

Blackstone-Millville Regional District School Committee Meeting

Minutes of Virtual Meeting

November 12, 2020

6:00 p.m.

Introduction of Members:

Jane C Reggio, Chairperson
Erin P. Vinacco, Vice Chairperson
Caryn D. Vernon, District Treasurer
Tara L. Larkin, District Secretary
Sarah E. Williams, Member
Keri Gaudette, Member
Tammy A. Lemieux, Member
Jack R. Keefe, Member

Also in attendance were Jason DeFalco, EdD, Superintendent of Schools, Matthew J. Ehrenworth, Assistant Superintendent of Schools, Karen Young, Lead Nurse, Jill Pilla-Gallerani, Director of Learner Support Services and all school principals.

Mrs. Reggio asked to honor all who serve and have served our country followed by the reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of the United States of America.

Motion: It was moved by Mr. Keefe, seconded by Mrs. Vinacco and unanimously voted to approve Consent Agenda A which includes Warrants and Minutes of Meeting of October 22, 2020.

There were no items for **Public Forum**.

Report of the Superintendent

Dr. DeFalco - welcome to our visitors today. Incredible work going on across our system in all departments. We have had to navigate tricky Covid waters and we put all of this together this evening to talk about the work and show the school community just how hard everyone is working across our system from technology, principals and teachers and implementation of our school improvement plan. The what, how, and whole child in our community. Always humbled by the technology team and all the work being done by them. They have been on the front line working with our teachers day to day and Dr. DeFalco feels a big debt of gratitude to them.

Dan Saltzman - IT Consultant to the District - Technology 2020 - 2023

The theme overall is to Simplify and Improve
Reduce number of technology systems
Reduce the complexity of these systems

Six areas of focus:

Microsoft Window Based systems: Reduce the number of desktops in favor of Google Chrome systems. Upgrade any systems we retain with the latest software and fastest hardware on them.

34 Legacy servers - too varied and inconsistent - age range is from 12 - 5 years old. Some are running software so old it would have come out when our seniors were babies.

Goal: Reduce, replace and upgrade -

Google - embrace gSuite for education
over 4069 accounts

Active Accounts: 2432

Chromebooks: 2000 devices

gSuite applications - google docs, presentations, spreadsheets

Chrome Administration Console -

Migrate most teachers to higher performing Chromebooks

Audit use of chrome management console

Network Infrastructure - all protected by managed firewall system

Goals for this consider the Covid 19 impact on our network

Figure out if we need more speed in certain areas

Upgrade wireless networks

Clever Single sign on - new to district

43,800 students logins

5,300 teacher logins

brings online learning together

Single sign on - they don't have to go into all other systems to login and only login once.

Simplifies distribution of school data

Data is automatically pushed out to all compatible systems.

Goals - audit initial use of system

determine how people use it

optimize the use of it

Classroom Technology

160 aging projectors - 153 webcams that are new - 45 document cameras for presentation of technology

Replace all projectors, analyze use of other classroom technologies-

Onboarding Process

Varied and inconsistent currently. Not as efficient as it could be.

Data must move around efficiently.

Causes mistakes, oversights and data integrity is not working.

Tie together with a new cloud based management system.

They are seeing age and breaking down of Smartboards. Resolution is really low. It's not a good setup and requires maintenance and overhead.

The new product will look the same but the resolution will be higher and it will work.

Chromebook replacements start in FY22. Everyone has one now and they just ordered 500.

Some last 5 years and some last 3 years. Unpredictable.

Mrs. Lemieux - in her teaching experience there are many things you can't use the chromebook for and download onto. What happens when all of our desktops are gone?

Mr. Saltzman stated that he is careful to say they will not replace all pc's but the idea is to move as many as they can onto Chromebooks. For the most part the Chromebooks they will get are better than those the students are getting. They will be happy to give them to anyone that wants it. Easier to maintain the systems.

Kerry Purcell - Senior Executive joining us in year 3 from Focus Schools expectations

Ms. Purcell wants to remind all that they met first in the Media Center at HS.

Her goal is to work herself out of a job.

This year she can see the sun beginning to set.

Real heroes here are the principals and assistant principals.

Have true heroes that come to work every day. Doing above and beyond the call of duty.

Swimming upstream and not drowning in these uncharted waters.

Year 3 Outcome: The What

To deepen work of District and school leadership to ensure impact everyday for every student.

Make sure all students holding the diploma at the end of the journey are equipped to be successful with the tools they need.

Working on the same seven areas but going deeper.

School wide instructional focus - all schools are implementing it.

Use data cycle and protocols during PLC's to analyze progress and respond accordingly. What does the data say is working and responding accordingly.

Incorporate evidence based tools into daily instruction.

Align all Professional Development to SIP

Realign resources in response to identify needs; and empower families and community as partners of learning.

Elementary schools along with coaches are using goals at all meetings to look at data and respond accordingly.

What is the data saying, why is it happening and what are we going to do about it.

Secondary schools aligned their work so that the middle school is a building block to what is happening when they reach the high school. Looking at evidence based practices, aligning professional development and collaboration with PTL.

Working with principals in these unprecedented times. Going above and beyond to build capacity in their teachers. Collective Teacher Efficacy. Through collective action they can positively influence student outcomes, including impacting those who are disengaged and/or disadvantaged.

Principals are spending 50% of their time in classrooms to help teachers work smarter not harder with the students they serve.

Mrs. Reggio hopes it continues and hopes Ms. Purcell has not worked herself out of a job yet. Big difference from where we were 4 years ago.

Dr.. DeFalco:

This year for the first time we have one instructional leadership team at the elementary level and they wrote only one school improvement plan for both schools.

Everything anchors to our school improvement plan. A District of One -2000 strong.

Dr. Chan-Remka and Christina Shafer

Mrs. Chan - it has been eye opening as a professional. It gave her a huge assignment.

After last year and looking at this year it is really personal and professional. Reflections prior to writing the school improvement plan. Using focused frameworks.

Mrs. Shafer - brought plan to staff at P.D. day. Offered them a chance to give feedback. In the past the plans sat on a shelf but they are actually living this document this year.

The What:

Goal 1: Implement the new English Language Arts K-5 students.

Implement instructional supports through the school year to assist staff.

Goal 2: Ensure the math instruction is meeting the learning needs of every K-5 student and results in growth.

Continue working with Focused Schools to strengthen our instructional leadership team to support all teachers in delivering high quality teaching and learning in every classroom - no exceptions.

Spending at least 50% of their time in the classroom and giving teachers feedback.

Staff enjoyed not just being grade level but enjoyed the feedback from everyone. New perspective on what might not be working.

Using multiple sources of data to see areas of strength, areas they can improve and build our schools.

The Whole Child

Utilize a social emotional program to support our students intellectual, social emotional and behavioral health needs.

Implement mindfulness teaching in order to help students learn: self awareness and empathy. Self Advocacy. Self care.

Keeping the community engaged in helping every Pre K - 5 student to grow as a learner.

Engage families in the fluent transition between learning models.

Keep families in our community engaged to help the students to grow.

Shared information with parents at parent night. Regularly updating parents about changes.

Held meet the teacher within the first 10 days of school and well attended.

We have a pack up list ready to go if we need to go remote. Seamless transition between the different learning models.

Mrs. Chan stated that Covid is bringing our community closer together. All more vulnerable. Feels closer to the parents.

Mrs. Lemieux - do your schools have school councils?

Mrs. Shafer stated at MES we have our team but have not met this year. Same with Blackstone. There are parents on the team but did not participate in the creation of this document.

Approach to Targeted Professional Development

Building Capacity of Teachers and Staff
Instructional Leadership Team
Site based P.D.
Strategic Use of PTL Coach
Strategic use of PLC's

Secondary Schools

Mr. Dudek and Mr. Ducharme
Mrs. Curt and Mrs. Laporte

So much connection between the MS and HS and we will hear one presentation for the two schools.

Mr. Dudek - all faculty had input in their document.

Mr. Dudek looked back at the 2019-2020 accomplishments for last year.

It was a crazy year but they were still able to get a lot done.

FWHMS - Critical Thinking - Chargers come fully charged.

ASE: Answer, Support and Explain

Re-align resources such as people, time, talent, energy and money to support instructional focus.

Crafted, implemented, and posted a school wide SMARTe goal.

Aligned student learning goals to our evidence based practices.

BMRHS - identified and implemented school wide instructional focus

Developed professional collaboration teams to improve teaching and learning for all students.

Identified, learned and used effective evidence based teaching practices to meet the needs of each student.

Re-alignment resources people, time, talent, energy and money to support the instructional focus.

Crafted and implemented a school wide SMARTe goal

Commonalities Across Secondary Schools - what they have in common

What:

Implementation of the literacy program Amplify and StudySync

Review of math curriculum/programming

Implementation of career exploration with high school pathways (ASA Career Exploration and Project Lead the Way)

Developing/strengthening of remote learning plans.

How:

Focus on Problem solving/critical thinking

Deepening the implementation of authentic assessments in alignment with the district's vision of a Portrait of a Graduate

Deepening the implementation of one evidence based instructional strategies

Developing second evidence based instructional strategies

Utilizing PLC time to reassess and make shifts in instruction through the use of data driven instructional decisions, instructional rounds and review of student work protocols.

Commonalities Across Secondary Schools

The Whole Child

Deepen implementation of the ChooseLove program

Strengthen our social emotional support for all students and families - Chargers Calm website with resources.

The Community

Educate and communicate families/community about our instructional focus and empower them to support at home

Continue to establish productive two way communication between school and home in order to provide all families with feedback and support on student learning during hybrid and remote learning.

They want to start living the evidence based practice. Learning how to back up the reasons why they are giving a certain answer.

Two way communication between school and home. Help parents to help their child.

Calibrating and Aligning our Efforts

Chargers come fully charged for HMS

The instructional focus of the BMRHS community is to improve critical thinking skills in all students in order to develop proficient problem solvers. Charge through Challenges.

Build teacher and staff capacity as the approach to targeted P.D.

Dr. DeFalco - we are moving into being a strong, united, aligned school system.
All driven by the blueprint.

Mrs. Reggio appreciated that this was reviewed, revised and agreed upon by all faculty members.

Mrs. Lemieux appreciates that they are streamlining their goals at all levels and reduces transition and anxiety level.

Motion: It was moved by Mrs. Lemieux, seconded by Mrs. Vinacco and unanimously voted to approve the School Improvement plans for the Elementary and Secondary Levels.

Updated Bully Prevention and Intervention Plan - Dr. DeFalco

Meets all state regulations and requirements.

Can be found on our School District webpage. In place and fully updated.

Submitted to the Dept. of Education as well.

The plan does not change the policy in place.

This is in place regardless of whether it is staff or student and all encompassing.

Motion: It was moved by Mrs. Vinacco, seconded by Mrs. Lemieux and unanimously voted to approve the updated Bully Prevention and Intervention Plan.

Karen Young - Lead Nurse

Changes to the handbook - all received.

Language in Covid 19 exposure was outdated with the current language.

She reworded to reflect what the requirements are.

Close contact must quarantine for 14 days. May change if you test positive you go to the positive covid test protocol which is 10 days of quarantine.

These are state and federal regulations about how the policies work.

Travel order policy - spoke with Board of Health nurse. The 72 hour rule doesn't make any sense for people to be tested.

Proposal is to eliminate the 72 hour rule and require families and staff to be tested once they return home from out of state.

If someone is quarantined they should not share a bedroom with a sibling. We are not in their home policing. It is a reality of life that some need to share.

Please use common sense. This is all we can ask.

Is there any feedback with access to testing and time it takes to get tests back?

Most tests are back within 2 days. The longest is 4 or 5 days.

Majority of people can get a test the same day.

Ideally get tested 4 to 5 days after exposure.

The Governor is still saying keep students in school.

Motion: It was moved by Mrs. Vinacco, seconded by Mrs. Lemieux and unanimously voted to update our Covid protocols and travel protocols.

Mr. Ehrenworth -

Revenues - we are in a very good place with our revenues.

Changes to Charter School reimbursement - \$20,000 less than anticipating.

Received more funds than anticipated in our Entitlement Grants.

Expenditures - See on 2nd page broke out all Entitlement grant expenditures and Covid 19 expenditures. On the main sheet points out that if you look at 2305 line classroom teachers there are expenses in that line that haven't been encumbered yet. Also in 2310 line and 2330 line. Positions are still being filled. The next time we present this report we will try to include encumbrances for the Covid specific persons we hired to maintain them for the entire year.

Grant fund expenditure review - these lines are still being adjusted -we are not in a bad spot with our Covid spending. Much of this will be reallocated to the Covid grant.

Why is the balance on the Supt'd line in the red? Shows changes in temporary help we have had in the Superintendent's Office and leaves of absence. It may balance a bit but we will need to pull from another line to compensate there. We have areas we can transfer money if needed.

The custodial line is over due to overtime in getting the buildings Covid ready for return.

Personnel report is there for the review of the Committee.

The High School has received a donation in the amount of \$10,000 for the BMR library from the Phillip Michael Trust. He attended the district. Bill grew up as a gentle soul. Went to Worcester State University and was a teacher who was motivated to make a difference. Thank you for the donation. It will be put to good use.

Surplus Books from the High School and Middle School-
They are outdated resources they would like to dispose of.

Motion: It was moved by Mr. Keefe, seconded by Mrs. Larkin and unanimously voted to dispose of outdated High School and Middle School materials.

Mrs. Vinacco has left and is not in on this vote.

Facilities

We did have older vents from 1960 that had heating coils that ruptured. They have been repaired. It cost approximately \$12,000. Will focus on making sure circulator pumps are running.

The Capital Plan has been moving smoothly. A draft plan has been submitted. We will continue to look at the draft.

The Millville Boiler project is moving along with speed bumps. Tank is underground and is filled in. The entire plan start up is to be commissioned on December 20th.

School Committee Assignments for sub-committees were discussed.

Policy Committee - Mrs. Lemieux, Mrs. Reggio and Mrs. Vinacco

Facilities - Mrs. Williams, Mrs. Larkin, Mrs. Vinacco

Teaching and Learning - Mrs. Gaudette, Mrs. Lemieux

Insurance - Mrs. Vinacco

Unit C Negotiations - Mrs. Vinacco, Mrs. Lemieux and Mrs. Reggio

Superintendent Review - Mrs. Vinacco and Mrs. Reggio

Regional Agreement - Mrs. Larkin, Mrs. Williams and Mrs. Reggio
Sick Bank Committee - Mr. Keefe and Mrs. Reggio

Regional Agreement update-

Blackstone Special Town meeting at BMR auditorium is Saturday at 10:00 a.m.

We need 50 people to have a quorum.

Please attend if you live in Blackstone.

Motion: It was moved by Mrs. Lemieux, seconded by Mrs. Gaudette and unanimously voted to approve the Technology Plan ideas and the direction they need to take.

Discussion of Policies - Mrs. Lemieux

The Homeless Students Rights and Services policy. Awaiting foster care placement was removed. Some more specific and detailed information for the policy. MASC updated some of the information. Our policies need to be updated as well.
It was read by Mrs. Lemieux.

Motion: It was moved by Mrs. Williams, seconded by Mrs. Gaudette and unanimously voted to accept the Homeless Students Rights and Services policy as read by Mrs. Lemieux.

The section on foster care that was removed has its own policy now.

Mrs. Pilla-Gallerani stated there is no state bus company we may use our OOD transportation company to assist it just depends on where the student is residing.

New policy to educational opportunities for students in foster care to insure the opportunity for students in foster care to have the ability to have the best education at the best school possible.

Motion: It was moved by Mrs. Larkin, seconded by Mrs. Williams and unanimously voted to approve the new policy regarding Educational Opportunities for Students in Foster Care as read by Mrs. Lemieux.

New policy Educational Opportunities for Military Children to get the best possible education provided to them. Mrs. Lemieux read the policy.

There are 34 students in our district with either active or retired parents.

Motion: It was moved by Mr. Keefe, seconded by Mrs. Larkin and unanimously voted to approve the Educational Opportunities for Military Children policy as read by Mrs. Larkin.

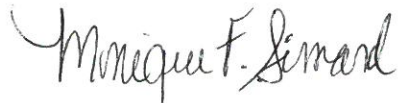
Mrs. Gallerani has these policies available to send to Mrs. Lemieux.

Next meeting will be held on December 10th.

Equity Webinar Workshop - January 4th meeting at 4:00 p.m.

Motion: It was moved by Mrs. Larkin, seconded by Mrs. Lemieux and unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Monique F. Simard
Recording Secretary

ATTEST:



Tara L. Larkin, District Secretary