

**School Committee Meeting**  
**October 10, 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  
Tammy A. Lemieux, Member  
Jack R. Keefe, Member  
Bethany B. Dunton, Member  
Sarah E. Williams, Member

Tara Larkin was absent from the meeting.

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

The two student representatives, Danielle Catalano and Jenna Castelluccio were absent from the meeting.

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

**Motion:** It was moved by Mr. Keefe, seconded by Mrs. Lemieux and one abstain from motion on Minutes of Meeting - Mrs. Dunton to approve Consent Agenda A which includes Warrants and Minutes of Meeting of September 19,2018.

**School Committee**

Mrs. Reggio wants to make a commitment to be more involved in state conferences, etc.

The Summit Learning Platform will be held on Tuesday, October 16th. This was developed by teachers and is a free online tool that powers teaching and learning. It allows every student to have a personalized learning experience because it is catered to each individual student's goals, aspirations and dreams. On the platform students set individual goals, create roadmaps to achieve them, learn content at their own pace, and dive into meaningful projects that connect to the real world.

They will visit schools and see what the programming is like. Explore true personalized learning. They would like an entire team to go. They are opening it up to everyone including parents. Please e-mail Brigitte Walsh if you are interested. Mrs. Reggio would love to have parents and committee members join them. They might consider piloting this program next year. Middle and High School teachers and administration are going also.

Leading with Access and Equity is an innovative system and practice to support all students. It will be held on November 1st at the Best Western Conference Center in Marlborough, MA. This daylong professional development opportunity will focus on systems and strategies to meet students holistic needs and ensure every child has equitable access to a world class education. The inspirational keynote speaker will be Eric Gordon, Chief Executive Officer of Cleveland Public Schools and the recipient of the 2016 National Urban Educator of the Year Award. They will be taking our team to this.

MASC/MASS joint Conference will be held at the Resort and Conference Center in Hyannis from November 7 - 10, 2018. Mrs. Reggio is hoping to go again this year. The beginning holds more than at the end. If you can make even for one day that would be great.

**Report of the Superintendent**

Discussion about MCAS 2.0 and accountability data. A high level overview was sent out. How did we do compared to state average. If we teach and when we teach the materials in the right way the scores will come along.

<b>Accountability data -</b>	<b>%point out of 100%</b>	<b>Accountability percentile From a statewide perspective</b>
School District	56%	N/A
HS	68%	36
FWHMS	33%	25
AFM	50%	41
MES	56%	25

We are labeled at partially meeting our targets.

We need to

- Improve and Strengthen curriculum and resources.
- Deepen and define our how instruction.
- Focus on the whole child - social-emotional development and learning.
- Bring our communities together around “The Work”.

They have learned a few things. We have focused kids and strong teachers but between the schools there are different standards being taught. We need to align the what and how. On Professional Development day all grade teachers were working together. Need to align the schools to the standards. There is no consistency in our data. We haven't had a deep level of focus on the curriculum development work. The alignment of the curriculum has not been put into place. Teachers have done great work with what they have.

We don't have a science curriculum or program. Many careers for kids today are STEM and science is what they need.

Elementary teaching staff is tasked with a lot. They need to be experts in all areas and they need enrichment. They need to do so much preparing. Dr. DeFalco needs to give them the resources so they can prepare appropriately to meet the needs of our students. Kids should be engaged in experiments and interactive labs. There will be an expense to secure this.

At BMR we do not have instructional coaches. There is a clear direction we will need to take on this.

Mrs. Vinacco asked if they are only teaching science a half year at the elementary level.

Mrs. Lemieux wanted to know where band fits in with this also.

We need a shift in the instructional practice and doubling down of the curriculum development. Dr. DeFalco feels we can move the numbers at a healthy rate. These numbers are important but what is more important is what is happening in the classroom.

Mrs. Lemieux feels vertical alignment is important as well.

We need to improve and strengthen our "what" which is curriculum and resource.

They need to deepen and define our "how" instruction.

Focus on the whole child's social emotional development and learning.

Bring our communities together around the work.

### **Curriculum Update**

BMR has been selected to participate in a partnership with John Hopkins University to look at gaps in ELA and Math.

Knowledge mapping - help us look at the level of rigor or challenge.

Purely non-evaluative way for us to take a look and fill in gaps.

The Department of Education is paying for the entire thing.

Districts Curriculum Development and Renewal Process - created a process for the teachers and administrators who want to do this work. Train them and give them support to write the curriculum. We need to work for teachers and kids. We will begin with Science and developing the Science curriculum. By the end of the school year we can secure the materials we need and train the teachers over the summer.

They may be able to add Social Studies to the process this year.

Rotating cycle so that every year we will have a standing line in our budget for curriculum renewal.

**Summit learning model** - summit schools - true personalized learning project based approach to classroom instruction. They have visited a few schools that use this model and it has transformed teaching and learning in the classroom. School based teams going from middle and high school. See actual classes in session and see the summit platform at all levels. They have an agenda already set. Committee or family members who want to go.

Overview of the superintendent's evaluation - Dr. DeFalco is excited about working now with principals and working on their evaluative process. Overview aligning the superintendent's goals, district goals, student learning goal and professional practice goal. On Nov. 14th he hopes to have 5 to 7 goals for the Committee.

Mrs. Reggio wants the November workshop to be a review of the superintendent's evaluation process. Part of it will be a training session on the 28th. Wendy Greenstein will be the trainer. They will get the rubric beforehand.

Mrs. Lemieux wants to bond with the rubric and give themselves time to review their ratings, etc.

### **Report of the Assistant Superintendent**

Mr. Ehrenworth stated that financially things are going smoothly. They will be bringing forward a number of reports.

**1st report - salary spend down report-** Each classification broken down. Amount budgeted for FY19 and how much has been spent to date. We are now about 25 percent through the fiscal year. They are watching the numbers very closely.

Custodial overtime is a reflection of our mold issue.

They want the maintenance of our buildings to be a high priority. We are going to fix things that we need to and figure out the changes we need to make during the rest of the year. They will put together a long term facilities maintenance plan.

Cost center review - changes in projections - there haven't been any changes yet.

Mrs. Vinacco asked what our wheelchair bus is being used for? Originally it was to eliminate some use of the bus company.

**Revenue Report** - he will give this at the meetings as well. User fee funds that are coming in. Funds that are used to offset some of the expenses. They need to update the books with transactions that have taken place. The money collected from games goes into the program revenue line.

It takes much more than the budgeted numbers to run the District. It takes the federally funded grants, user fees, etc.

He will make them aware of any areas that they need to be made aware of.

Mrs. Lemieux asked if the athletic budget is the \$180,000 plus the user fees are separate. They set a budget number and they do not want them to just get a bigger budget from it. If user fees come in above it they do not have another \$73,000 to put back into their budget. There needs to be historical data with the amount expected in user fees.

The only gate fees are about \$10,000 per year. Mrs. Cole's budget to what the total numbers were was pretty close.

Mrs. Vinacco feels that we should utilize our own vans for transportation whenever possible.

### **Facility Report**

Vote to approve the Feasibility Study for MSBA for Millville Elementary - appropriate \$50,000 for the feasibility study. We appropriate funding as a District and then we get funding through the bank and then the money is charged back to the Towns in their assessments. The MSBA reimburses the school for whatever amount is agreed upon.

Millville can put it on warrant as yes or no, or as a 2.5 override. They can ignore what we send to them, they have the authority to say they will not be paying for it. Millville has 60 days from tonight's vote to decide what they will do with it.

Dr. DeFalco stated there has been conversation on it with Millville. We are trying to get on their agenda.

**Motion:** It was moved by Mrs. Vinacco, seconded by Mrs. Dunton and unanimously voted that the Blackstone Millville Regional School District hereby appropriates the amount of Fifty Thousand (\$50,000) for paying costs of a feasibility study for the Millville Elementary School, 122 Berthelette Way, Millville, MA. 01529, including all costs incidental and related thereto (the "Study") said amount to be expended under the direction of the School Committee. To meet this appropriation the District is authorized to borrow said amount, under the pursuant to M.G.L. Chapter 71, Section 16(d) and the District Agreement, as amended, or pursuant to any other enabling authority. The District acknowledges that the MA School Building Authority ("MSBA's") grant program is a non-entitlement, discretionary program based on need, as determined by the MSBA, shall be the sole responsibility of the District; provided further, that the amount of borrowing authorized pursuant to this vote shall reduced by any grant amount set forth in the Feasibility Study Agreement that may be executed between the District and the MSBA. Any premium received by the District upon the sale of any bonds or notes approved by this vote, less any such premium applied to the payment of the costs of issuance of such bonds or notes, may be applied to the payment of costs approved by this vote in accordance with Chapter 44, Section 20 of the General Laws, thereby reducing the amount authorized to be borrowed to pay such costs by a like amount.

Further voted: That within (7) days from the date on which this vote is adopted the Secretary be and hereby is instructed to notify the Board of Selectmen of each of the member towns of this District as to the amount and general purposes of the debt herein authorized, as required by the District Agreement and by Chapter 71, Section 16 (d) of the General Laws.

Mrs. Larkin will need to go into the office to sign it.

At the Complex the MSBA process is entering completion for schematic design. They would like the work to be done this coming summer.

The fire panel was installed at MES. The pipe was dug up and cleaned.

Middle School - mold found in an office area that has been taken care of. Checked into a warranty on the roof. Given some snow removal some years ago the warranty was voided.

One proposal was received for the High School fire panel.

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

November 14th is the next regular meeting.

**Motion:** At 8:00 p.m. It was moved by Mrs. Vinacco, seconded by Mrs. Dunton to move to Executive Session 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