There was a special meeting of the above referenced subcommittee held on Monday, April 20, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. via Zoom remote meeting.

**Committee members present:** Councilors Stephanie Calhoun, Chair, C.F. Politis and Mayor Suzette DeBeatham-Brown

Also present: Marguerite Phillips, Town Clerk and India M. Rodgers, Clerk of Council

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 p.m.

Councilor Calhoun stated the purpose this meeting is to select and forward a candidate to fill the Democratic vacancy on the Bloomfield Board of Education.

Ms. Marguerite Phillips read a brief paragraph regarding Board of Education Democratic vacancy, due to the resignation from Patricia Davis. Committee on Committees recommends Femi Bogle-Assegai (D) 64 Brown Street. The term ends 11/13/2023 and Disclosure is required. This vacancy became effective March 4, 2020. Our Charter allows for 60 days to fill vacancies by the Town Council. The deadline is Sunday, May 3rd, 2020 rolled back to not include a weekend is Friday, May 1st, 2020. To meet the Charter requirements this recommendation needs to go to the full Town Council’s next regular meeting on April 27th, 2020.

The following list of candidates gave a brief introduction about themselves and answered the following questions for this interview process:

**Questions:**

1. What is your vision for the Bloomfield Board of Education and how does your personal and professional experience help you to shape that vision?
2. What do you think your role and responsibility would be on the Bloomfield Board of Education?
3. What qualities and behaviors are essential for Board members to exhibit?

**List of Candidates:**

- Elizabeth Duteau, 33 Walker Lane
- Tiffany Glanville, 543 Simsbury Road
- Kim Dunbar, 13 Walts Hill
- Todd Cooper, 2 Maulucci Ridge
- Erica Coleman, 77 Wintonbury Avenue (Not present)
- Marianne Stone, 12 Valley View Drive
- Jennifer Marshall-Nealy, 57 Cliffmount Drive
- Femi Bogle-Assegai, 64 Brown Street
- Christine Grant, 16 Diana Drive
There were several questions within the Question and Answer section regarding application deadlines.

Ms. Phillips responded and clarified the application deadline timeframe.

All candidates were allowed to submit their interest form up until the time of the meeting date, April 20, 2020. She also informed the Democratic Town Committee on the same timeline to forward their nominee by the meeting date.

It was also noted that the Committee on Committees operating procedures allow Committee members to hear from candidates and ask questions regarding their interest. The final decision for appointment is made by the Town Council.

There was also a question from the public regarding the process for deliberation in making a decision in a public forum versus a closed session. Ms. Phillips responded and indicated that this is a public meeting and Committee members should be open to discuss their decision to recommend a candidate to move forward for Council approval. She also noted that if more time is needed to make a decision, the meeting could be recessed.

Mayor DeBeatham-Brown asked if the Committee deliberation can be in public. All of the questions from the public were asked and responded too.

Councilor Politis noted that he is fully prepared to discuss all candidates in an open forum.

At 7:47 p.m., there was a brief recess with Committee members for a personal break.

At 7:50 p.m., Committee members went back into regular session.

There was a question from the public regarding the role of the Mayor as an Ad-Hoc committee member and requested clarification of this change. Mayor DeBeatham-Brown noted that after the November 2017 election, Council modified Council Rules of Procedure to allow the Mayor to be a Committee members as well as a Chair to a Committee if they so wish to be. She is also an Ad-Hoc member to all committees.

There was a brief discussion among Committee members regarding the interviews will all of the potential candidates.

Mayor DeBeatham-Brown thanked everyone who showed an interest for this vacancy. She noted that it was impressive to see so many residents that came out expressing interest in serving the Town. She encouraged candidates that were not selected to continue to be engaged and involved within the Town.

Councilor Politis reiterated the Mayor’s comments regarding the impressive panel of candidates who expressed interest in this vacancy. He also thanked everyone for be engaged and the willingness to participate with the Town.

Councilor Calhoun thanked all of the fellow Councilors and Board members, Democratic Town Committee Chair, Michelle Adams and the Bloomfield Board of Education Chair, Donald Harris for their recommendation and support during this process.
It was moved by Councilor Politis, seconded by Mayor DeBeatham-Brown to refer and recommend Femi Bogle-Assegai to the full Council to be appointed to the Bloomfield Board of Education – Democratic vacancy, with term of office ending November 13, 2023, disclosure required.

VOTE:  AYE: S. DeBeatham-Brown, C.F. Politis
       NAY: None
       ABSTAIN: S. Calhoun

The motion passes 2-0-1.

Councilor Calhoun abstained from the vote due to her professional interactions with Mrs. Bogle-Assegai through their respective employer.

It was noted that all of the candidate resumes and interest forms forwarded to all Committee members and the Democratic Town Committee. Councilor Calhoun will forward Ms. Bogle-Assegai qualifications to the Town Council.

There was a question from the public regarding the vetted DTC recommendation of nominee Jennifer Marshall-Nealy.

Councilor Politis explained his thought process in making his decision to refer Ms. Bogle-Assegai to fill this vacancy. He noted that he reviewed all resumes and interest forms submitted. The actual interview process of all candidates changed his preset decision based on the opportunity to hear background information and answers to the interview questions.

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Mayor DeBeatham-Brown, seconded by Councilor Politis to adjourn the meeting at 8:05 p.m.