

Blackstone-Millville Regional District School Committee

Minutes of Meeting

Frederick W. Hartnett Middle School

March 24, 2022

6:00 p.m.

Introduction of Members:

Jane C Reggio, Chairperson
Erin P. Vinacco, Vice Chairperson
Keri L. Gaudette, District Treasurer
Tara L. Larkin, District Secretary
Tim Howell, Member
Amanda D. Guilmain, Member
Tammy A. Lemieux, Member

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States was recited.

Also in attendance were Jason DeFalco, EdD, Superintendent of Schools and Matthew J. Ehrenworth, Assistant Superintendent.

Student Representative Update

- NHS Empty Soup Bowl 4/13
- spring sports games start next week
- STUCCO planning outdoor events for spring
- Prom May 6 @ Crown Plaza
- Senior Banquet May 20th
- Awards Night June 2nd
- June 1st class trip
- June 3rd graduation

RISE Initiative - State Representative Michael Soter

It has been difficult on our seniors through the pandemic and now with such inflated prices. Representative Soter wants to make sure folks have the ability to be with their families. Want to be sure the seniors have something to look forward to. Wonderful time of year. Rise Up initiative. All coming together very quickly. Served 900 meals last year. So many people wanted to donate this year.

A non-profit is taking over the Rising Up initiative. His campaign is a sponsor this year. They have had a generous amount of corporate donations coming in. Generally they focus on seniors but want all to know you will not be refused. It's how we all came together to get through the pandemic. Ways to do things safely and effectively. He hopes it goes on for many

years to come. He is hoping for a Rising Up non profit by next year with a committee. He wants all to know that it is okay to ask for help. He would like to use the school again this year.

They will have a drive through like they had last year. If you cannot get to the school they will deliver the meals. They will have a link to it on his Mike Soter web page. A meal this year costs about \$12 per person and last year it was about \$8. Thank you to the Uxbridge elderly connection for stepping up. Students get to talk to the senior elderly. He wanted to be sure they had contact and some sort of purpose.

His campaign will be purchasing 50 of the Empty Soup tickets to be given to those who need them.

The budget is coming up. Regional Transportation is going to push for the 90% number.

The Superintendent let him know they are going to put in a statement of interest. Mr. Soter's job is to help the district navigate this.

He said goodbye to Mrs. Reggio. It was very nice working with her. He is sure they will cross paths again one day.

Warrants

Motion: It was moved by Mrs. Vinacco, seconded by Mrs. Lemieux and unanimously voted to approve the Warrants and Minutes of March 10, 2022.

There were no items for **Public Forum**

Certification of FY23 Budget and Warrant Items

Motion: It was moved by Mrs. Guilmain, seconded by Mrs. Lemieux and unanimously voted to adopt a gross operating budget for the 2022-2023 school year in the amount of \$28,661,304.

Motion: It was moved by Mrs. Lemieux, seconded by Mrs. Larkin and unanimously voted to apply the following reimbursements to reduce said gross operating budget for the 2022-2023 year:

- Chapter 70 \$11,084,329
- Regional Transportation \$664,881
- School Choice Tuition \$231,693
- Charter School Reimbursement \$238,207

Above reimbursements total \$12,219,110.

Motion: It was moved by Mrs. Larkin, seconded by Mrs. Lemieux and unanimously voted to assess the amount of \$10,164,497 to the Town of Blackstone to be applied to the operating budget for the 2022-2023 year which includes \$7,525,714 for the minimum contribution, \$1,361,261 in exclusionary costs and \$1,277,522 in supplemental investments.

Motion: It was moved by Mrs. Vinacco, seconded by Mr. Howell and unanimously voted to assess the amount of \$3,272,540 to the Town of Millville to be applied to the operating budget for the 2022-2023 year which includes \$2,423,620 for the minimum contribution, \$437,930 in exclusionary costs and \$410,990 in supplemental investments.

Motion: It was moved by Mr. Howell, seconded by Mrs. Gaudette and unanimously voted to apply the following amounts to the gross operating budget for the year 2022-2023:

- Excess and Deficiency (E&D) \$150,000
- Medicaid \$175,000
- Revenue (User Fees) \$ 89,000
- Revenue (Gate Fees) \$ 15,000
- Revenue (Classroom Rental) \$ 52,000
- Revenue (Pre-K Tuition) \$ 115,000

\$596,000

Motion: It was moved by Mrs. Gaudette, seconded by Mr. Howell and unanimously voted to adopt a capital and interest budget in the amount of \$530,657 to be assessed solely to the Town of Blackstone which includes \$138,111 for the FWH Middle School, \$62,900 for the JFK boiler/windows project, \$159,411 for the roof projects, and \$170,235 for asbestos remediation work to be done at the Blackstone-Millville Regional High School.

Motion: It was moved by Mrs. Guilmain, seconded by Mrs. Vinacco and unanimously voted to adopt a capital and interest budget in the amount of \$191,762 to be assessed solely to the Town of Millville which includes \$44,431 for the FWH Middle School, \$22,078 for the Millville Boiler project, \$70,488 for the roof projects, and \$54,765 for asbestos remediation work to be done at the Blackstone-Millville Regional High School.

Motion: It was moved by Mrs. Lemieux, seconded by Mrs. Larkin and unanimously voted to certify the alternate presentation of the total budget, representing only monies moving into and out of the general fund. This presentation will be used by the Department of Revenue (DOR) in the calculation of Excess and Deficiency (E&D).

Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB)

Mrs. Reggio stated OPEB came up in our joint meeting. We had all we could do to put together an operating budget and while we acknowledge OPEB is important we were looking for a plan that would include our Town Commitment. For this first year make it separate so it doesn't tie up our budget. We did not want to alter the passing of the budget so it was listed separately. Some of the members have asked that it be put directly into the operating warrant items. Mrs. Reggio feels we need to let this ride and see how the Towns feel about making an additional commitment.

That is why this motion was separated out. It will become part of the total gross operating budget.

Motion: It was moved by Mrs. Vinacco, seconded by Mrs. Larkin and unanimously voted as the Blackstone-Millville Regional District School Committee has publicly discussed the issue of the Other Post Employment Benefits (OPEB) with the Select Boards and Finance Committees of both towns, they hereby move that the following warrant item be included in each member town's upcoming Annual Town Meeting.

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the total payment of \$100,000 to be deposited into the OPEB Trust Fund of the Blackstone-Millville Regional School District. Said funds may only be removed to pay some portion of health benefits for retirees from the Blackstone Millville -Regional School District. This payment will be split according to the following percentages and amounts:

75.66% or \$75,660 to be paid by the town of Blackstone.

24.34% or \$24,340 to be paid by the town of Millville.

Said payments shall be separate and apart from payments made toward the Operating and Capital Budgets of the District.

Superintendent Mid Cycle Evaluation

Mrs. Vinacco stated the majority of the Superintendent's goals are right on target.

Dr. DeFalco states he doesn't do this on his own.

We have a strong leadership team and great educators.

He feels the district is on target and moving in the right direction.

We just kept moving through the pandemic.

He has good next steps laid out.

Final evaluation in June and in October.

Report of the Superintendent

Brief update on progress they are making with selection and purchase of math program.
Ordered the HS program and doing a pilot in the spring in geometry and setting up the online resources for students and staff.
Finalizing the K-8 level order. Putting the package together.
Doing a pilot at MS in spring in Statistics.
K-12 doing 2 hour P.D. and launch in the spring.
Booked the next 2 training sessions to be held on August 30th and November 4th.
Doing coaching and virtual sessions in between.

Early Retirement Incentive

The list of eligible employees is quite long but this is for the minimum eligibility and probably won't happen now.

There are different amounts and classifications for the amount given for the early retirement incentive.

We usually have about 6 people who take advantage of this.

School Committee Motion of Early Retirement Incentive for Unit A Members

MOTION: It was moved by Mr. Howell, seconded by Mrs. Gaudette and unanimously voted:

That the School Committee hereby approves the early retirement incentive to Unit A members if they retire effective June 30, 2022.

The District will pay \$7,500 to employees who submit their intention to retire by May 27, 2022.

The \$7,500 will be taxed and is not pensionable and will be paid by July 31, 2022.

Members would not be eligible for the sick leave incentive.

Members who declared future retirement are eligible.

Employees must be eligible to retire from MTRS.

School Committee Motion of Early Retirement Incentive for Unit C Members

MOTION: It was moved by Mrs. Gaudette, seconded by Mr. Howell and unanimously voted:

That the School Committee hereby approves the early retirement incentive to Unit C members if they retire effective June 30, 2022.

The District will pay the following to employees who submit their intention to retire by May 27, 2022:

\$3500 for a full 7.5 hour custodian

\$3000 for a 6.5 hour para-professional

\$2500 for a 12 month administrative assistant

\$2000 for a 6 hour per day cafeteria worker

These amounts are to be pro-rated based on hours worked and length of time.

Employees must be eligible to retire from WCRS.

Members who declared future retirement are eligible.

Mrs. Vinacco feels we will have more retiring than in the past.

Dr. DeFalco stated that July 31st is the payout date so it is in the next fiscal year which is a good thing.

Dr. DeFalco also stated they will be attending the Job Fair being held in Milford on April 7th. Our team is ready. Principals and teams will be heavily recruiting.

Spring Sports Update - Dr. DeFalco

Spring Sports - Robert McAnulty our Athletic Director could not be here this evening.

Sign ups:

- Track and Field - 26 MS and 14 HS students
- Girls tennis - 20 HS students
- Softball - MS team and a varsity team HS 16 MS 13
- Baseball - MS and Varsity team HS 15 MS 20

Mrs. Vinacco wonders which towns have middle school teams that we will be playing against. Middle School is grade 6 - 8.

Arbiter is being used to do the scheduling.

Report of the Business Office - Matthew J. Ehrenworth

Transportation contract - numbers came in aligned with what was budgeted for the FY23 year. Received only 1 bid and it was from Tellstone. The climate is difficult in areas where the drivers are from local communities. Tellstone offered us very competitive rates against the market.

All costs were given in a handout.

Total bid cost for providing pupil transportation services to the Blackstone-Millville Regional School District Schools:

Annual Cost - All Services

2022-23	\$1,486,800
2023-24	1,532,700
2024-25	1,578,600
Total 3 year Cost	\$4,598,100

Optional Extension

2025-26	\$1,639,800
2026-27	\$1,716,300

Motion: It was moved by Mr. Howell, seconded by Mrs. Guilmain and unanimously voted to approve the transportation contract submitted by Tellstone and Son for FY23, FY24 and FY25, as outlined above with the option of adding FY26 and FY27.

Capital Needs update

Statements of interest to move forward

Next capital planning sub committee meeting on March 30th @ 5:30 p.m.

Blackstone Finance Committee meeting held on March 30th @ 6:30 p.m.

Facilities

Motion: It was moved by Mrs. Guilmain, seconded by Mrs. Gaudette and unanimously voted to approve the use of facilities requested by the Uxbridge Elderly Connection, Inc., overseen by Representative Michael Soter to be held on Sunday, 4/10/22 from 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. in the A.F. Maloney Elementary school cafeteria. There will not be a user fee charged.

CM Select Rockhoppers -. They want to use the fields for practice. Eventually, the possibility of using the football field for games. They would open up the concession stand and the school keeps the proceeds from the concession stand. Roughly 6 hours of use at a time. They pay the EMT, line striping, etc. They do not have a current schedule yet. They are insured with waivers and sent them over to Katherine Francisco. This is just the spring league. They had a total of 480 kids sign up this year. Trying to build a lot of community engagement and can combine 2 towns. They will get a porta potty if necessary.

Motion: It was moved by Mr. Howell, seconded by Mrs. Larkin and unanimously voted to approve the CM Select Rockhoppers use of facilities request for the HMS Field for select dates outlined on their application for use of school facilities. A user fee of \$50 will be charged.

School Committee Forum

Mrs. Larkin stated the Elementary PTO is moving forward with father daughter, mother son events. It is exciting to bring these activities back. Important to get Cori'd. It needs to be done every 3 years.

45 people went to hockey games at DCU from the district. Opening it to the entire district.

Mrs. Vinacco - spoke about Mrs. Reggio and her time here. Mrs. Reggio has been here for 8 years. Until you serve in this capacity you don't know the depth of what goes into serving our schools and communities. There have been so many changes in 8 years. Our community has benefited from the sacrifice you and your family have made. Mrs. Reggio led countless sub committees. The most tireless one was working with MASC on our policies, Unit negotiations and town meetings. You are irreplaceable.

Mrs. Reggio - we as a Committee have left the place better than we found it.


Motion: It was moved by Mr. Howell, seconded by Mrs. Guilmain to leave the regular meeting at 7:30 p.m. and enter into Executive Session for the purpose of Collective Bargaining and not to return to the regular meeting. This motion was followed by a roll call vote.

Respectfully submitted,



Monique F. Simard
Recording Secretary

ATTEST:


Tara L. Larkin, District Secretary