

Blackstone-Millville Regional District School Committee
Frederick Hartnett Middle School
Minutes of Meeting
April 28, 2022
6:00 p.m.

Introduction of Members:

Erin P. Vinacco, Chairperson

Tammy A. Lemieux, Vice Chairperson

Keri L. Gaudette, District Treasurer

Tara L. Larkin, District Secretary

Jane C Reggio, Temporary Member (until replacement is appointed and in attendance)

Charles Dunton, Member

Daniel Keefe, Member

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

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

Report of the Student Representative

Madison Marchand

- NHS Empty Bowl Raised \$1600 for the food pantry
- NHS Teacher Appreciation next week
- Girls softball are 5 to 1 right now
- Boys baseball are 1 to 5 right now
- Mock crash next Wednesday
- Prom May 6th - Crowne Plaza, Warwick RI
- 20 days left for Seniors - Last day is May 27th

Motion: It was moved by Mrs. Lemieux, seconded by Mrs. Gaudette and unanimously voted to approve Consent Agenda A which includes Warrants and Minutes of April 7, 2022.

There were no items for **Public Forum**

Capital Planning Update

Mrs. Larkin

Statement of Interest has been submitted.

Mr. Ehrenworth has a capital working group going. Smaller group of 5 persons with 1 representative from each Town including Mr. Ehrenworth and Mr. Hebert. Take the

costs and go through all the prioritized items to see which ones we want to bring to the Towns.

One priority item is the paving at the middle school.

Mrs. Lemieux would like to join that group.

Review Section A of the school committee policy manual - 1st read

- Remove Language about the scenario if a student has a balance on their lunch account. It requires more discussion.
The language needs to be finalized into the policy manual.
- Section AA school district legal status updated to say we are a regional school district. The changes made are in alignment with what MASC has recommended in most cases.
- Section AB is a fix of a typo.
- Section AC Non discrimination policy is a section that is being updated to coincide with MASC regulations and language submitted to the district. In red print is new.
- Section ACR is a total new addition that goes along with the MASC suggestions in the above.
- Section ACA is a slight update around sexual orientation or gender identity.
- Section ACAB replaced in entirety.

Under ACR Dr. DeFalco has the update with the district information.

- ACE reviewed by MASC and no updates needed.
- AD school district language. May change after blueprint.
- ADC tobacco products on school premises. MASC has included many other things.
- ADDA background checks had a typo

Dr. DeFalco stated DCF checks are also run in addition to fingerprints and CORI's. This should be listed.

- ADDA will be further amended to include the DCF check.
- ADDA-R no changes
- ADF take out of today's discussion
- AE no changes

In 2017 we went through MASC to update the policies.
 We pay an annual fee to keep us in the data system.
 In 2017 they paid for the service to revamp the policies.
 We want to continue paying the fee so that we continue to get the updates.
 The District pays \$969 a year for the updates.

ADF needs discussion. Get a wellness committee back together for this.
 Table ADF and ADDA to be taken separately.

Motion: It was moved by Mr. Keefe, seconded by Mrs. Larkin and unanimously voted to approve the changes as presented here for Section A of the School Committee Policy manual but table ADF and ADDA as written.

Mrs. Lemieux asked if we should be getting ADF to where it was last voted on.

Mrs. Reggio said either put it in or amend it from there or create a whole new one.

Mrs. Lemieux feels we should go from where it was approved and go from there.

Mrs. Young has the most recent copy of the wellness policy from 2019. She does not see any language in there that talks about consequences of not paying regarding school lunch.

Mrs. Reggio said it is separate and not in there.

Mrs. Vinacco will start the wellness committee. It will consist of a parent or guardian, student, nurse, school administrator and school committee member. Mr. Keefe will volunteer as well.

Mrs. Young will reach out to see if they can do something with the wellness committee before the end of the year.

Report of the Superintendent

Covid 19 Update

Mrs. Young - 623 total covid cases with 26 so far in April-

- 133 at HS
- 166 MS
- 185 Complex
- 125 MES
- 14 in District

Vaccinations haven't changed much. Blackstone is at 60% and Millville at 50% for all persons living in those towns.

- HS 59%
- MS 47%
- Complex 29%
- MES 17%

On May 9th they want to take the final step and have kids back to normal and get them back in groups and regular cafeteria groups.

End of Year Surveys

Over the past few years we have seen a large participation rate on the surveys.

We have shortened the survey and last year the survey had 10 questions.

There is a way in the survey that makes the feedback specific to the school.

Hard at work at finalizing the next round of the survey to be out in May.

Also looking at another round of family choice survey.

Most recent number of K - 12 students who have choiced out of our school system is at about 325. These students are choosing a different educational opportunity. We are trying to get contact information for these families and issue a survey to them and ask for feedback.

In the last survey they spoke of the district not having the right curriculum and that is no longer valid.

Dr. DeFalco would be curious to see what type of feedback we get back from it.

He also wants a survey for students who stayed in the District and why they stayed in the District.

They want to remain as competitive as possible.

Students are losing some of the content in skill building. They want to try to address this. Students see we are listening and responding.

Mrs. Lemieux - to the point of curriculum - Some parents will not bring back their kids due to not wanting to change the curriculum.

Home Schooling increased during the pandemic. It took a long while to track those who left for homeschooling last year and did not return to BMR in September. Sara, our district social worker worked on this in the fall to try to find out where they were and be sure they were safe.

Summer 22 Programming

Different categories of programming for the summer

- **Extended School year program** - Special Education
- **Focused math and literacy program** - MES - 2 week sessions - very targeted
They will have movement activities mixed in
- **JFK 21st Century Grant** - Complex- robust 4 day a week program - Partnered with the Boys and Girls Club.
- Grant for \$16,000 to pay our HS students who want to work this summer and will work in our 21st century program. 10 students will be paid minimum wage. They are targeting juniors and seniors.
- **Credit Recovery Options** at MS and HS
- **Enrichment Clubs** - MS & HS - activities kids are passionate about. Keep them engaged and interested in things they want to do.
- **At Risk Student Programs and Follow-up** -Social worker will identify the students and follow up with the students during the summer. Set them up on their summer plans.
- **Boys and Girls Club Partnership** - Keep partnership going with teachers and counselors for the summer.
Last year Bellingham split the cost with us. We are not sure how many staff members we can have this summer. The clinical staff made a world of

difference in working with the students over last summer. Conflict resolution is so important. Incredible relationships were built.

- **Acceleration Academy and jump start** - started school a week early. Waiting for this to come through the Dept. of Education liaison. Highly competitive this year.
- **Athletic Opportunities**
Camps and activities over the summer run by captains and staff.

Parents please don't hesitate to reach out.

Bi-County Collaborative Appointment - Pursuant to Chapter 40, Section 4E, as amended by Chapter 43 of the Acts of 2012, members of the Board of Directors at Bi-County Collaborative are to be appointed annually. Dr. DeFalco sits on the board. One of our out of district offerings.

Motion: It was moved by Mrs. Reggio, seconded by Mr. Keefe and unanimously voted to appoint Dr. DeFalco to the board of the Bi-County Collaborative, in accordance with the Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 40, Section 4E as amended by Chapter 43 of the Acts of 2012 for the 2022-2023 school year.

School Safety

School Intruder scenario - done this at HS and MS already.

They are doing this with the Elementary Students.

Officer Laudon worked with student ambassadors and modeled what the scenario would look like. It went out to parents and they had a Q & A session.

The drills are taking place tomorrow.

Alice Training safety training has gone out.

Dr. DeFalco sent out a one call on it as well.

Intruder Response drill at BMRHS - This is a coordinated response to take place in June. It will be a drill where students have to respond and go to our reunification site. On May 3rd at Blackstone library at 9:30 joint meeting with first responder agencies and police chiefs and SRO's from surrounding towns to go through what this drill will look like. We need students to practice these things. It will give us a chance to see how this will actually all come together. We need to see if these plans are working.

They have received great feedback from staff and police.

Mock Car Crash - Prom Safety Exercise - in partnership with the Blackstone Fire Dept. May 4th - sophomores, juniors and seniors.

Report of the Business Office - Mr. Ehrenworth

FY23 update - just put together the budget book

Well received by the Blackstone Finance Committee - they involved the Towns from the start in the entire process.

Meeting with Millville Finance Committee on May 4th.

Facilities Report

- Softball and Baseball dugouts are being worked on. Steel beams are getting secured and metal roofing will follow.
- Slightly behind on girls field. Need concrete slab near dugouts. May do a concrete slab or may create something else with deck trekking.
- Tennis courts - waiting for 5 consecutive evenings of temp. above 50 degrees. We are first on the list and they will work over a weekend to accommodate our game schedule if need be.
Confirmed that as soon as it is sealed it can be used the next day.
- HS circulator pump has been ordered. Another one is functioning at this time. We need the back up pump as a security feature.
- Still waiting for repair kit on circulator pump at Hartnett Middle School.
- MES pump has been taken care of.

Facilities Requests

Mr. Hebert spoke with the contact who had put in the request for the youth soccer organization to use the field at the middle school. The contact was already aware that the youth football organization uses the field on Tuesday through Thursday evenings and that they were interested in Monday and Friday evenings.

Mr. Hebert told them they could also use the lower field behind BMR where the HS football team usually holds their practices if they needed more field time and space. They were very grateful.

As it turns out the fields at the Complex were ready for the organization to start using after all and our fields were not needed.

Mr. Ehrenworth and Mr. Hebert are now being copied on all facility request approvals from the buildings.

Update on facilities request forms. Changes have been made to the form.

Motion: It was moved by Mrs. Larkin, seconded by Mrs. Gaudette and unanimously voted to approve the facility request forms for the BMEPTO on 4/30/22 to use the HS Cafeteria and the Town of Millville on 5/9/22 to use the MES Auditorium.

School Committee Forum

There will likely be 2 new Millville school committee members at the next meeting. This may be Mrs. Reggio's last meeting.

Mrs. Vinacco reached out to the MASC representative - explained we are having 4 new members and asked if we could hold our own charting the course here in the District for new members and a refresher for the other members.

Next School Committee Meetings - May 12th and May 26th

Mrs. Vinacco spoke on having a rain date for the graduation.

Motion: It was moved by Mrs. Vinacco, seconded by Mrs. Reggio to enter into Executive Session at 7:35 p.m. for the purpose of M.G.L. chapter 30A, section 21(a)(3) and not to return to the regular meeting. This motion was followed by a roll call vote.

Respectfully submitted,



Monique Simard
Recording Secretary

ATTEST: 
Tara L. Larkin, District Secretary