

**Blackstone-Millville Regional District School Committee**  
**Minutes of Meeting**  
**Frederick Hartnett Middle School**  
**November 18, 2021**  
**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  
Sarah E. Williams, Member

Tammy A. Lemieux and Matthew J. Ehrenworth were absent from the meeting.

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

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

**Report of Student Representatives**

Madison Marchand and Kyleigh Sacco  
Annual Powder Puff Game to be held next week.  
Winter Sports, Basketball and Indoor Track will be starting after the Thanksgiving break.

**Motion:** It was moved by Mrs. Guilmain, seconded by Mrs. Gaudette and unanimously voted to approve Consent Agenda A which includes Warrants and the Minutes of October 28, 2021.

**Public Forum** - Jennifer Wing - watched the last meeting regarding the Jacket Sub Committee. She feels the jackets should be looked at as an accomplishment.

**File: JJIBA - Championship Jacket Awards**

Review the policy - Championship Jacket Policy - 1st reading with a few amendments added.

What do they want to see students achieve?

The following are the changes to the policy:

1. District/Central MA Athletics Directors Association/State. CMADA/State

3. In all sports, athletes who participate, as identified above in section 1, and win the appropriate tournament as outlined in the attached list below, or in the event that the team loses the identified tournament listed below but wins at the state level or in the sports of Track, Cross Country and Tennis whose athletes qualify to enter and participate in the District Track meet, Cross Country meet, or Tennis meet along with those who actually score, will receive a JACKET.

6. Any athlete that is part of another district's co-op team that meets the standards outlined above, and the host district does not purchase a JACKET for the BMRSD athlete, BMRSD will purchase the JACKET for the BMRSD athlete.

7. Any athlete from another district that co-ops with a BMRSD team, and the team meets the standards outlined above, BMRSD will purchase the JACKET for the athlete from the other district and the JACKET will be a BMRSD JACKET not one that represents the sending district.

**Motion:** It was moved by Mrs. Vinacco, seconded by Mr. Howell and unanimously voted to approve Policy JJIBA - Championship Jacket with the above mentioned changes.

### **Students Recognition**

#### **BMRHS Marching Band**

#### **BMRHS Volleyball Team**

The teams were recognized at the meeting and awarded championship jackets or patches if they already had a jacket.

The Marching Band show in New Jersey was played.

The girls have been playing volleyball together for the last 5 seasons and have grown so much.

Dr. DeFalco stated that the teamwork piece is a life skill. You could see it when they were playing.

Mrs. Reggio will try to raise the banner for Volleyball around graduation time.

### **Report of the Business Office presented by Dr. DeFalco**

Total Revenue - up to Nov. 15th

Nothing unusual and all funds are coming in as scheduled

Grant fund expenditure review

Personnel Report

## Surplus Item

The cafeteria manager is asking to deem an old, broken freezer chest at the High School as surplus.

**Motion:** It was moved by Mr. Howell, seconded by Mrs. Larkin and unanimously voted to deem the broken High School freezer chest as surplus and dispose of it.

## Facilities

- Baseball and softball dugout roof kits arrived last week; installation to begin soon

### **Tennis courts:**

- Work by Premier Sealcoating and Striping
- Work began Monday, November 15th - completion depends on weather
- New vendor for paint - sticking with original green color

### **Safety Laminate on AFM/JFK and MES vestibules**

- Work by American Window Firm
- Air bubble on front exterior door at HMS
- Repair not done to satisfaction , will be back again

### **Track and Field**

- New shot put discus cage has arrived
- Old shot put and discus fencing to be removed

## Use of Facilities

**Motion:** It was moved by Mr. Howell, seconded by Mrs. Guilmain and unanimously voted to approve the Use of Facilities request by the Town of Millville to use the MES auditorium on 11/22/21 from 7:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. for their meeting.

**Motion:** It was moved by Mrs. Vinacco, seconded by Mr. Howell and unanimously voted to approve the Use of Facilities request by the Winter Guard to use the Hartnett Middle School Gymnasium on Tuesday and Thursday evening from 11/30/21 - 3/1/22.

The question was raised on how does this impact the basketball request we already approved? Scott Hebert is working on this with all administrative assistants to clear this up.

Mrs. Reggio stated we made it very clear in our motion that school events take precedence over outside events. We need a master schedule that has all the school events on it ahead of time so you do not have this happen again.

Mrs. Vinacco feels this will continue to cause problems.

Dr. DeFalco will look into this.

Mrs. Williams doesn't feel that Winter Guard should have to complete the use of facilities form since they are having a school event.

Mr. Howell is asking for a Google doc with all of this information on it so the Committee can see it at all times.

### **Karen Young, Lead Nurse - CV Update**

There have been 75 covid cases in the District this school year as follows:

6 cases in August  
13 cases in September  
36 cases in October  
20 cases in November

There have been 843 in school contacts. Additional information can be found on the BMR dashboard.

Town vaccination rates have not changed since the last meeting.

A vaccine clinic will be held on November 9th. Mrs. Young wants a follow-up clinic as well.

**OSHA update** - Dr. DeFalco stated guidelines were out 2 weeks ago. Action plan made.

Their attorney said we are ahead of the curve. Not sure if it pertains to Massachusetts. Recommended to start the guidelines publicly in case we need to move forward with this. If it has to be done it will be by January 5th.

We have 24 staff members that would need to be tested because they are not vaccinated. Under the guidelines employers are not required to pay for it. Every 72 hours they would need to be tested. It must be a supervised test.

### **8th Grade Washington D.C. trip**

There were many details to work out. They have updated information on the trip,

They have certain safety precautions that must be taken.

They need 40 students per bus to keep the current price.

A survey was sent out.

Proposed protocols:

- Students must be fully vaccinated by May 22nd.
- Negative PCR test 72 hours before or a rapid 24 hours before departure.
- Masking at all times except for in hotel rooms.
- Symptom free on day of departure.

What if they get there and someone tests positive.

The nurse would give a rapid test.

If positive they would be quarantined in a hotel room until the last day of the trip but they will need to be transported home separately. Parents could also pick up their child if they choose.

Non-refundable deposit is due at the beginning of December.

There is a good value in trip insurance especially during Covid.

Mrs. Reggio stated the more we can do those things that people look forward to it helps with their social emotional well being.

Mrs. Gaudette doesn't understand why all the students need to be vaccinated in order to go on the trip. She feels the negative test result should be enough. She feels it's a push to get more students vaccinated.

Mr. Howell just visited the D.C. metro area and noticed that everyone was wearing a mask. You need to wear a mask to do just about anything in D.C. Most are government office buildings. To be a government employee you must be vaccinated. We are trying to involve everyone in 8th grade. He understands the need for vaccination. That's his standpoint. However, we have to allow the agency of the parents. What are we saying to the kids whose parents won't let them get vaccinated? Then we allow everyone else to go. He feels there needs to be compromise.

Dr. DeFalco believes we need to follow the Board of Health and the lead nurse. He believes they need to be vaccinated in order to go on the trip.

Mrs. Reggio stated this could change in January or March but for now this is what we need to do. We have been clear in our message on following the guidelines.

Mrs. Guilmain feels enforcing this will put a large wedge between the community and the school district.

Mr. Howell feels we need to keep the trip going and if vaccination is part of it then this is what we need to do.

Mrs. Young wishes we didn't have the December deadline on it. We could wait and see how things are. There is less risk if you are vaccinated. When kids are sharing rooms and eating together contact tracing will be difficult. She feels the only way to do this is to be vaccinated especially with the December deadline.

**School Committee Forum**

Mrs. Reggio - District of One Thanksgiving Day Dinner was very well attended. She can't thank the volunteers enough. \$538 was donated to the food pantry.

We as a school committee need to do a better job of developing relationships with the members of our towns. She feels the town boards don't feel connected to them as a Committee.

Mrs. Vinacco -extends congratulations to the marching band and volleyball.

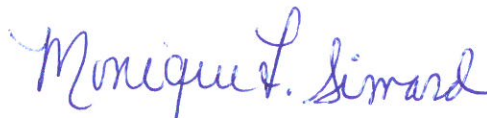
Mr. Gaudette - thanks all for supporting our teams and coming out to their games and performances.

December 1st - Capital Planning meeting @ 5:30 with joint meeting at 6:30

December 9th - Public Forum at 5:30 capital planning hearing before the 6:00 School Committee meeting.

**Motion:** It was moved by Mr. Howell, seconded by Mrs. Gaudett to adjourn the regular meeting at 7:40 p.m. and to enter into Executive Session to conduct strategy with respect to collective bargaining and not to return to the regular meeting. A roll call vote was taken.

Respectfully submitted,



Monique F. Simard  
Recording Secretary

ATTEST:



Tara L. Larkin, District Secretary