

Blackstone-Millville Regional District School Committee
Frederick Hartnett Middle School
Minutes of Meeting
May12, 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
Charles Dunton, Member
Daniel Keefe, Member
Erin Zimmerman, Member
Ted Novio, 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.

Report of the Student Representative

Madison Marchand

- 1st performance of Once Upon A Mattress
- May 23rd Softball Senior Night
- May 19th NHS Induction
- May 27th last day for Seniors
- May 31st Caps and Gowns
- June 1st Class trip to Newport, RI
- June 2nd Awards Night
- June 3rd Graduation

They do not have a rain date for graduation.

Best Faculty dancer at prom - Mrs. Martino-Harms and Ms. Hunt.

Motion: It was moved by Mr. Keefe, seconded by Mrs. Larkin and unanimously voted to approve Consent Agenda A which includes Warrants and Minutes of the April 28th meeting.

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

Student Recognition - Dr. DeFalco - celebrate work of our students.

Mrs. Foulis - congratulations and flowers presented to students.

Youth Leadership program participants -

The projects include a service project at a homeless shelter. Donation bins were placed around the High School.

Collected 300 pounds of food for the Food Pantry.

Superintendents Consortium winner.

Small Capital Working group Mrs. Lemieux -

Projects on the punchlist to focus on.

- Playground repairs for Complex and MES - may use volunteers for this project.
- Paving work at the Middle School put out to bid publicly
- Walkway work at MES put out to bid
- Cafeteria Ceiling Tiles at the Complex removed over the summer and get estimate for work.

Waiting to see if the statement of interest is accepted.

Mr. Ehrenworth said they can expect to hear back by the end of June or early July.

They don't want to meet again to discuss new things until they hear back.

Mrs. Vinacco stated on May 26th the MASC representative will come out to BMR to work with the 4 new school committee members. He will facilitate team building. They are looking at a 4:00 start time.

Report of the Superintendent- Dr. DeFalco

Meeting at Bi-County Collaborative today. The Collaborative in financial stress due to lower enrollment. They did not meet the enrollment level they anticipated for this year. They want each district to take on a 12% increase for next year. Dr. Defalco voted no but he was the only one who voted no. They only budgeted for a 3% increase. They will see an additional 9% (\$84,000) to pay. He will continue fighting this issue. He asked the executive director to go back and do some work. It started in the prior fiscal year and the finance director has just retired. They are having internal challenges as a team. We have made many referrals but they are slow in processing the applications and meeting with the students. Some students are still in school waiting for placement and some went to other schools. They need to build programs for these students that they are losing to other schools. The committee will need to vote the additional \$84,000 at a later meeting.

Mrs. Lemieux said this is a \$100,000 change for BMR. These are the things that add up across grade levels to impact our bottom line. We have to support our kids and we have no choice but to pay it.

Dr. DeFalco said in most cases the collaborative is the least expensive option for our students.

Mr. Keefe said the towns don't see this part where the district is held to these increases.

Students Handbooks for the next school year.

Elementary - Dr. Remka and Mrs. Shafer changes were presented.

Middle School - Mrs. Curt-Hoard presented changes.

High School - Mrs. Foulis presented changes.

Attendance policy - You need to be at 3 unexcused absences per quarter. If you go above this you need to go to the Restorative after school session to make up the time.

Mrs. Larkin asked to add restorative in the attendance title.

Mrs. Vinacco said we are held to a higher attendance standard with the state. This is the reason we needed to get stricter on attendance in the school district.

Dr. DeFalco said for the start of this school year they got rid of the Covid code for student attendance. They recently brought it back retroactively. We kept records on this so we were able to track it. We need to get through this and let it settle to see where we stand with it.

Mrs. Vinacco wants it written more clearly that the restorative hour is an option. She feels it reads similar to the way it did before they were allowed the restorative hour.

Mrs. Lemieux stated requests can't always be met. All of the planning goes down the hole. They would love for everyone to have a free flow. She wants the parents out there to know we are not trying to make kids' lives miserable and they need to stick to the planning they set in motion.

Mrs. Vinacco excused absences for college, maybe 3 for juniors and 2 for seniors. This year she feels she could use the extra day in her child's junior year. It should be 3 in your junior year but not restricted to when you can use it in your junior year.

Motion: It was moved by Mrs. Gaudette, seconded by Mr. Keefe and unanimously voted to approve the 2022-2023 handbook changes as presented this evening with changes requested to the High School handbook.

Program of Studies for HS

Mrs. Foulis

Emphasis on Pathways

1. Request to remove technology credit graduation requirement.

Rationale: Use of technology is now integrated into every course making this requirement outdated. Allowing for this requirement to be absorbed into the general electives category will provide greater opportunities for students to participate in elective courses that are tailored to their interests. This proposed change has the support of our technology staff.

2. ELA junior and senior years requirements

Junior year will consist of American Lit or AP Lit or AP Language courses.

Senior year will consist of 2 half year ELA courses including the introduction of British Lit and Media Criticism. Dystopian Lit and Cultural Perspectives courses have been shortened from a full year to a half year.

Rationale: ELA faculty requested separating juniors and seniors in American Literature in order to reduce the changes during senior year (internships, senioritis). The staff also recommended providing more opportunities for seniors to be exposed to different courses by making the courses semester based, thus reflecting a college setting.

Counseling Curriculum 9-12- find out what students strengths are early on.

- Move kids into the technology piece.
- Revise them to make them 21st century courses.
- Photography is one of the most populars classes.
- Environmental Sustainability would fall under a tech credit.
- Add a class like Cyber Security and Principles of Computer Science.

Mrs. Lemieux feels that if it's not a requirement then we don't have enough of these classes to maintain the staff that is already there. She doesn't want to hear about a teacher only having the sign ups for 3 classes and then needs to go to a .6 FTE. You also don't want a class of 5 people in it.

This enables some of the students to take some of the more challenging classes and not have tech as a requirement.

They still need to take 7 credits in an elective.

Motion: It was moved by Mrs. Larkin, seconded by Mr. Keefe and unanimously voted to remove technology credit graduation requirements, moving to 7 electives for our graduates.

Mrs. Foulis stated revamp of Science as we know it. Looking in the first term the kids struggling in Chemistry was a bit overwhelming. Algebra II should be paired with Chemistry. The big shift is having Environmental Science freshman year, biology in sophomore year, Chemistry and Environmental Science and Biomedical Science. You need 3 years of a lab science. Chemistry may not be a requirement. There will be more Environmental Science classes.

Mrs. Lemieux asked when is MCAS Science taken?

Freshman taking Biology. Next year a few of the freshmen will take it in their Freshman year and after that they will take it in their Sophomore year.

They are trying to make the Math, Chemistry component successful.

They want a pathway for students who may not be college bound and do not need to take Chemistry.

Trying to benefit all students.

Most students take Algebra II in their Junior year. This Algebra II would marry with Chemistry in their Junior year. They want to align Algebra II and Chemistry.

A.P. Language and A.P. Literature are open in 11th and 12th grade.

Mrs. Vinacco wants to see the Jr. vs Sr. enrollment in American Lit this year. Who are we to say you can't take American Lit as a Senior. Mrs. Foulis would make an exception if a senior told her they wanted to take American Lit as a senior.

Motion: It was moved by Mrs. Larkin, seconded by Mrs. Gaudette 7 in favor, 1 abstain- Mrs. Gaudette to approve the ELA junior and senior year requirements as presented by Mrs. Foulis.

They can take 1 AP English in their junior year. Some classes are only available to seniors. It may be a bit restrictive for juniors. They can take AP Literature or Language in their senior year.

Mrs. Lemieux is open to juniors taking ½ credit classes.

If you take a QCC course for a ½ year it is considered a full year credit.

Motion: It was moved by Mrs. Lemieux, seconded by Mr. Keefe and unanimously vote to approve the Science sequencing revamp rolled out as recommended by the teaching staff at the High School and explained by Mrs. Foulis.

Dual Enrollment

Two students will be full dual enrolment next year with Quinsigamond Community College.

Our offerings are not enough to hit the 10 person mark for QCC and run our own class. They will graduate next June with one year of college under their belt.

Waiting to hear back about their options. Looking at the possibility of CCRI or Bridgewater.

Students take P.E. in our district all four years. We need to change our policy to grandfather our incoming seniors. They may be able to look at a waiver and have other requirements fulfill it. They could look at the waiver for seniors moving forward. If we accept 3 seasons of athletics you could do that as a waiver. With more seniors coming down the line and participating in the QCC opportunity it will become more difficult for them to meet the 4 year P.E. requirement.

Athletic Fees

Dr. DeFalco stated the reduction in the athletic fees was originally for one year. The default after the school year is to go back to the original fees. Back to where they were with a \$600 family cap and \$200 individual. They do not need a motion on this.

They will notify families of the fee schedule going back to what it was for the upcoming year.

The bus contract was approved already for next year. There is a fuel escalation clause that may affect the cost for bussing. If it goes the other way there is a discount that we would receive also.

Chromebook purchase

The senior class chromebooks are very old. They want to let the students buy them for 20 dollars. They don't have a value at this point.

A middle schooler gets a chromebook and they are responsible for it until senior year is over.

Motion: It was moved by Mr. Keefe, seconded by Mrs. Lemieux and unanimously voted to approve for the end of the FY22 school year, seniors being given the opportunity to purchase their chromebook and charger for a combined cost of \$25. Otherwise, the devices are to be returned to the district. If a charger is lost (but the chromebook is returned), the student will be required to pay \$10 for each missing charger. If a chromebook is lost (but the charger is returned), the student will be required to pay \$20 for each missing chromebook.

Summer Programming

Extensive Level programming in place.

In heavy competition with districts around us to hire teachers.

Motion: It was moved by Mrs. Larkin, seconded by Mrs. Gaudette and unanimously voted to approve moving the hourly Unit A pay from \$35 per hour to "up to \$45 per hour." This is a one-time adjustment only to be applied to summer of 2022 programming and will revert back to the contractually agreed upon rate of \$35/hour at the start of the 22-23 school year.

The ESY program has already paid teachers \$45/hr. for years.

The bulk of the summer programming is from ESSER funds.
At the Boys and Girls club they will have 2 teachers and 2 counselors this year instead of 4 teachers and 4 counselors and it will continue to be split with Bellingham.

Report of the Business Office - Mr. Ehrenworth

Revenues are coming in as anticipated.

We don't expect to see any shortfalls.

The state will pay out for some of these 3 times per year.

Expenditures

Pre-paying tuition will be requested.

They started pre purchasing the math curriculum out of this year's budget.

If you are moving money across a series you need School Committee approval.

Personnel Changes in packets to be placed on file.

Facilities

The High School has 2 heating coils that need repairing. Having problems with Riverdale they will get a quote from Industrial Burner.

Irrigation systems- track and lower soccer fields are back online. sprinkler heads need to be replaced. Add a filtration system and this would help with the sprinkler heads breaking.

Dugout work continues.

Sealcoating should be done on the tennis courts.

Hartnett MS digital monitoring system needs repair.

Realigning our elementary schools. Rooms were assessed by movers moving all 2nd grade classrooms going to MES. Pre-K - 2 at MES and 3-5 at the Complex.

Facilities requests:

- Blackstone Millville Youth Basketball League
- Town of Blackstone - Use of HS Auditorium for Town Meeting
- BME PTO for a Boys and Special Lady Event

Motion: It was moved by Mrs. Larkin, seconded by Mrs. Lemieux and unanimously voted to approve the facilities request as presented pending approval on the school calendar so events don't overlap.

School Committee Forum

Mrs. Larkin thanked the MES custodian who helped with the dance.

Mr. Keefe congratulates Mrs. Reggio on her retirement from the school committee and thanks the new Millville members who recently stepped up.

Mrs. Gaudette wishes good luck to A.P. students taking exams.

The May 26th meeting has been changed to a workshop. They will hold Charting the Course for the new members and rest will join as a refresher starting at 4:00 p.m.

We will get invites to NHS induction next Thursday at 7:00 p.m. at the HS auditorium. We are also invited to all of the senior events. Members attend awards night and graduation.


Motion: It was moved by Mrs. Larkin, seconded by Mrs. Lemieux and unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Monique F. Simard
Recording Secretary

ATTEST:



Tara L. Larkin, District Secretary