

**School Committee Meeting**  
**August 16, 2018**  
**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.

**Motion:** It was moved by Mr. Keefe, seconded by Mrs. Dunton and unanimously voted to approve the Warrants including payroll and payables.

**Motion:** It was moved by Mr. Keefe, seconded by Mrs. Dunton, abstain Mrs. Lemieux and Mrs. Vinacco to approve the Minutes of July 9, 2018.

**School Committee Report**

They are looking at a variety of different ways to serve as the School Committee. They attended a retreat to talk about goal setting as a group and as a committee as well as strategic planning as a district. They developed protocols.

Meetings will be held as follows:

District of One, August 22, 2018

School Committee meeting on Wednesday, September 5th @ 6:00 p.m.

School Committee workshop on Tuesday, Sept. 11th @ 4:30 p.m.

**Report of the Superintendent - A District of one - 2000 strong** - it has been a busy month with quite a few items to discuss.

Dr. DeFalco outlined his entry plan on what it is and what it isn't.

It will help get us to the point where we are able to develop a strategy by setting a set of goals for this academic year.

1. Why, how and what the plan is. The process in collecting the information needed.
2. What the plan is. There are key guiding questions he will be asking throughout this process.
3. Smooth transition for his entry into BMR and for the plan to be much more accelerated.
4. Having the opportunity last Friday to meet with other superintendents throughout the commonwealth. He was able to come to BMR in July and just start getting to work.

Core values are important to him. **Community, achievement, respect and civility** need to be the compass of their decision making as well as equity and social justice.

It is a four step process:

1. **Data collection** July - October 2018. He wants to sit down with teachers and students.

The leadership team will identify and compartmentalize the feedback of academic and non-academic data. It will be an expansive and extensive process with multiple stakeholders within each represented group that supports/serves the district and touches the lives of our students.

2. **Identifying patterns and trends** November - December 2018. They will have the full picture back and summarize it and then they will share it with the school committee and the community. The "What" will be as follows:

- a. What are the strengths that have driven the success of BMRSD to date?
- b. What are the greatest challenges/opportunities keeping BMRSD students from performing at their highest levels?
- c. How do we bring about the changes needed to close the gaps?

3. **Planning phase** January - June 2019. Identify key long term goals and a blueprint or an action plan. Ultimately it will be used to improve the teaching and learning and schooling experience for each student. They will develop a Theory of Action which is intended as a 3 year living plan that will be reviewed by the School Committee and Community in an ongoing manner.

4. **Implementation** - Launch the new strategy July - August 2019. Starting in the summer of 2019, this Entry Plan document will drive all decisions being made with our district improvement efforts.

Mrs. Vinacco is looking forward to seeing it all come together.

Mrs. Lemieux- They will still improve student learning this year. They will lay out a more concrete plan in July.

Dr. DeFalco encourages all to reach out and ask questions.

They want to bring the communities together, strengthen the curriculum, materials and resources and instructional practices to be sure kids are engaged in deep and meaningful work.

**Budget items they want to restore.**

Dr. DeFalco thanks the communities for coming together and moving forward with the school district budget.

Items they are looking to restore are as follows:

2 elementary staff \$100,000  
1 High School Counselor \$50,000  
1 elementary school counselor \$50,000  
Middle school 1:1 Chromebooks \$28,000  
Star Assessment System \$18,000  
Focused school contract \$60,000  
ELL Curriculum \$20,000

**Total | \$326,000**

**Motion:** It was moved by Mrs. Vinacco, seconded by Mrs. Dunton and unanimously voted to restore the District budget items for a total of \$326,000.

It needs to be said that it doesn't change the bottom line of the budget. We do not have an additional \$300,000.

Mrs. Lemieux wants the community to understand what the Focused Schools concept does. Focused Schools is a national leader in education that provides targeted consultation, customized professional development, executive coaching, and technical assistance to districts and schools seeking to improve the achievement results and growth of every student, no exceptions. Their experienced team, made up of expert practitioners with a proven track record in building capacity and raising student achievement, works side-by-side with each district and its schools to create a systematic approach around a framework for improvement.

The Committee approves budgets by function codes. They will put it on the next agenda to see how this fits into the function codes.

**Advanced Placement and how it relates to the college board.** A.P. classes are university level freshman courses taken in high school. There is a national exam taken at the end of the course which is the same exam for all students in America. Scores range from 1-5 and you can earn college credits with a score of 3 or higher. This allows students to compete for college admission with students from all over the country.

This year the goal is to increase participation in A.P. classes, increase performance and college success.

They want to encourage the students that may feel they are not qualified to participate in A.P. classes to give them a try.

There were 97 A.P. students last year. 54% had qualifying scores. The graduating class had a total of 29.2% qualifying scores.

Mrs. Lemieux encourages students to participate in A.P. classes. There are increasing tutorials and supports for students. She wants to be sure that A.P. teachers are utilizing good teaching practices.

### **Multi Grade Classrooms presented by Christina Shafer, MES Principal**

The multi grade classroom is a classroom where the students can be of different ages or of the same ages but in different grade levels.

MES has the following configuration this year:

Kindergarten - (1 at 27 students) with extra support in this classroom

Grade 1 ( 2 grades at 20 students each)

Grade 2 (1 at 24 students)

Grade 2 and 3 (1 at 22 students)

Grade 3 and 4 (2 grades at 23 and 24 students)

Grade 4 (1 at 21 students)

Grade 5 (1 at 28 students)

In a single graded classroom students have a new primary teacher every year. The self contained classroom has specials, lunch/recess and All core subjects with Special Education and ELL supports available.

In the multi grade classroom students have the same teacher for multiple years. The self contained classroom has specials and lunch/recess. Special education and ELL supports are available with flexible grouping options available for math and potential for other subjects. The curriculum and special classes are the same for both single and multi grade rooms.

Projected classroom sizes for JFK/AFM

Grade K- 5 sections of 20 students

Grade 1 - 4 sections of 21 students

Grade 2 - 3 sections of 28 students

Grade 3 - 5 sections of 23 students

Grade 4 - 3 sections of 29 students

Grade 5 - 4 sections of 26 students

Multi graded classrooms are more personality based.

Dr. DeFalco stated that until we can get the regional agreement looked at this is the best scenario possible.

Mrs. Lemieux stated that we need to focus on the regional agreement. It is not just on the dollars it is about the classroom sizes.

Mr. Keefe would like to have this conversation with the members of our Towns and have it on the agenda for the joint meeting on September 26th with the Boards of Selectmen.

The search has been on for an Assistant Superintendent in the school district. This person will link all dollars to our strategic plan and keep things running so the best can be provided to the students. It was a lengthy process with 22 applicants and extensive screening. Three candidates met the qualifications. They went through the interview process and had a unanimous vote to put forward Matthew J. Ehrenworth. Mr. Ehrenworth was a teacher, dean, assistant principal, principal and director of finance and operations. We were very lucky to have found someone that fit our criteria.

Superintendent DeFalco asked for a three year contract.

**Motion:** It was moved by Mr. Keefe, seconded by Mrs. Vernon and unanimously voted to appoint Matthew J. Ehrenworth as the Assistant Superintendent of the Blackstone-Millville Regional School District for a three year term.

Mr. Ehrenworth stated that this is his 21st year in education. He is very happy to be a part of this District. He was previously a member of the School Committee in Wachussetts.

He will officially begin on September 4th.

Dr. DeFalco is also looking to appoint Jill Pilla-Gallerani as the one year newly licensed Special Education Director. At this time Mrs. Pilla-Gallerani will move to Unit B from Unit A for this position. She will not lose any of her Unit A benefits and will continue as Out of District Coordinator. Eventually this position will be a 12 month non union position.

**Motion:** It was moved by Mrs. Dunton, seconded by Mr. Keefe, 2 abstain Mrs. Vinacco and Mrs. Vernon to appoint Jill Pilla-Gallerani to the one year Special Education Director position for the FY19 school year commencing August 20th - June 30, 2019.

The District is currently looking for a part time Speech and Language Pathologist Assistant in the District.

They are also looking for a High School Counselor who can integrate the social emotional learning and the actual college and career piece. This person will need to be both Guidance Counselor and School Adjustment Counselor.

**Motion:** It was moved by Mrs. Dunton, seconded by Mrs. Lemieux and unanimously voted to post for the positions of part time Speech and Language Pathologist assistant and High School Counselor in the District.

Important dates:

August 22nd District of One kickoff at the Millville bike path.

August 23rd Open Door Day

August 24th freshman orientation

August 28th staff start

August 29th student start date

### **Business Office Facility Report**

The MES fire panel has been ordered. School will open on time but the panel installation will take 4 days. It will be set to install during the first PD day. They will move the staff to another building.

### **School Committee Forum**

Mrs. Williams - please come to the fun run.

Mrs. Vernon - thank you for coming out to our town meeting.

Mrs. Dunton - excited for the school year, wish everyone a great school year.

Mrs. Lemieux - thank you for those who came out to support our District as a whole.

Mrs. Vinacco - thank you to Dr. DeFalco for stepping out to the band camp today. Football starts tomorrow. Good luck to all the kids and she echoes on the town meeting. Thank you for your support and letting us move forward with our budget.

Mrs. Reggio- thank you to Dan Doyle for doing a great job as meeting moderator and the town clerks and Jesse and Tim for their efforts making sure that people would see the video. Matt the custodian spent the entire day setting up for us. Thank you to the 600 people for coming out. She hopes they never have to do it again.

**Motion:** It was moved by Mrs. Vinacco, seconded by Mrs. Dunton to adjourn the meeting at 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Monique F. Simard*

Monique F. Simard  
Recording Secretary

ATTEST:

  
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Tara L. Larkin, District Secretary