

**School Committee Meeting**  
**April 10, 2019**  
**6:00 p.m.**  
**Frederick Hartnett Middle School**

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

Jane C. Reggio, Chairperson  
Erin P. Vinacco, Vice Chairperson  
Tara L. Larkin, District Secretary  
Tammy A. Lemieux, Member  
Sarah E. Williams, Member  
Caryn D. Vernon, Member

Absent from the meeting were Mr. Ehrenworth, Mr. Keefe and Mrs. Greenstein.

Also in attendance was Dr. Jason DeFalco.

**Reorganization of School Committee - Election of Officers**

Dr. DeFalco reviewed with committee members the procedure of the reorganization meeting. He indicated the floor was open to nominations for the office of Chairperson of the Blackstone-Millville Regional District School Committee.

**Motion:** It was moved Mrs. Vinacco, seconded by Mrs. Vernon and unanimously vote to nominate Jane C. Reggio for the position of Chairperson of the Blackstone-Millville Regional District School Committee for the 2019-2020 year.

Mrs. Reggio indicated she would entertain nominations for appointment to office of Vice Chairperson of the Blackstone-Millville Regional District School Committee.

**Motion:** It was moved Mrs. Larkin, seconded by Mrs. Lemieux and unanimously voted to nominate Erin P. Vinacco for the position of Vice Chairperson of the Blackstone-Millville Regional District School Committee for the 2019-2020 year.

**Motion:** It was moved by Mrs. Vinacco, seconded by Mrs. Lemieux and unanimously voted to nominate Tara L. Larkin for the position of Secretary of the Blackstone-Millville Regional District School Committee for the 2019-2020 year.

Mrs. Reggio indicated she would entertain nominations for appointment to office of District Treasurer of the Blackstone-Millville Regional District School Committee.

**Motion:** It was moved Mrs. Lemieux, seconded by Mrs. Vinacco and unanimously voted to nominate Caryn D. Vernon for the position of District Treasurer of the Blackstone-Millville Regional District School Committee for the 2019-2020 year.

**Motion:** It was moved Mrs. Vinacco, seconded by Mrs. Vernon and unanimously voted to nominate Mr. Ronald Pierre-Louis for the position of Assistant District Treasurer of the Blackstone-Millville Regional District School Committee for the 2019-2020 year.

**Motion:** It was moved Mrs. Vinacco, seconded by Mrs. Williams and unanimously voted to nominate Long & DiPietro as the District Counsel of the Blackstone-Millville Regional District School Committee for the 2019-2020 year.

**Motion:** It was moved Mrs. Larkin, seconded by Mrs. Lemieux and unanimously voted to nominate Monique Simard for the position of Recording Secretary of the Blackstone-Millville Regional District School Committee for the 2019-2020 year.

There were no items for **Public Forum**.

### **Report of Student Representatives**

Student Representatives spoke regarding the final stretch of the school year. Baseball, Softball, Track and Field and Tennis are going strong.

Winter Guard, Winter Winds and Jazz Band were all winners.

The Junior/Senior prom will be held at Crystal Lake in Burrillville, RI on Friday, April 26th.

**Motion:** It was moved by Mrs. Lemieux, seconded by Mrs. Vernon and unanimously voted to approve the Warrants and Minutes of March 13, 2019.

Dr. DeFalco discussed the Early retirement incentive with the School Committee members. The incentive is outlined as follows:

1. The District will pay \$7500 to employees who submit their intention to retire by April 30, 2019.
2. The \$7500 will be taxed and is not pensionable and will be paid by July 31, 2019.
3. Members would not be eligible for the sick leave incentive.
4. Members who declared future retirement are eligible.
5. Employees must be eligible to retire from MTRS.

**Motion:** It was moved by Mrs. Vinacco, seconded by Mrs. Vernon and unanimously voted to approve the request for the Early Retirement Incentive for Unit A Members as outline above with the deadline date for submission as April 30, 2019 to be paid by July 31, 2019.

### **Report of the Superintendent**

Tracey Ducharme and Sue Desilets, Senior Class Advisors spoke on the Senior Class trip. They would like permission to take the students to Martha's Vineyard on Monday, June 3, 2019. The entire trip is funded by using their class funds and each student will be given \$25 dollars to spend. There will be 9 chaperones including the Assistant Principal and the school nurse. The Class of 2013 attended this trip and everything worked well.

**Motion:** It was approved by Mrs. Vinacco, seconded by Mrs. Vernon and unanimously voted to approve the Class of 2019 senior trip to Martha's Vineyard on June 3, 2019.

### **Science Curriculum Update**

They have a cross representation of most grades through Mr. Tringali, Mrs. Shafer and Mrs. Allard. This began in October with Teachers 21. All stages begin with the end in mind. Stage 2 is the evidence stage. Stage 3 is the day to day lesson.

The next generation science standards are new. They looked at all standards and teachers decided which ones pared best together. The goals and questions are centered around the standards. We are looking for a much more hands on interactive and experimental approach for the students. They will be piloting the program in May. They are writing the curriculum and looking for resources to back up the curriculum. They will pick the common choice for each grade level and start to be sure they have everything in line and ready to go. They need to build content knowledge. The change is impacting the elementary more than the middle and high Schools.

Dr. DeFalco stated now there are situations where the curriculum is strong and developed but it is up to the teacher to get the resources to implement it. What they have done is try to marry both the written curriculum and necessary resources. The teachers learn the standards and then tinker around with sample programs and pick and choose the best from each part to implement the units in the right way.

Mrs. Vinacco asked how will the pilots be structured? Mrs. Shafer stated there will be a few different programs and one in every grade.

Most items can be purchased at the dollar store. Buying a full program may not be necessary. We will go through science items first and then build on it.

## Review and Approve Boiler Replacement at Millville Elementary

Project Update - Project Managers, Brian Laroche and Greg Walsh gave the boiler replacement options to the School Committee members. Once the State, Town and School Committee have agreed they go through the process of getting the funds and the project goes into bid procurement. They have not reached this point yet but are here for the feasibility schematic design approval.

They have a few options to discuss:

1. **Option O**- Replace with an oil fired boiler. 1.3 million for construction of it. The cost to run over longer period of time and the maintenance and fuel costs are higher. Serves the school for 25 to 30 years. More money to operate it. Pollutes the environment.
2. **Propane options** - lower fuel and maintenance costs. Best for the environment. Six, one thousand gallon propane tanks that could give you 10 days of operation.

**Option P1** - Tanks are near the building - not a viable option for the School Committee.

**Option P2** - For an extra \$100,000 the propane tanks would be placed further away from the school near the water tower. Most viable option.

It was also asked if they could bury the tanks. It will be looked into.

3. **Option X - Wood pellet boiler option** - a challenge due to the fact that the boilers cannot modulate much. Schools heat demands fluctuate and you need to install a second type of system to deal with this issue. You spend extra to put in two systems and a high first cost of almost 2 million dollars. More maintenance and empty out ash and replace pellets. Not a viable option.

The school committee members do not want the propane tanks near the school.

Option P2 is the safest option having the tanks as far away from the school as possible with a cost of 1.3 million dollars.

The boilers currently are at the end of their useful life. They are functioning but not to say that it will continue. The maintenance costs are climbing. The issue is with the oil tank maintenance.

In today's dollars the cost of oil is higher than propane. Pay higher fuel costs and higher maintenance costs on oil vs. propane. If they go with propane the underground oil tank would be removed.

MSBA will approve an oil project. MSBA will approve oil boilers. MSBA have qualifiers that they won't pay for. They won't pay for fuel and site work. They will cover some direct related equipment and some they will not.

Not all of the \$1,873,818 cost will be reimbursable by MSBA.

They will not usually contribute to the outside of the walls of the boiler. The District will not know exactly what MSBA will cover until they send us an outline of what is reimbursable.

**Project Budget -**

Feasibility -	48,380
Project Manager -	167,640
Engineering -	113,500
Misc.-	27,500
Construction -	1,530,633
<u>Contingencies -</u>	<u>84,185</u>
<b>Total -</b>	<b>1,971,838</b>

Dr. DeFalco asked please do not bring this to the selectmen of the town before you know what MSBA will contribute to. What they have brought here tonight is not enough.

They will not make the May town meeting. MSBA meets in June so they cannot meet with the Town until after that meeting.

The question was raised if wall units were a viable option.

The grant program is only for a boiler not wall units which is why it was not considered.

The engineers need to know what the preferred option is.

The typical process is that the Committee makes the call then it is taken back to MSBA and then the OPM goes out to the town meeting.

The School Committee does not want propane near building so take P1 out of the equation.

Mrs. Vinacco is leary of propane and is interested in the possibility of replacing the oil tank.

The engineer stated that typically you have one project that is voted and approved by MSBA and the School Committee and brought to the Town. If the vote fails you may have to start over with the MSBA. They would need MSBA approval to have 2 votes. They have not seen it done but it may be doable.

You can put propane in the ground but it was not presented here. There is a lot of ledge but they are not sure if it is an option to put the propane tanks where the oil tank sits.

They do need a vote of the School Committee of their preferred option in order to be at the June MSBA meeting. They need to submit their package by May 8th.

They want to go to the selectmen on May 6th so they can decide on something by May 8th.

Mrs. Vinacco feels the safe option is option O with the replacement of the oil burner and tank underground. Replacing what is already there. We will be taking on the higher cost over the long run. Spend 1.3 million more on fuel.

Dr. DeFalco stated oil can go to 87% efficiency and propane can be as high as 97% efficient.

Dr. DeFalco stated that in a previous conversation Mr. Ehrenworth voted Option P2.

The Head Custodian, Mr. Lanctot also votes Option P2.

**Motion:** It was moved by Mrs. Vinacco, seconded by Mrs. Larkin and unanimously voted to move forward with Option P2 Propane boiler and tanks situated away from the school, offering a lower fuel and maintenance cost.

#### **2019 2020 school year calendar**

**Motion:** It was moved by Mrs. Larkin, seconded by Mrs. Vernon and unanimously voted to tentatively approve the FY20 school calendar pending negotiations with Unit A.

#### **Annual vote on school choice**

Dr. DeFalco asks to continue school choice in. He wants time with policy sub-committee to look at the parameters around this and choice out to be voted on at a later date.

**Motion:** It was moved by Mrs. Larkin, seconded by Mrs. Vernon to allow School Choice in and to vote on school choice out at a later date after the policy sub committee has reviewed the parameters.

#### **Human Resource Specialist**

Introduction of a new member human resources specialist, Natasha Hersom. She comes to the District with a wide variety of experience in human resources from operations to benefits and all in between.

Over 80 applications were screened and Dr. DeFalco is excited to have Natasha to do incredible work in the personnel department.

They will continue to search for the Principal at the Complex. They continue to move through this on April 22nd.

### **Director of Learner Support Services**

Entertained a few finalists. One candidate withdrew and they have reposted. Eager to move this process forward.

The search committee did an excellent job of creating parameters of what they are looking for and what characteristics they want candidates to possess. In the process there were some candidates that may have been overlooked for various reasons. They are taking the initial pool and looking at them again. The original posting was January 17 so this needs to move.

### **John Hopkins update**

Written, taught and learned curriculum. You would assume that these 3 things are in alignment but it is not always the case. Looking at our instructional practices and visiting our classrooms and the depth of learning our kids are doing. They are doing knowledge mapping. Looking at our literature K-5 and nearing the end of their study.

### **Summit learning model**

Interest in learning more about this but not quite ready to launch. They will do year zero saying they need more time to study this. Working closely with Donna Stone to look at how can our teachers still get access to the materials and projects so they can tinker with it. Get a better feel for it. How can we study schools that will launch this upcoming school year. There are schools in CT and NH that will be in year 1 next year. Donna has been working closely with the principals.

Mrs. Vinacco would like to see MCAS data and where our District falls.

### **Career Pathways Development**

Dr. DeFalco is asking the Committee to consider a vote to appropriate the amount of \$6000 to train students at home as home certified health aides.

Challenges in size in the Blackstone Valley to bring in programs.

Struggles with career development goal which is to have all students graduate with a diploma in hand.

They will bring in Advanced Manufacturing I in the fall.

Bio-medical pathway thru Project Lead the Way.

Taking students to job core post high school graduate programs. They are taking 15 students in May.

**Motion:** It was moved by Mrs. Williams, seconded by Mrs. Vinacco and unanimously voted to fund \$6000 for home health care aide certification program for this academic year.

### **Planning, Teaching and Learning Coach**

Job description for planning teaching and learning coach. He did promise to unit A to send it to them. Post it internally first. Contingent on budget.

**Motion:** It was moved by Mrs. Williams, seconded by Mrs. Larkin to approve the planning, teaching and learning coaching position.

### **Review and Approve School Year 18-19 school date**

Propose change to 18-19 school year. We have had one snow date this year. The last day of school puts us into the Monday of the next week. Right now Monday, June 17th is scheduled as a half day and the last day of school.

Dr. DeFalco wants to use the p.d. day in May as a school day if needed. He is proposing that change and move the half day to the Friday before Memorial Day in May and use ½ day in pm for pd for staff and Friday June 14th will be a full day for students and staff. Dr. DeFalco approached Unit A and Unit B so he wants to make sure there will not be issues moving forward with the bargaining units.

If they don't get the M.O.A. we will go to school a half day on June 17th.

**Motion:** It was moved by Mrs. Larkin, seconded by Mrs. Vernon and unanimously voted to give Dr. DeFalco the authority to move the last day of school to June 14th and the ½ day on May 24th as a half day for students and the 2nd half of the day as P.D. for staff contingent upon the Memorandum of Understanding with Unit A and Unit B.

### **Business Office Report**

Salary spend down is right on track. Cost center reviews are in the black. The difference between March and April is that we had over encumbered funds in health insurance. They will be meeting at length on Friday forecasting the numbers of where we can land the plane on June 30th.

We are interviewing this week for Food Services Director.

Facilities - we did file a claim with MIAA regarding damages to the Complex roof and since met with their expert roofers and walked the building identifying all of the leaks. They also had the



claim adjuster and roofer review all of the documentation when the roof was installed in 2013. They are finalizing the reporting on getting a plan on how to get the roof fixed.

Mrs. Lemieux - we paid 2 - \$10,000 payments. Should this be part of our claims?

It was claimed that it was because of the shoveling.

What they filed for a claim is the initial damage report from the company who installed the roof.

We paid them to clear the roof and they are saying that we damaged the roof.

MIAA and the Town of Blackstone have all the copies of this.

### **School Committee Forum**

**Mrs. Vernon** -House Ways and Means reimbursement went up to 80% -  
Good luck to all on MCAS.

**Mrs. Lemieux** - a million tweets coming out of BMRSD- thank you to Jessy and Tim.  
Accountability to help us build the story of what we are doing to be accountable. Videos are awesome.

**Mrs. Vinacco** - update on our insurance pressing question from fincom and selectmen. Mr. Ehrenworth brought in some great options for the insurance advisory committee. Had reps in last week. They met and viewed the presentations and he put a lot of work into it. Many years they were always in the negative and needed more. We will be talking about this at our next meeting with whatever options Mr. Ehrenworth has brought to them.

**Mrs. Reggio** - congrats to the band at Mechanics Hall and Symphony Hall. Thank the two Towns Finance Committees and Millville Board of Selectmen. Fairly positive meeting they value the work that the Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent and School Committee put into the process. The dialogue has worked well this year. They gave them numbers that they can work with.


**Motion:** It was moved by Mrs. Vinacco, seconded by Mrs. Vernon to enter into Executive Session at 8:50 p.m. for the purpose of conducting 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