

Blackstone-Millville Regional District School Committee

Minutes of Meeting

Frederick Hartnett Middle School

October 28, 2021

6:00 p.m.

Introduction of Members:

Jane C Reggio, Chairperson
Keri L. Gaudette, District Treasurer
Tara L. Larkin, District Secretary
Tammy A. Lemieux, Member
Tim Howell, Member
Amanda D. Guilmain, Member
Sarah E. Williams, Member

Erin Vinacco was absent from the meeting.

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

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

Report of Student Representatives

Fall sports update was given
Charger Community Day update
NHS field trip postponed due to rain

Motion: It was moved by Mr. Howell, seconded by Mrs. Gaudette and unanimously voted to approve Consent Agenda A which includes Warrants and Minutes of the September 16 and October 14, 2021 meetings.

There were no items for **Public Forum**

Student Recognition - Spring 2021 MCAS Scores of 540 - 560

Recognize the highlights of our state testing. Students who scored in Exceptional Level. The students in the top 20 point band and some had perfect scores.

All students present for the ceremony were given a certificate and pin of academic excellence.

Discussion of Policy JJIBA - Championship Jacket Awards

Robert McAnulty - Athletic Director

There was discussion at the previous meeting around Athletic Jacket awards and it was decided to have the Athletic Director present at this meeting to shed more light on the subject.

They are going to a statewide format and created a central mass athletic director association tournament which replaced districts. It is a tournament. The winner would qualify for states.

If the volleyball team wins tomorrow they are the Central Mass Athletic Director Association tournament winners and will go on to the state championship.

Football, cross country, indoor and outdoor track and basketball do not qualify in this manner. He is not sure about ice hockey.

Mr. Howell feels item 1 and item 3 contradict each other. You're eliminating what you are saying in item one in item three.

Mrs. Reggio feels that you have to qualify first. If you qualify as an individual you go on.

We can't eliminate districts since some teams still have districts.

If we add a lot of qualifying tournaments we need to spell out who gets a jacket.

Dr. DeFalco had a list that breaks everything down. It lists all sports very clearly.

They want to be sure that if a sport gets the highest rank their sport can possibly get they receive a jacket.

The policy will be longer due to the list from Dr. DeFalco but it makes it clearer.

Mrs. Guilmain feels that if a student plays co-op they should get a jacket from the town they play for.

Mrs. Reggio is uncomfortable in using funds from the District to buy a jacket for a student who co-ops for another district.

Dr. DeFalco - let's see how they do in the state championships tomorrow for volleyball.

Mr. Howell feels if they win tomorrow they deserve a jacket and a letter to go on the jacket.

Mrs. Reggio said to determine what the ultimate tournament is that they can win in each sport.

They will also look at the co-op language as well.

Policy BEDH - Public Comment at School Committee Meetings Policy

The Public Comments at School Committee meetings policy has already been clarified at the last meeting.

There is another policy that talks about the guidelines of the public comments policy.

When the policy sub-committee met they decided that both should match.

One said the general comment section would be up to 20 minutes and the other said the chair would decide.

Mrs. Lemieux questioned BEDH policy - if we ended it after the 3rd paragraph and only left the actual rules they would not need to modify both each time.

The only new part is "however, this is not a question and answer period." The School Committee is not able to engage in dialogue during public comment. They are only able to listen. The School Committee meetings are meetings in the public and not with the public.

Motion: It was moved by Mr. Howell, seconded by Mrs. Lemieux and unanimously voted to approve the updates to policy BEDH as amended "In an orderly manner" outlined in the BEDH-E guidelines for public comment.

Policy BEDH-E - Guidelines for Public Comment

Sections In yellow have been added from Policy BEDH which was all set. Original language removed was that the public comment shall be for no longer than 20 minutes and crossing out sentence number two.

Mr. Howell recommended making a motion to table the policy until the corrections are straightened out.

Mrs. Lemieux stated they will not have guidelines to follow if they do this.

Changes to BEDH-E

#2

Speakers changed to citizens.

Persons not residing in member towns may be allowed speaking time at the discretion of the chair.

#3

Change speakers to persons and do not change it to citizens.

#4

Leave #4 as speakers and do not change it to citizens.

Motion: It was moved by Mrs. Williams, seconded by Mr. Howell and unanimously voted to approve the amendments as outlined above to Policy BEDH-E.

Report of the Superintendent -

Dr. DeFalco announced the Commissioner extended the mask mandate through January 15, 2022.

Karen Young- Lead Nurse

Covid Update

- 52 cases in District - 70% have come from Complex and HMS
- 33 cases in October which ties us with January 2021 for highest total
- 541 in school close contact
- 130 test and stay
- 346 monitoring only
- 26 vaccinated and have not had to quarantine just monitor
- 33 have opted for quarantine
- 6 have been positive in the last 90 days
- There are 197 vaccinated students at the High School - 47.3%
- There are 145 vaccinated students at the Hartnett Middle School- 36.6%

Flu clinics will be held on November 3rd at the High School and November 5th at the Middle School. A covid clinic will be held at the Middle School on November 9th from 1 - 5 p.m. open for students and families and anyone who wants a vaccine.

Staff - all but 10 staff members are fully vaccinated districtwide. They are looking to get the percentages.

If you want information on cases it is on the dashboard on the website only.

All students who tested positive were unvaccinated.

Mr. Howell stated we have holidays coming up and people will gather and if something doesn't change we will be wearing masks for a while.

Where there are multiple students in a classroom who were close contacts with each other, many have tested positive.

Overall Town Vaccinations

- Blackstone - 55% vaccinated overall
- Millville -45% vaccinated overall

Dr. DeFalco commented that we spend so much time away from our families taking time on the contact tracing and all covid related responsibilities. It's becoming tiresome because it is unnecessary.

Mrs. Young gives a shout out to the other nurses in the District.

Mr. Howell is asking the community to please get your children vaccinated.

Technology Plan

Dan Saltzman

Dr. DeFalco feels that the entire tech department has done an incredible job.

1 year ago they presented the 3 year tech plan.

1. Microsoft Windows based systems - significant progress
2. Google based system - significant progress
3. Network infrastructure- no action necessary
4. Clever based system - completed
5. classroom technology - significant progress
6. onboarding of district employees and families- significant progress

Fund related to E rate Emergency connectivity fund

1. Student chromebooks - \$245,754 funded and \$45,175 pending
ECF approved : 816 units
ECT pending approval : 150 units
Staff Chromebooks - \$79,290 funded
20 internet hotspots \$4800

Microsoft Desktop systems

goal: Reduce the number of Microsoft systems. Upgrade what remains.

Significant Progress:

198 teacher chromebooks procured in September

An additional order will complete the process by 2023

Significant progress : upgrade

about 35% of all remaining machines upgraded with fast drives and Windows 10

Mr. Howell asked about Windows 11. Mr. Saltzman is not sure if our current computers can handle windows 11. 90% will be updated with Chromebooks for teachers.

Technology Goals: Microsoft Server Systems

Previously managed:

- 34 legacy servers
- 14 non redundant hardware systems
- some server 17 years old
- Goal is to reduce replace and upgrade
- All hardware has been replaced
- All hardware is redundant
- Active Directory Servers - Responsible for most vital network services: All replaced.
- All remaining legacy servers will be replaced by 2023.

Networking Infrastructure - All systems are appropriate and functional.

Action not necessary

January 2023 apply for grant.

Clever Single Sign on

Successfully implemented ongoing maintenance

Classroom Technology

- 160 mostly outdated projectors
- Goal replace all projectors
- Significant progress made. 115 viewsonic 65" touchscreen panels are being delivered in early November.
- Rollout through Winter 2022
- MS continues with their projectors until 2023. Upgrading the touchpanel a bit more difficult.

Onboarding: Goal - formal process to streamline the hiring of new staff - significant progress in house system using Google Workplace Forms

The final system should be in place for new hiring Summer 2022

There is no current lease on the new chromebooks.

Mrs. Lemieux asked Is there training for the teachers for their new technology?

It came up quicker than Mr. Saltzman had planned. They will work on the plans to help the teachers. They will make sure all are trained and know how to use the new projectors.

Troubleshooting a chromebook is easier.

Mrs. Lemieux asked, will the onboarding allow parents to sign online? Yes, it will with docuSign.

They will have the online option and will continue to allow parents to sign manually if they so choose.

School Improvement Plan - Elementary

Angela Hartz - Instructional Coach MES

We think, we show, we grow!

- 51% of students are at/above grade level expectations in K.
- 48% of students are at/above grade level expectation in 1.

Wonders:

- Listening Comprehension was an area of strength.
- Letter ID/sound has been an area of focus in K & 1.

What:

- continue to implement with fidelity the ELA curriculum at PK-1
- Ensure that math instruction is meeting the learning needs of every PK -1 students

How:

- Implement instructional supports through the school year to assist staff in strengthening their craft.
- Continue working with Focused Schools to strengthen our Instructional Leadership Team to support all teachers in delivering high quality teaching and learning in all classrooms.

Whole Child:

- Continue to utilize a social emotional program and implement Mindfulness Teaching in order to help students learn:
 - Self awareness and empathy.
 - Self advocacy.
 - Self care.
- Be sure all students have equitable access to curriculum.
- Engage families and community members around our school wide instructional focus.

JFK Complex - School Improvement Plan

Dr. Remka along with Esther Cote, Danielle Keane

All students will use evidence based strategies to increase comprehension in all content areas.

3 questions:

- 1. who is succeeding academically?

- 2. Who is not succeeding?
- 3. How do we improve student achievement?

Key findings are MCAS Grade 3-5 for 2019 - 2021

Increase in both grade 3 and 4 ELA proficiency.

Decrease in all grade 3-5 for Math proficiency

STAR (Grade 2-5)

Under 50% of meeting/exceeding expectations in all grade 2-5 for reading

Under 40% of meeting/exceeding expectations in all grade 2-5 for math

Use of Wonders Universal Screener (current grade level standards)

What:

- Implement with fidelity the adopted ELA Curriculum (Wonders)
- Ensure that Math instruction is meeting the learning needs for grades 2-5 students and results in growth for all learners.

How:

- Implement instructional supports throughout the school year to ensure that all students have equitable access to learning opportunities that will accelerate their growth and achievement.
- Continue working with focused schools to strengthen our instructional leadership team to support all teachers in delivering high quality teaching and learning for all students - no exceptions.

Whole Child:

All students and staff continue to grow the core competencies of social emotional wellness and further commit themselves to a socially just community (self aware, caring, respectful, connected to others, responsible decision makers, and academic achievers), educators, students, families, and community members work together to foster a safe, inclusive, joyful learning environment, one that emphasizes strength of self, demands mutual respect, and embraces diversity.

Community

Keeping the community engaged in helping every grade 2-5 student to grow as a learner Families and school staff collaborate with community members to connect students, families, and staff to expand family engagement opportunities and community services.

MS - Mrs. Curt Hoard and Sloan Rielly

Mrs. Curt Hoard spoke on the data and key findings

Star Boy	Grade 6 M/E	Grade 7 M/E	Grade 8 M/E
Math	38%	26%	39%
Reading	40%	33%	39%

Goals:

The What:

- The Humanities and ELA dept. will implement with fidelity our core literacy program, Amplify.
- The Science technology teacher, guidance counselor, STEM staff and some rotation staff will implement our new Career Exploration program and additions to STEM courses.
- Science staff will implement the PLTW unit for their grade level.
- Our history/science staff will use the cognitive skills rubric to revise/create project-based learning for all students.
- The math dept. will conduct a self study of our curriculum - Big Ideas.

ESSER funds were used for a sensory room - a therapeutic place to help students feel calm and get better prepared to learn and interact with others. It is available to all students. Bands allow students to move and stretch in their seats. Each classroom has one standing desk and it has a waiting list for it.

The Community

Staff will continue to establish productive two way communication between school and home in order to provide all families with feedback and support on student learning.

The school will continue to educate families and the community about the school's instructional focus.

The school continues to share it's evidence based instructional proactive with supports for homes and families are able to implement.

Mrs. Foulis and Tim Sullivan

BMRHS

Key findings and data

- Portrait of a graduate guiding our practice and decision making at BMRHS
- Introduction of second evidence based teaching proactive to meet the needs of each student ASE: Anser, support explain
- Year 2 of our Authentic Assessment initiative
- Addition of interventions for math science and ela
- Aligned student learning goals to our evidence based practices
- Career and College programming to expose students to possible career pathways.

Goals

The **What**: Review and revision of curriculum with a focus on assessing critical thinking skills to meet the needs of all students across all content areas.

The **How**: Staff will concentrate on implementing evidence based instructional practices of interacting with a source, ASE and Authentic Assessments with a focus on critical thinking and problem solving skills.

The **Whole Child** - Establish and maintain a culture that promotes positive relationships throughout the entire school community through the implementation of Charger Community Advisory Program.

The **Community** - The school will continue to educate families and the community about the Portrait of a graduate skills students will have upon graduation and how they will be measured using targeted evidence based instructional practices.

Dr. DeFalco stated the teams are determined and focused and year after year they get even better at this and he is super proud of their hard work and energy.

8th grade Washington, D.C. Trip for the Middle School - culminating event to year long civics course.

- Depart 6:00 am on June 6th and return home at 1:00 pm on June 8th - using Capital Tours Inc.
- 100 students/10 chaperones
- Everything remains the same as the last trip taken.
- keep the price at \$600.
- Looking into the Ghost Tour of Alexandria and the Pentagon City Mall.
- The insurance remains the same as well.

There are 3 different fundraisers so that if a student works hard at it they do not even have to pay for their trip.

Motion: It was moved by Mr. Howell, seconded by Mrs. Williams and unanimously voted to approve the proposed 8th grade trip to Washington, DC from June 6- June 8, 2022 as presented by Mrs. Curt Hoard..

7th grade action Plan

Looking to add a full time Math and full time ELA interventionist for this grade level.

Mondays and Fridays - follow typical school schedule- co-teacher with grade 7 Math and ELA teachers using workshop model for curriculum.

Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday - small group intervention classes (3 teaching blocks - 2 during charger time, 1 co-teaching block), 2 teaching blocks after school from 2:15 to 4:00 p.m. Students provided busing.

All partially meeting and not meeting students starting with highest needs first could participate.

Motion: It was moved by Mr. Howell, seconded by Mrs. Lemeiux and unanimously voted to approve the Grade 7 action plan and the addition of 2 interventionists.

Report of the Business Office
Matt Ehrenworth -

Sub teacher pay information

Request to move daily subs to \$90/day or \$15/hr from the current \$75/day.

Request to move permanent subs to \$96/day or \$16/hr from the current \$75/day.

The particulars of being a permanent sub were discussed. You need to have a college degree to be a permanent sub but not necessarily a teaching degree.

It was decided to change the permanent sub pay to \$102/day or \$17/hr. from the current \$75/day.

Motion: It was moved by Mr. Howell, seconded by Mrs. Gaudette and unanimously voted to raise the day to day substitute pay to \$15/hr and \$90/day and the permanent substitute pay to \$17/hr and 102/day.

Facilities Report

Baseball/Softball Field:

Exploring removable outfield fencing options with pricing range between \$3K - \$5 K.

Tennis Courts:

Work by Premier Sealcoating & striping

Completion - moved to the end of October due to weather delays in schedule

Update - there has been a delay in getting materials needed. Green will take significantly longer.

Other color will be faster - but no definite window

Safety Laminate on AFM/JFK and MES Vestibules:

Work by American Window Film

Air Bubble on front exterior door at FWHMS: Warrant to be completed by 10/29.

Use of Facilities Request:

Xpress Cheer - AFM Maloney Gym -

Motion: It was moved by Mr. Howell, seconded by Mrs. Larkin and unanimously voted to approve the use of facilities request by Xpress Cheer to use the AFM Gym contingent on checking with Mrs. Marlboro, Administrative Assistant to coordinate the times.


Thanksgiving Feast - Dr. DeFalco stated that the feast may be a grab and go and have kids make cards for families and place it in their food box. People are wary about going into the cafeteria unmasked before the holidays and the possibility of a super spreader.

It will be at no cost and you are able to make a donation if you wish to.

- Community Meeting will now be held on December 1st at 6:30 p.m. - Finance Committees , Boards of Selectmen and Capital Planning Committees from the Towns.
- School Committee Meeting on December 9th - 5:30 p.m. - public forum to discuss future facility plans
- Next school committee meeting - November 18th

Motion: It was moved by Mr. Howell, seconded by Mrs. Lemieux and unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting at 9:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Monique F. Simard
Recording Secretary

ATTEST:  11/18/21
Tara L. Larkin, District Secretary