BEA Officers 2025-2026

President: Gail Jorden

Vice President: Marissa Mancini

Treasurer: Lynn DeBlasio

Secretary: Lynne Dumas

Membership Chair: Melinda Mellady

BEA Building Reps 2025-2026

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)

Jacqueline Springer 2024-2026

Dorothea Jones 2025-2027

GEMS (Grades 6 – 12)

Amelia Dodd - 2024-2026

Thomas Rubino 2023-2025

Bloomfield High School (Grades 9 – 12)

Shannon Trombino 2025-2027

Jennifer Neal 2023-2025

Colleen McCaughey 2023-2025

Mary Jarvis 2023-2025

Chairs, Committees, and Vital Roles 2025-2026

Grievance Chair: Katrina Kucinkas

Grievance Committee:

Marissa Mancini

Rose Rose

Pamela Parker

Felicia Johnson

Shannon Trombino

Racially and Ethnically Diverse Affairs

Committee Chair: Elka Spencer

Website Design: Lamar Turner

Political Action Chair: Magnolia Coates

Young and Union Ambassador: Michelle Bibeau