

**Blackstone-Millville Regional District School Committee**  
**Minutes of Meeting**  
**Frederick W. Hartnett Middle School**  
**March 10, 2022**  
**6:00 p.m.**

**Introduction of Members:**

Jane C Reggio, Chairperson  
Erin P. Vinacco, Vice Chairperson - virtual  
Keri L. Gaudette, District Treasurer - virtual  
Tara L. Larkin, District Secretary  
Tim Howell, Member  
Amanda D. Guilmain, 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.

**Student Representative Update**

- The Drama Club will be presenting The Princess and the Pea on May 10th
- There will be a mock car crash
- Spring sports will begin on March 21st
- Senior Internships
- GSA conference next week
- Empty Bowl on April 13th

**Public Hearing FY23 Budget -**

**Dr. DeFalco**

Anchored in our District Improvement Strategy  
Steering Committee and School Committee working on the next version of our District Improvement Strategy.

- 1538 Students enrolled
- State Determined Measures
- State did not issue new accountability levels
- No schools require any state assistance or intervention
- 95% four year graduation rate
- 2% Dropout Rate

**Budget Process to date:**

- FY23 Timeline approved by Committee
- Principals identify school needs
- Cost center manager staff and principals work on needs
- School improvement plans and instructional focus Blueprint 2.0
- Dr. DeFalco and Mr. Ehrenworth meet with cost center managers and go through line by line
- Give approval of what can be presented to School Committee
- For 15 hours Dr. DeFalco and Mr. Ehrenworth went through budget and reviewed 5 year spending trend
- Budget workshops publicly
- Make adjustments with School Committee to make it palatable to towns

**Dr. DeFalco:**

- Go after all grants we can. 2.185 million dollars in grants written
- Receiving \$80,000 for new math series from DOE
- summer program grant will be written and will free up esser funds to be used somewhere else
- Closing gaps and advancing district
- Minimize non academic barriers
- Support K-12 math curriculum
- Career development and pathways offer all students what they need to be college or career ready
- 1.5 million paid in students exiting district
- Grand total budget increase of 4.58 %
- Both towns have capital payments that will have principal payments due this year
- FY22 allocate \$50,000 to OPEB
- E&D \$550,106 certified lower than it really should be

**Breakdown of Contributions by Towns:**

**Blackstone Assessment**

Min. Local Contribution	\$7,525,714
Exclusionary Costs	\$1,361,261
Additional	\$1,277,522
Capital	<u>\$ 530,657</u>
Total:	<b>\$10,695,154</b>

**Millville Assessment**

Min. Local Contribution	\$2,423,620
Exclusionary Costs	\$ 437,930
Additional	\$ 410,990
Capital	<u>\$ 191,762</u>
Total:	<b>\$3,464,302</b>

MSBA going through accelerated repair projects and reimbursement has been delayed.  
We were reduced by \$310,000 because of delayed MSBA reimbursements.  
Wants Towns to contribute \$100,000 to OPEB this year and years to come  
Hope to eventually build up the trust fund and be able to pay for retirees benefits off of the  
interest in that trust fund.  
Want to certify on Thursday March 24th.

**Motion:** It was moved by Mr. Howell, seconded by Mrs. Lemieux and unanimously voted  
to close the Public Hearing.

### Consent Agenda A

**Motion:** It was moved by Mrs. Guilmain, seconded by Mr. Howell and unanimously vote to  
approve the Warrants and Minutes of 2/10/22.

### Public Forum

Concerned parent stated her high school daughter had a rough year due to lack of teachers  
staying in the school district.  
Teachers say they are leaving because the school is not paying them enough money to stay  
here. Adults should not be telling any child why they are leaving.  
She is also concerned with the tech dept. Chromebooks are not blocked from certain sites and  
it's an issue. Students should only have access to school related items. Her child can open  
zoom and chat with people around the world. She feels this is a problem.

Dr. DeFalco will call this mom tomorrow to walk through everything.

### Scholarships for Class of 2022

Dr. DeFalco - cheerleading team won DVC championships.

- Church of St. Paul Twice Treasured Thrift Store Scholarship in the amount of \$1,000
- blind selection with no names and consideration with academic qualities and  
volunteerism. Given to a graduate of the Class of 2022.
- Frederick Stone \$1,000 total scholarship divided into 2 \$500 scholarships. Mr. Stone  
passed away in 2019. This scholarship will go to a scholar athlete.

**Motion:** It was moved by Mrs. Guilmain, seconded by Mrs. Lemieux and unanimously  
voted to approve the Church of St. Paul Scholarship in the amount of \$1000 and the Frederick  
Stone Scholarships in the amount of 2 \$500 awards.

## **Statement of Interest MASS School Board Authority**

What we have done as a capital planning committee assessment of current facilities.  
Renovation and repair or replace moving forward.  
Recommends statement of interest to MASS School Building Authority.  
They would pick up a percentage of the project so communities don't have to foot the entire bill.  
Information has gone out. Will enter 2nd, 3rd or 4th step of a very long process  
Expresses we have a need and this is one way of addressing the need.  
Feasibility study would be gone through.  
This is giving people time to plan and coordinate efforts. Time for the District to enter this process.

**Motion:** It was moved by Mrs. Larkin, seconded by Mr. Howell and unanimously voted to authorize the district administration to submit a Statement of Interest (SOI) for a Core Renovation Project to the MASS School Building Authority (MSBA). This statement of interest will focus on the district's need to address the physical conditions of BMR High School.

The sub-committee came up with a plan to renovate the High School. It will look further at configuration and possibilities that could come out of this. A feasibility study will be conducted and recommendations will be made.

They have the support of the Millville capital planning committee.

## **BMRSD Organizational Chart**

Mr. Ehrenworth gave the Committee a color coded organizational chart of the school district staff.

Mr. Ehrenworth will walk through it. Dr. DeFalco and the leadership team have been working to put this together.

The Committee can follow the chart beginning with the School Committee, Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent and branch out into the building leaders- principals and operational pieces and toward the center nutrition, facilities, IT lead and director or learner support services.

The purpose of the work is listed at the top - STUDENTS. All support the students in the district.

## **FY23 School Calendar**

Proposed school calendar for FY23. If approved it will be posted on the website tomorrow. Unit A staff returning on the Monday prior to Labor Day. Students begin on August 31st. 2nd semester starts on January 3rd and ends on June 15th - ½ day.

All spelling errors and dates will be fixed.

**Motion:** It was moved by Mrs. Larkin, seconded by Mrs. Guilmain and unanimously voted to approve the FY23 School Calendar provided all spelling errors are fixed.

### **Mrs. Foulis - Dual Enrollment Program for the Middle School and High School**

- Spanish I and Algebra I
- Initial Interest by students - 23 students completed form
- 18 students completed step 2
- schedule interview with each of those students
- Notify them of acceptance before April vacation
- It will be one cohort

### **Sara Rodriguez - Social Worker** **Comfort Zone Camp**

- Free Camp offered in June and September
- 3 days and 2 overnights
- 7 -17 kids are going there with an adult mentor
- Learning coping skills and talking about their grief
- Flyers sent to families who have had a loss
- They have 3 so far and looking for more
- It is on the Cape in Sandwich
- They would like to utilize our van to transport the students and pick them up

**Motion:** It was moved by Mrs. Larkin, seconded by Mr. Howell and unanimously voted to approve the Comfort Zone Camp headed by Sara Rodriguez for 3 days and 2 overnights in Sandwich, MA utilizing a school van and driver for up to 10 students.

The camp has parent programs and online as well for kids who can't get to the camp.

### **Karen Young, lead nurse**

#### **Covid 19 update with eliminations:**

Arts: Chorus and Band

- If indoors, with masks required, it can occur with at least 3 ft. of distance between individuals. It cannot occur indoors without a mask.

Chorus

- All students should face in one direction instead of facing one another.
- Avoid singing in a circle or semi-circular formation.

Band - All brass and woodwind instruments should never (change to should not) be shared. Percussion, strings, and piano may continue indoors or outdoors and can be shared.

**Motion:** It was moved by Mr. Howell, seconded by Mrs. Guilmain and unanimously voted to accept the eliminations of Covid 19 restrictions as presented by Karen Young, lead nurse.

**Dr. DeFalco - Workshop with elementary principals and districtwide math committee**

Recommendation to forward to the school committee. Why they selected the programs they did. They are looking at Into Math and Savvas Math.

One year cost for Into Math K-8 is about \$85,000 with an annual cost of \$30,000 the District would have to pay.

Through negotiations we got it for 6 year with zero recurring costs for \$149,608. The Dept. of Education will pay for one year of a program. They will send the DOE the estimate.

DOE will not cover the High School program. These are one time expenses. They may pay for additional staff training.

2 programs for 6 years is \$222,484 with no recurring costs. They will need \$142,484 for both programs since they have \$80,000 coming from the DOE.

**Motion:** It was moved by Mr. Howell, seconded by Mrs. Lemieux and unanimously voted to approve the Into and Savvas Math programs with a total cost to the school district of \$142,484.

**Mid year evaluation Dr. DeFalco**

Thank you to Mr. Howell and Mrs. Vinacco who did pre-work on the layout of this and frame out of the evidence.

Focus standards for this year were approved in October to take a fairly large rubric and drill it down to a few things.

This is an evaluation of the team's work. He gets to have it done publicly

**Superintendent's Standards**

Professional Practice Goal - District Strategic Plan

Professional Goal Update - overview of the materials and workshops to date

District improvement goal around academic acceleration

Diversity, equity and inclusion - first 3 pieces are student performance

**Shadowing a student who is not a typical student**

Dr. DeFalco and Mr. Ehrenworth did not tell the students they were shadowing them but did it anonymously.

They did not tell the teachers, administration or parents.

They sat in the back of the room and teachers gave a lot of good insight.

Great to watch their interactions with the teachers, students and materials.

It was interesting to gather as much information as they could.  
How can we work best to support all of our students?

Mass Ready team multiple statewide conferences specific to racial equity and inclusion.

Putting a lot into this. We are ready to support each unique student.

Chargers for Change has been doing a lot of work in this area.

There are 63 different unique children's books. Chargers for Change asked if we could purchase these books.

Administration will read all books first and decide. You need to be careful over the reading material you provide in our libraries. You need to make sure you read them first.

The High School students want to go into the elementary classrooms and read them to those students

**Capital Planning** - submit the statement of interest.

### **Student Learning Goal**

Star Data - Looking specifically at student writing

Look for patterns, trends and next steps

With the exception of grade 6 all grades are moving in the right direction.

The growth target is 50. Star is a nationally normed exam. Our results are in the same bucket.

Important to note because of our growth rates. We have far exceeded the 50 in all grades except for grade 6.

Achievement matters but we won't get there without exceeding here.

Students with special needs.

- They included all of the students on IEP's in ELA that took the assessment
- There is so much here to be celebrated
- They have concerns with 2nd grade but so much growth
- This is happening because of the work of our teachers
- We have reassigned interventionists to spend more time with our 6th grade students
- They are reversing some roles and scheduling
- Increased planning time for 6th grade teachers
- Opened up after school extra help sessions
- Opened up tutoring after school
- Partnered with Sylvan Learning Center for 6th and 7th grade students
- Do progress monitoring

A true District of One and the cooperation of the joint committees of the 2 towns.

Voices were heard and listened to and progress is happening.

Looking forward to moving the budget to the town floors.

## **Report of the Business Office - Mr. Ehrenworth**

We are in a very fiscally sound place right now.

Revenues - all coming in as expected.

Slight delay on our assessments and towns were responsive.

Medicaid is showing we are above due to an additional Covid administrative piece.

Receiving another \$79,000 from Covid reimbursement from FEMA.

It can go into a general revolving revenue with no guideline on how to use it.

The District has purchased a new silver van.

Total expenditure review is similar to last month's review.

5000 series- benefits in the red due to all of the additional employees who opted for insurance coverage.

Grant fund expenditures are running as expected. We have been receiving and spending the money.

### **Facilities**

Capital needs - met with Capital Outlay committees from both towns and next steps are moving with green light to submit the statement of interest.

### **Facilities update**

- Baseball and softball dugout roofs ready to be installed
- Ready to take care of fields
- Want to have both baseball and softball teams playing on the fields this season
- Still need to mount cement footings into the ground to hold the dugouts

We have been assured we can use the town fields if we need to.

The cracks in the tennis courts are filled. It is in playing condition. Final coat will be done once evenings stay at 50 degrees. Courts may not be finished until sometime into the season but they should still be playable. They can seal it but the plan will be if it is done in the season the playing won't be interrupted.

Springs and pressure gauge have been installed for the heating system at the High School.

New septic pump installed at MES.

Waiting for Riverdale to come back and rebuild the circulator pump at Hartnett Middle School.

Difficulty acquiring materials has caused a delay in this.

There are still potholes at the front entrance to the Middle School. Working with both towns for temporary fixes. Hope to put down a more permanent seal in the next few weeks.

### **Facilities Request**

**Motion:** It was moved by Mrs. Lemieux, seconded by Mr. Howell and unanimously voted to approve the facilities request.



There were no items for **School Committee Forum**.

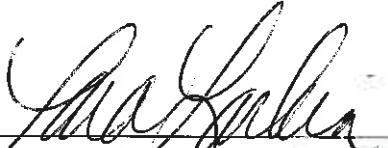
Mrs. Reggio sadly accepts Mrs. Guilmain's resignation. In Millville there will be 2 positions available. No one has submitted papers for the open seat in Millville to date.

**Motion:** It was moved by Mrs. Lemieux, seconded by Mr. Howell to adjourn the meeting and enter into Executive Session at 8:35 p.m. for the purpose of Contract Negotiations, 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