

**Blackstone-Millville Regional District School Committee**  
**Minutes of Meeting**  
**Frederick Hartnett Middle School**  
**December 9, 2021**  
**6:00 p.m.**

**Introduction of Members:**

Jane C Reggio, Chairperson  
Erin P. Vinacco, Vice Chairperson - Present Virtually  
Keri L. Gaudette, District Treasurer  
Tara L. Larkin, District Secretary  
Tim Howell, Member  
Amanda D. Guilmain, Member  
Sarah E. Williams, 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. Matthew J. Ehrenworth, Assistant Superintendent and Karen Young, Lead Nurse.

**Report of Student Representatives**

Madison Marchand and Kyleigh Sacco  
Drama Club performances of Clue will be held on Friday and Saturday of this week.  
Annual Powder Puff game went well. The Junior/Sophomore team won by 2 touchdowns.  
Pep Rally to be held before Christmas Break.

**Motion:** It was moved by Mr. Howell, seconded by Mrs. Guilmain and unanimously voted to approve Consent Agenda A which includes Warrants and Minutes of November 18, 2021.

**Public Forum** - Request taken virtually to try and find other ways to communicate with those that don't have students in the school district. Mrs. Reggio stated the Committee uses the Blackstone Enlightener and Facebook. They welcome any ideas to improve the communication to the two Towns.

**Capital Sub Committee future facilities plan and discussion this evening.**

Mrs. Reggio understands the need to explore all options but feels the Committee did that. She still thinks our biggest needs and opportunities are at the high school.

Mr. Howell wonders if we want to throw good money after bad. If we go the proposed routes we will be in the same situation in 3-5 years. We need to move forward to bring education to the forefront of the community. Property values will increase and the towns will prosper together.

Mrs. Guilmain feels we are better served to put the students in new state of the art schools.

Another facilities plan meeting will be scheduled in the future. They invite all with questions, information or concerns to reach out and contact them. Mrs. Reggio is willing to meet with anyone. They will eventually do a statement of interest before it goes to the Towns for a feasibility study. They are only in the beginning stages.

### **Report of the Superintendent - Jason DeFalco**

Karen Young Lead Nurse

#### **Covid Review**

The masking policy remains the same and it won't be looked at by the Department of Education until January 15th.

Mrs. Young stated November was a horrible Covid month. There were 46 cases in November after we beat the record in October. We are currently up to 115 cases for the school year. Last year in total we had 128 for the entire year. We should hit last year's totals this month.

- Middle School - 44 cases
- Complex - 32 cases
- MES - 22 cases
- HS - 16 cases
- No School assignment - 1 case
  
- 1232 in school close contacts
- 288 test and stay
- 807 monitoring only
- 86 chose quarantine

#### Vaccination rates by age - Blackstone

- 5 - 11 - 2%
- 12-15 - 49%
- 16-19 - 55%
- Overall 57%

#### Vaccination rates by age - Millville

- 5-11 - 30%
- 12 - 15 - 41%
- 16-19 - 59%
- 46% overall

### Vaccination Rates

- HS - 55%
- MS - 38%
- Complex - 2%
- MES - 1%

Vaccination Clinic held on 30th - 82 children and 22 adults received vaccinations with 22 boosters administered.

There will be an additional clinic on December 21st from 1:30 - 5:00 p.m. in the High School Cafeteria.

### Upcoming Events

Drama Club Play - Clue - this Friday and Saturday evening at the High School auditorium. Monday, December 20th BMR High School concert band and High School wind ensemble will perform

Dec. 21st - 6:00 p.m. HMS band and chorus will perform at the High School Auditorium

### **Consortium with Districts around Blackstone Valley to open up courses to BMRHS students.**

Courses available for the spring. Video Lab will be taught by our own Damien Gaudet.

Manufacturing, Video lab and Welding will be offered either virtually or hybrid at no cost and for extra credits.

Students can do job shadows and career talks with professionals, field trips and summer classes.

### **Seniors**

Applying for a grant through the Dept. of Education for paid internships for students who are interested in a career in education. This will be launched in the 2nd semester. Seniors can go back and give back.

### **Winter Sports Overview - Robert McAnulty**

Basketball started today.

### **Winter Sports - FY22**

- MS Basketball - 15 students
- Boys JV Basketball - 13 students

- Boys Varsity Basketball - 15 students
- Girls JV Basketball - 9 students
- Girls Varsity Basketball - 13 students
- Co-op Boys Hockey @ Bellingham
- Co-op Girls Hockey @ Auburn
- Co-op indoor track @ Hopedale
- Co-op Swim @ Grafton

Mr. McAnulty discussed the important MIAA State Tournaments to be held in February and March 2022.

Winter Sports Spectator, Players, Coaches and Officials  
Mask mandate for winter sports  
This will be reviewed by DESE on January 15th.

### **School Safety**

Dr. DeFalco spoke on Alice Training -

Four lives were lost in the most recent Oxford High School (1600 students attend) shooting but more than likely many lives were saved because of how they all responded. The entire shooting was over in 5 minutes.

Students and staff must be prepared. We don't panic, we prepare. Throughout the Fall we have re-trained all of our staff. It is a very important piece. In the re-training we involved simulations. It was done with our local police departments.

At the end of October they met with police about next steps. Conversations took place with parents and guardians first. Families met in the auditorium at the High School. They will do it again in early January.

They will then shift into retraining students in table tops. Walking students and staff through the steps with an active shooter in the building.

Parents have the right to dismiss their students if they do not want them to participate. He urges all families to allow their children to participate.

In April we will implement and coordinate a community response drill to do at our High School. You can have all plans on paper but need the agencies involved to actually act out the plan.

They now have the vestibules and cameras and tried to strengthen all of this.

If you see or hear something please don't minimize it but tell someone in the District. Don't feel that it is not something to take seriously but tell us.

## **Overview on where we think we will be with FY23 Budget**

District Improvement Strategy: The What, The Community, The How and the Whole Child.

### **Work Anchoring the budget this year:**

- Small shift in students population down to 1572
- New Blueprint on July 1st
- 50% of students classified as High Needs  
All receiving free lunch
- Current economic needs of families are still unknown
- Emphasis on Curriculum - Mathematics and studying Social Studies Curriculum. There is no core Social Studies Curriculum in place.
- Sustaining the work of our career and pathways while building a dual enrollment pipeline

### **Budget Process to date:**

- Leadership met with School Committee for a timeline
- Principals to identify the needs in their schools and focus on instructional focus
- Principals went to buildings and staff to develop needs and budgets - blueprint for District 2.0
- Met again with cost center managers to develop department school budgets

### **Implemented/Attained Priorities**

- Acceleration Programs are in place before and after school robust to intervention plan
- Math/ELA/Reading and Science interventionists added
- Engaging in math curriculum review and renewal process
- Supporting new ELA curriculum and career pathways
- Expanded security systems and Complex and MES safety vestibules and window films
- Repair of softball/baseball field, tennis courts and track area

Thank you to the school committee and school community - our school system has come light years in the last few years. Dr. DeFalco is incredibly grateful for this.

### **Where we want to be:**

#### **Strategic Priorities**

- Identification of social studies curriculum
- Support for new math program
- Enhancement of our career development programs - Biomed, Engineering/Robotics, Advanced Manufacturing
- Resources for continued focus on social emotional learning and community needs and implementation of District Family Resource Center- we now have a social worker

working with the community and helping families to get the services they need and supporting students and at home services. They want to make her more readily accessible to families. We know the needs are here and how to design a system to support partner work with families to develop these services. We are seeing a big need for food and clothing. There is also a large need for mental health support. She is located in the central office right now but Dr. DeFalco feels it is not a welcoming and warm and fuzzy place to go.

- Strengthening our diversity, equity, and inclusion work
- Facilities/grounds work connected to capital planning study

### **Strategic Priorities staffing**

- .5 Leader for Academic Affairs shared with Bellingham- we need to get to a place where someone other than Dr. DeFalco is centralizing and organizing this work. He would like only a part time person to help coordinate that work. Shared positions for the coordination and leadership coaching work here and in Bellingham.
- 1 Family Resource Center Administrative Assistant
- 2 Business Teachers 1 MS and 1 HS
- .6 History Teacher at MS
- Permanent Subs

Maintaining intervention services while backing out funding from Covid 19 relief grants

2 Stem teachers through the Esser II grant this year - move them from ESSER II to our local budget next year.

Mrs. Reggio and Mr. Howell agreed with the .5 Leader for Academic Affairs.

### **Matthew J. Ehrenworth**

#### **Asbestos During Summer of 2022**

Removal and replacement of all ceiling tiles in the B wing at the High School first floor and associated work. Public Bid and advertised in the Central Register per Chapter 149 \$195,000. This will also require asbestos design, monitoring, and air sampling - \$30,000

#### **Other Post Employment Benefits (OPEB)**

The district has committed to funding this at a minimum of \$50,000 per year This has been funded in FY22 as well.

#### **Middle School Security Cameras**

Middle School currently has fewer cameras than the High School \$50,000.

#### **Next Steps:**

FY23 draft budget at Jan. 13th meeting

Joint Meetings to be held with boards of the Towns (Boards of Selectmen, Finance Sub Committees from each town and School Committee - To be scheduled  
School Committee public hearing and vote on March 10th.  
Production/distribution of books to the public by March 14th.

Joint Town meeting after they have met with all departments.

**Budget Workshops:**

January 20th - 6:00 p.m.

January 24th - 6:00 p.m.

January 27th - 5:30 p.m.

Mrs. Guilmain -asks the Committee to consider the idea of having a full time athletic director. She feels we have had a part time person and we currently have 30 sports teams and all managed by one person. She feels it is quite a bit for one person getting only a part time stipend. We have built our schools and curriculum overall and she feels the missing piece is the athletics. She feels we could do more. Schools around us with the same size have better programs. Introducing intramural sports in between seasons. Who is keeping an eye on the new coaches? Currently there isn't time for that.

**Report of the Assistant Superintendent**

**Matthew J. Ehrenworth**

**Revenue and Expenditure review:**

Things running smoothly on revenue and ESSER III money has not been collected. We were recently approved for this grant.

General Fund Expenditures - going according to plan. Points out medical and health with a deficit we will receive a \$100,000 grant for the health services.

Mr. Howell has questions. He looks at the current available balance and sees red all over.

Mr. Ehrenworth stated that 4400 network and telecom is red but there are other accounts in the black. It will be offset by the other 4400 accounts.

Mr. Howell feels this is fuzzy math.

Mr. Ehrenworth stated once the budget is set he can't move funds from one account to another. They can adjust the expenses later on.

The 9300 is a large red number. Where students attend school is varied. They may not have any control over this. There is a surplus in another line. They are also offset by the Circuit Breaker fund.

Mr. Howell wants to know how do we get to a point where we don't have all this red in future budgets.

Mr. Ehrenworth will try to move some of these.

Mr. Howell doesn't want to rob Peter to pay Paul.

Some expenses may be coming from a different account number than they were budgeted for and they need to adjust this.

Personnel updates were given to the Committee members.

**Facilities update:**

- Baseball and Softball dugout roof kits have arrived.
- Air bubble in the Safety Laminate at the HMS.
- Track and Field new shot put and discus cages have arrived.

**Motion:** It was moved by Mrs. Lemieux, seconded by Mr. Howell and unanimously voted to approve the Town of Millville's Town Meeting on January 5th.

Mr. Howell - asked where we are with streamlining registration and a centralized location for that.

All forms for the beginning of the school year should be online.

Have forms filled out online and have the District Resource office check them and have families get the resources needed.

Mr. Ehrenworth had a conversation with Mr. Saltzmann, Technology director to get this underway.

Mr. Ehrenworth is trying to get HR online and once we finalize that process they can start moving to the registration forms.

Mrs. Guilmain stated seniors are getting college acceptances in. Maybe they could post this information online or move it to a more common area than the A wing.



**Motion:** It was moved by Mr. Howell, seconded by Mrs. Guilmain to adjourn the meeting at 8:55 p.m. and enter into Executive Session and not go back 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