

**Minutes of Meeting
August 15, 2019
6:00 p.m.
FWH Middle School**

The Blackstone Millville Regional District School Committee met in the media center of the Hartnett Middle School at 6:00 p.m. with the following members present:

Erin P. Vinacco, Vice Chairperson
Tara L. Larkin, District Secretary
Caryn D. Vernon, District Treasurer
Sarah E. Williams, Member
Jack R. Keefe, Member
Tammy A. Lemieux, Member
Wendy L. Greenstein, Member

Mrs. Reggio was absent from the meeting.

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

Motion: It was moved by Mrs. Greenstein, seconded by Mr. Keefe and unanimously voted to approve the Warrants.

Motion: It was moved by Mrs. Larkin, seconded by Mr. Keefe, 5 in favor (Mrs. Vernon and Mrs. Williams abstain) to approve the Minutes of the June 26, 2019 meeting.

Motion: It was moved by Mrs. Greenstein, seconded by Mrs. Lemieux, 6 in favor (Mrs. Vernon abstain) to approve the Minutes of the June 13, 2019 meeting.

Motion: It was moved by Mrs. Greenstein, seconded by Mrs. Lemieux, 5 in favor (Mrs. Larkin and Mrs. Vinacco abstain) to approve the Minutes of the May 22, 2019 meeting.

The minutes of the July 8th meeting are being held for when Mrs. Reggio is present.

Regional Agreement update as presented by Mrs. Williams

At the July 18th meeting they had discussion around budget assessment, debt language, recall language and election language. Substantial progress was made. The next meeting will be held on Thursday, August 22nd at the Middle School @ 6:30 p.m. At that meeting they should have an initial draft of amended language.

Report of the Superintendent

Dr. DeFalco stated we will be discussing important items this evening. He re-introduced Kerry Purcell, account executive and lead consultant with Focus Schools to help us establish the instructional framework being put in place across the District.

Ms. Purcell is very passionate about this work. We are investing in what's right for kids.

We will revisit 3 big ideas:
What is the framework?
How are we approaching it?
Where are we going next?

Mr. Dudek will share facts and stories on how it works on a daily basis.

Ms. Purcell's job is to work herself out of a job by empowering teachers and leadership.

District Improvement Strategy - enhancing all of the big bucket areas that are important to the schools that she is working with.

As a school we work together to decide what the data says is working and what is not working.

In the past year we focused on identification of what was working and what wasn't.

Year 2 will be the implementation piece. Developing strong collaboration teams where folks sit around the table to find out what is working and where the opportunities for growth are. How can we continue to improve what we are doing?

Devise 3-5 tools we want to hand off to kids to help them to get better at instructional focus so they can be successful, independent learners.

Moral responsibility - if we want teachers to do something different we need job embedded professional development.

How to use resources smarter to support the instructional focus.

Year 2 - engage families and communities in this work.

Inspect what we expect. Professional goals and goals for our students. Celebrate every small win along the way. We have just started on the journey and made nice headway.

Summer leadership retreat - talk about what we want for our children and how to enhance our practice to smart goals - change our practice to better support students, measure it, is it relevant, will it help every student that I serve.

Six opportunities for principals and leadership team to get together and work on the work. All leadership together.

Gives teachers permission to say no to things that are not important for our kids now.

Teachers got together and figured out what the instructional focus statement should be.

How do we measure progress around the focus.

Next year we select evidence based practices shared across schools.

HS - problem solving when they graduate High School.

MS - creating independent problem solvers in content areas and social emotional areas.

MES - problem solving

Complex - critical thinking

See patterns and trends that the data is saying in Blackstone-Millville. Problem solving is the pattern and trend.

Schools celebrate progress along the way. Ask that they figure out how the kids are doing every 4 to 6 weeks. Make adjustments along the way. Manipulate data as a collaborative team.

The executive coaching sessions are the most important piece to make sure it sticks. Time to sit with building principles and do choosing around next step plans. Ms. Purcell will help with snags that couldn't be worked through. She would also go on classroom visits with them. Each visit will be about 2 hours each time, with 30 total visits divided among 4 schools. Each time there was a training they received coaching.

Amazing opportunity to partner with Hudson School District for the same year in this work. They were able to get together 3 times as district leaders and principal leaders to talk about this.

They need to spend 50% of their time on teaching and learning. Talking about the barriers that prevent them from making it happen.

Mr. Dudek spoke.

Building capacity with faculty and students.

Carve time to focus in on what everyone feels is important.

Six teachers from varied content areas volunteered their time to be a part of it.

How do I get heard outside of my classroom? Teachers want a say in what they will have for Professional Development.

Making sure everything is aligned in K-12.

Staff leadership - taken over faculty meetings. Not the principal dictating what happens.

Principals take a step back and let the teachers lead.

Communication efforts on what is shared. Share agendas and research.

Looks at data MCAS and Stars.

Best practices review. Target in 2 to 3 best practices. Talk about data and student work.

Leadership team does collaboration.

Having another building principal to talk to. How do you do the things you need to do? Share and brainstorm ideas.

Dr. DeFalco attended two of the meetings at the High School and from his experiences our High School was one of the first up and running. The teachers were driving forward the work and Mr. Dudek was taking notes. He wondered how this would get up and running and was happy with the outcome.

For the Future

Ms. Purcell empowers all leaders at every level.

Luxury of having much needed coaches at elementary and secondary level. Best P.D. for teachers. Someone in the building who can help them on a daily basis to help them with their craft.

She will help the principal and coach on how to best do this.

Support blueprint of District.

Focus on teaching and learning and meeting the needs of all learners.

Looking at attendance in students and teachers.

Tammy Lemieux - what's the timeline to implement practices? Sometimes they confuse kids. Lets get good at a few things and this starts helping everything else.

Mr. Dudek - Advanced Placement test results for 2018-2019 school year.

The advanced placement is a university level freshman course that you take in high school.

There is a national exam at the end of the course. It is the same exam for all students in America.

The scores range from 1-5. With a score of 3 or higher you can earn college credit while still in High School.

This allows you to compete for college admission with students from all over the country.

The goals are to:

Increase **participation** in Mathematics, Science and English AP courses.

Increase **performance** with more quality scores.

Increase **college success**: More students matriculating to and graduating from college.

Qualifying Scores by Grade

Graduating Class Summary 26.7% is the number of BMR's seniors who scored 3 or higher on at least one AP Exam at any point during high school divided by the total number of the district's seniors.

12th grade - 15.2%

11th grade - 21.6%

10th grade - 7.1%

The AP score report shows that a grade of 3 or higher overall is 49%.

Five year score summary -

Total AP students with scores of 3 or higher

2015 - 74% - 62 students with 87 exams

2016 - 60% 90 students with 155 exams

2017- 59% 113 students with 178 exams

2018- 60% 96 students with 154 exams

2019 - 47% 100 students with 171 exams

They are reviewing to see if they will keep the Statistics class. Mrs. Lemieux and Mrs. Greenstein feels it should be kept this year. It is late in the game to remove it.

Mr. Dudek explained the Professional Development for AP teachers.

There is no pre-Stats course to take.

Workshops will be happening for teachers in AP. Mentors will also facilitate and co-teach to help teachers become better at their craft. They are getting more instructional resources. My AP App. login as well.

Dr. DeFalco said we can look at MCAS data through our state data warehouse to get a sense of how well the kids built that piece along the way even though there is not a pre Stats class to take.

Update on Assistant Administrator for Special Education -

Dr. DeFalco gave an overview. They are reorganizing the Learner Services Department.

They have not found the right match yet for the Assistant Administrator for Special Education. They have had conversations about pursuing a coach instead of the Assistant Administrator. They will leave it unfilled if they don't find the right person and go to Plan B. They would have a PLC coach in place if they go to Plan B. They need to figure out how they absorb other responsibilities and figure out how to take them on.

Mrs. Pilla-Gallerani will do a full presentation on where they are in Special Education and where they are going this year at the next School Committee Meeting.

We currently have 2 coaches in place and we would hire a 3rd coach. They are looking for a really good instructor and a track record that can support students with modifications.

They are looking for a classroom teacher that has successfully worked in an inclusion setting. All kids must have access to the general curriculum. They need the same level of instruction that their peers have. Some students have not had the same access to curriculum. The job will be available internally first to see if anyone applies and qualifies.

Mrs. Greenstein asked where is the savings? She would like to know where the \$50,000 will go. They do not have a place for it yet. If they get a coach this year and it doesn't work out, we will look for an assistant administrator next year.

Dr. DeFalco spoke on elementary class size. They were able to restore 2 positions at the elementary level. There is more equity across both schools. Class sizes are very reasonable. In Kindergarten it is ranging between 17 and 20. They can see the packets online and see the numbers laid out. Broke down the numbers in the split classrooms for MES. Dr. DeFalco is very pleased with this. We will be having lots of conversations in January and February on the split classrooms and where do they go next. It is in the forefront of all of their minds.

Mrs. Greenstein is concerned about the kindergarten classrooms having 17 in one of the classrooms and 20 in another classroom.

Dr. DeFalco stated that some of the students receive services and may not always be in the classroom. Also the ELL students may be in the 20 classroom. Could have a para or inclusion teacher in the classroom as well.

We are waiting on school choice numbers. There are 29 new students who are exiting to charter schools.

They are at 1.1 million dollars in school choice out. We are around 1700 enrolled students in our schools.

SURPLUS ITEMS

Dr. DeFalco has a list of MES Surplus items which include textbooks from 2005 and 2008.

Motion: It was moved by Mrs. Greenstein, seconded by Mrs. Lemieux and unanimously voted to approve the surplus of the MES textbooks.

Dr. DeFalco stated that the first step is to call another vendor who purchases old materials and see if they can sell them.

Upcoming Events -

District of One 2nd Annual walk/run meeting at the greenway parking lot. 2.5 miles - on August 21, 2019. Walk starts at 6:00 p.m. Invited the Senior Centers to join us.

Freshman Orientation - August 23, 2019

New Staff Orientation, August 23rd and August 26th - Who We Teach, What We Teach and Where We Teach.

All Staff Start Date - August 27th

Student Start Date - August 28th

Looking to have good partnerships with our seniors and our students. Kids volunteer and help out at the senior centers. They are also invited to the annual walk.

The new staff will take a 90 minutes bus ride, narrated by Mr. Ducharme to have them see the Towns that they are going to be teaching in. Neil Tellstone of Tellstone Busing will drive the bus at no charge. The new staff need to see the community they are serving in. Get away from the everyday items. Learn about our kids.

Mrs. Greenstein feels it is very important to understand how widespread the students are in where they are living.

Facility Report - Mr. Ehrenworth

He announced that Chapter 70 estimated receipts have gone up about \$17,000 to \$10,985,239

Regional Transportation - at 79.5% up \$41,404 to \$573,613

School Choice receipts at \$260,652

Charter School Reimbursements -\$241,592

School Choice Sending Tuition - (644,399)

Charter School Sending (457,622)

Grants came in slightly above what they budgeted

IDEA Pre K- \$22,032

IDEA Entitlement -\$442,337

Student Support Grant - \$11,779

Title I - \$172,320 (receiving 11,000 more in Title I grant)

Title IIA - \$36,125

Circuit Breaker - \$460,435 (trying to get this fully funded -they think it will hit 75%) He estimated 70% here.

Other Grants - \$150,000

They are looking at it being a wash when all is said and done.

Dr. DeFalco spoke on other grants. He stated that the District has been working hard on these. Last calendar years outside grants. John Hopkins, \$52,000, Focus Schools \$30,00, Private sponsor \$25,000 for tablets for the 2nd and 3rd graders, Upgrade new security, \$15,000, Legislator - group of Superintendents that wrote the proposal to develop career and workforce pathways - \$25,000.

5 students are enrolled in the Advanced Manufacturer course.

Mr. Ehrenworth also spoke about the personnel update in their packet -

Mrs. Greenstein wants to meet the new staff and coaches.

Facilities Update - It has been busy around here from a facilities perspective.

Most of the Complex windows are in . All interior windows and school space will be done by the time school begins. Cleaning and prep schedule aligned with their work.

Unfinished exterior work if needed will be done after hours. Caulking may need to be done. It is too distracting to have people at the windows at the Elementary school. Delay times on some exterior doors. As they come in they will set aside specific weekends to install them. There is plastic around them due to a small amount of asbestos. Do not be afraid. Everything is under protection. They will get it bundled up on weekends and not affect the students.

Paving Complex - bids haven't been received by town and work may take place in the fall.

MS Driveway - potholes will be patched tomorrow.

MES boiler - They are looking at when the Board of Selectmen for Millville will vote on this - they are looking at when they will take a town and ballot vote. He will send the information to MSBA to let them know they need an extension. MSBA said to just send them a letter stating here is when we will vote and when we need extension to.

HS fire panel - power surge a week or so ago that fried the panel and caused the system to be down. He is not concerned during the day right now. Smoke detectors are in all rooms. Work should start this week. Most of hardwiring should be done when school starts. Additional sensors will be put in classrooms when school starts. System will be up to code by the time school starts. They will come in during the evenings to install the wireless parts to the systems. Doing nightly building checks at 9:00 p.m. and 2:00 a.m. Chief Sweeney said this should be fine. Any additional work will be done after school hours. System will not be completely finished.

Mrs. Vinacco said they were not doing the building checks the last time the system was completely down.

Both Dr. DeFalco and Mr. Ehrenworth feel it is worthwhile.

Phone system update - company is putting them in. May experience some delays. Should be finished by Monday. All extensions will remain the same.

Security systems installed with a \$15,000 grant working with Omega Alarms. Omega knows our equipment. Systems will be significantly advanced. May replace what is in Millville. Need the high quality cameras in place. Interior cameras and a minimum of one exterior camera. Adding fob systems with the card swipe. Goal is to have secure vestibules in the front of all buildings particularly at the High School. Doing it during the day until school begins and then it will be done in the evenings.

Dr. DeFalco thanked all from towns huge collaborative effort by all. The Chiefs, police and fire departments and town leadership have been great.

Mrs. Greenstein - Complex - asked to put a letter out to community that there will be only one entrance now and not two.

Dr. DeFalco stated that JFK will be the main office. The principal and assistant will be in the middle of the building near the nurses office.

Insurance inspectors - require 2 new hot water heaters. \$4200 middle school - \$11,200 at the Complex - looking into other options that combine electric and gas. Potential to cost less.

Complex Roof - Board of Selectmen met and they are looking into how they will pursue getting the repairs made. They want the roofing company to do what is needed.

School Committee Forum

Mrs. Lemieux- Parent Organization clean up at JFK and Millville will be held on Sunday, August 25th at 1:00 p.m.

Mrs. Greenstein wishes all well on their first day back.

The next meeting/workshop will be held on August 29th and the next meeting will be held on September 12th.

Motion: It was moved by Mrs. Vinacco to adjourn the meeting and enter into Executive Session at 8:30 p.m. 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