

School Committee Meeting
November 14, 2018
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
Caryn D. Vernon, District Treasurer
Tara L. Larkin, District Secretary
Tammy A. Lemieux, Member
Jack R. Keefe, Member
Bethany B. Dunton, Member
Sarah E. Williams, Member

Also in attendance was Dr. Jason DeFalco, Superintendent of Schools and Matthew E. Ehrenworth, Assistant Superintendent of Schools.

There was no one present for **Public Forum**.

Report of Student Representatives

Danielle Catalano and Jenna Castelluccio gave information on the Marching Band and the fact that they placed 2nd at Metlife Stadium. They thanked Dr. DeFalco for attending and supporting.

They gave Congrats to soccer and football team - both made it to playoffs.

Winter sports have started.

Powder puff football game will be played on the ½ day before Thanksgiving break.

Audit Report for FY17

Auditors from R.E. Brown & Company, Certified Public Accounts gave an Independent Auditors report as required by uniform guidance and government auditing standards for the year ending June 30, 2017.

In their opinion, the Blackstone-Millville Regional School District complied in all material respects with the types of compliance requirements.

Financial Statements - Full accrual balance sheet - all liabilities - net fund balance \$863,000. Will change in FY18. We will see a negative here for FY18. The district has not started a trust fund yet to post retirement benefits. Post employment benefit liability is at 17 million. It will go up another 14 million in FY18.

Budget statement - there was a budget deficit in FY17 in the amount of \$50,252.

Cash drawdowns - not being directly correlated to the actual expenses. Not following policy for draw downs.

Grant spending prior to the grant start date. This will be cleared up.

Time and effort certifications were done but done at the wrong time.

A handout letter was passed around outlining how they would handle the concerns.

The Committee should know if there is a major transfer between the lines and if they have overspent on any of the lines. The funds to cover the \$50,252 were taken from E&D.

Public Forum

The mother of a Millville Kindergartner was present- She would like to know the condition of the boiler at MES.

Assistant Superintendent Ehrenworth is working with MSBA to get as much information as he can and hopefully present it tomorrow at the finance committee meeting.

Consent Agenda A

Motion: It was moved by Mr. Keefe, seconded by Mrs. Williams and unanimously voted to approve consent agenda A which includes warrants.

Motion: It was moved by Mrs. Lemieux, seconded by Mrs. Dunton and voted 7 in favor, one abstain Mrs. Larkin to approve the Minutes of October 10, 2018.

Washington D.C. Field Trip

Principal, Curt-Hoard was present to speak about the spring overnight trip to Washington, DC. She is working with Mrs. Finnegan regarding the particulars of the trip. Mrs. Finnegan is recommending they go with a different tour company. Previously, they did not have a tour guide. With the new company they will have a tour guide and the ability to stay closer to D.C. They would like to go with Capital Tours to keep the price affordable for families. They will continue to do fundraising for the trip. The cost is \$595 per student.

Mrs. Lemieux mentioned that the trip appears to be a full day shorter than last year. This makes her wonder if they are really getting a bargain.

Mrs. Curt Hoard would like to have Mrs. Finnegan present to the Committee and answer any questions they may have.

Motion: It was moved by Mrs. Larkin, seconded by Mr. Keefe and unanimously voted to approve field trips to Roger Williams Zoo and Mystic Aquarium.

Motion: It was moved by Mrs. Vinacco, seconded by Mrs. Larkin to table the approval of the Washington, DC trip until the next meeting. One member was in favor and the remainder were against this.

Dr. DeFalco wants to at least approve the trip.

Mrs. Lemieux wants a point of clarity.

Mrs. Vinacco wants to be sure it's comparable to last year. It's not the same trip and a whole less day. The dinner cruise is a highlight of the trip. The dinner dance is changing things.

Mrs. Reggio stated that when we approve field trips we approve them based on whether they make sense and align to the curriculum. We do not compare the cost. We as a Committee approve field trips if they meet the guidelines.

Mrs. Lemieux stated that last year we did not know who was leading the trip. Last year was the safety factor of the trip.

Mrs. Vinacco wants to discuss the prices and be sure that they are getting the best benefit for the dollars they are spending. They want to be sure that it is the best possible trip.

Mr. Keefe feels that the trip may not be the same from year to year. He feels there is no problem with it.

Motion: It was moved by Mr. Keefe, seconded by Mrs. Dunton and unanimously voted to approve the Washington DC trip in the Spring of 2019 as recommended by Mrs. Curt Hoard.

Approval of the School Committee Protocols.

Motion: It was moved by Mr. Keefe, seconded by Mrs. Williams and unanimously voted to approve the School Committee Protocols.

Sub Committee structure - chose to have one meeting per month on the 2nd Wednesday of the month and on the 4th Wednesday the meeting will be a workshop.

Motion: It was moved by Mr. Keefe, seconded by Mrs. Williams and unanimously voted that in accordance with the Blackstone-Millville School Committee Policy (Section D, File DK), the committee hereby authorizes the review and approval of all accounts payable and payroll warrants to occur during the meetings of the finance and facilities subcommittee. Provided that no less than three members of the Committee review and sign a warrant, said warrant shall be certified as correct and approved for payment.

Report of the Superintendent

Co-Op Swim Team

Athletic Director, Jill Tosti stated that the District would like approval to Co-op with the Grafton School District swim team. It will be at no cost to the District and will cost each student \$250. They will use the Whitinsville Community Center.

Motion: It was moved by Mrs. Dunton, seconded by Mrs. Lemieux and unanimously voted to approve the swim team co-op with Grafton Public Schools at a cost to the student of \$250.

Dr. DeFalco gave a science curriculum update. There are nine teachers that are a part of this along with Mrs. Shafer and Mr. Tringali. They are looking to revise or create the curriculum. We are late to this. Many districts have gone before us with good examples for us to use. He is excited to have the teaching and learning sub committee on this. The kick off was today.

Summit Learning model overview

Dr. DeFalco went on two learning tours. Today they had a second learning tour and brought another group of educators out. Mrs. Curt-Hoard and Mr. Dudek are going to California with Dr. DeFalco. They will tour a school in California. Dale City High School is well on their way. They are paying for the three of them to go out there. They will leave on a Sunday and finish it on Monday. It will be a very fast trip on December 9 and 10.

Mrs. Vinacco asked where is all of this heading? What comes next and what is your vision for all of this.

Dr. DeFalco stated that Summit is a personalized learning platform at no cost. The hardware has been secured. Work has been done around the google platform. We are only scratching the surface of what we could be doing with these devices. He wants instruction for teachers. Takes the guesswork out of it and they can work within a framework and augment what they want to do with the resources accordingly. Summit helps teachers and students apply their learning and differentiate the level of learning that the students need. We need the opportunity

to augment the instruction as we see fit and move things around. Dr. DeFalco went on a learning tour to the Woonsocket Middle School. From there the teachers went in October and one today.

Review and Approve Superintendent Goals

Superintendent's Goals - entered in a smooth and informed manner. BMR is far along in the development of the strategy.

1. **Student Learning Goal** - The District goal is for 100% of all students to show growth in ELA and Math on state assessments as measured by their scaled score.
 - a. Move at least 10% of students not meeting/partially meeting expectations to meeting/exceeding expectations.
 - b. To narrow the achievement gap, we will move at least 20% of students with special needs not meeting/partially meeting expectations to meeting/exceeding expectations, while the remaining 80% of students will grow within their achievement band.
 - c. Schools will also stretch towards moving at least 10% more students to the advanced level.

2. **Professional Development Goal** - To create and apply skills in strategy development, instruction leadership, building leadership capacity with the district, and forging strong partnerships with the school committee by completing the first year of the New Superintendent Induction Program and earning a high or moderate impact rating on the Engagement Rubric and rubrics associated with each major assignment.

3. **District Improvement Goal** - By the end of the year, 100% of schools will show evidence of improving instruction and student learning through implementing the Focus Schools Framework specifically in the areas of

- a. The implementation of school based instructional leadership Teams who will lead in the areas of: the use of effective data cycles using an internal accountability system.
- b. The review of student work through Professional Learning Communities.
- c. The creation of meaningful professional development driven by student need and feedback from our educators.

4. Fiscal Management

The FY19 Budget will be implemented and managed with a new system that will allow for deeper checks and balances to provide all stakeholders with the information necessary to establish stronger fiscal stability.

The FY20 budget will be developed and proposed based on the needs of the schools and district, and in accordance with agreed upon timelines.

With input from the School Committee, the administration will present the FY20 budget publicly to demonstrate the alignment between the needs of the school district and the allocation of towns, state and federal resources.

District Improvement Goal Community Outreach

By the end of the year, the district will establish a system and a series of community events to engage families and the community in the work of the District.

Motion: It was moved by Mrs. Vinacco, seconded by Mrs. Dunton and unanimously voted to approve the 2018-19 Superintendent goals as outlined.

Business Office Report

Assistant Superintendent - Matt Ehrenworth

MARS - expectation of a treasurer for the district. Would be in the best interest for the district. They emphasize someone financially trained and capable of doing regular banking transactions for the district. Its a safety measure for the district to have another individual who is overseeing the book keeping of the district. Mr. Ehrenworth does not want to be the Assistant treasurer. Mass general law states this. They should have someone else.

We now have an accountant who charges us to fix things at the end of the year and charges a substantial amount of money. He wants someone to reconcile the accounts on a regular basis. Wants another set of eyes.

He included a letter from an individual who he recommends. There is no cost on the proposal. Mr. Ehrenworth has discussed things with the individual. These services are not subjected to going out to bid. Bank statements can be imported electronically into budgetsense. He wants to have this person help him clean up this process. He can't tell at this point how much work it will take on a monthly basis.

Eliminate the CPA that does not clean up. Have an ongoing CPA. The reconciliation of the accounts should not be done by the bookkeeper.

Mr. Ehrenworth reviewed salary spend down, cost center reporting, personnel update and FY20 budget timeline with the Committee.

The FY20 budget timeline is as follows:

11/5 - FY 20 budget planning kickoff - distribution of budget worksheets to principals/cost center supervisors.

11/5 - 11/30 - Analysis of fixed costs, prior budgets, staffing/curriculum needs.

School Committee and School Leadership identify district budget priorities.

12/3 - 12/21 - School Leadership meets to discuss priorities/analyze requests/align spending with priorities.

1/2/19 - FY20 Draft Budget completed for review at 1/9/19 school committee meeting.

1/16/19 - Joint Meeting with towns.

1/31/19 - As is insurance renewal rates and insurance shopping, release of Governor's House 1 budget.

2/1 - 3/6/19 - Review budget with towns BOS and administrators and conduct budget workshops

3/13 - School Committee holds public hearing

School committee adopts FY20 budget

3/14 - 4/30/19 - Budget book presentations to towns at town and finance committee meetings

5/1 - 5/30/19 - FY20 final budget approved at Annual Town meetings.

There were no updates for **Facility Report**

New town administrator for Millville - need a search committee. Positions for community members from Millville could be on the search committee. They are asked to go to finance committee meeting in Millville tomorrow night.

Next workshop on the 28th at 5:30 at Millville with Wendy Greenstein who will discuss superintendent evaluation.

Mrs. Dunton - thank administration for the work they do with students and have a great holiday.

Mrs. Lemieux - had election day off. Visited classrooms and did the District tour. Saw a lot of good learning opportunities in the classrooms. Thank you for allowing her to go visit.

Mrs. Larkin - thank you to teachers at last night's parent teacher night. Positive attitudes. Ice hockey tryouts start after Thanksgiving. They may have 10 players this year.

Mrs. Vinacco - Congratulations to the band, it was an emotional climb. Thank you Dr. DeFalco for making the trip. Felt the support. Congratulations to football and boys soccer team. Exciting fall for teaching and learning and extra curricular activities. Hope to see many faces at thanksgiving dinner celebration.

Mrs. Vernon - book fairs this week and happy holidays.

Motion: It was moved by Mrs. Larkin, seconded by Mrs. Lemieux to enter into Executive Session at 8:45 p.m. 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