

School Committee Meeting
June 14, 2018
Frederick Hartnett Middle School

The Blackstone Millville Regional District School Committee met in the library of the Frederick W. Hartnett Middle School at 7:00 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

Member Sarah E. Williams was absent from the meeting.

Also in attendance was Allen W. Himmelberger, Superintendent of Schools and incoming Superintendent Dr. Jason DeFalco.

Recognition of Retirees-

The five educators who are retiring this year are:

Maureen MacMillan - 1st grade teacher - chose the 2nd book in the Knuffle Bunny series
Marianne McLean - High School Science teacher - chose All the Light We Cannot See
Patricia Powers - Reading and Special Education teacher - Chose the Knuffle Bunny book
Mary Sherman - School Adjustment Counselor - chose Sonia Sotomayor biography book
Steven Slate - High School Science teacher - chose Napoleon's Buttons

Collectively they have given 115 years of service to our school district.

Dr. Haughey was congratulated as he leaves to become a Superintendent in another District. Christina Shafer will be replacing Dr. Haughey as principal of the Millville Elementary School.

Public Forum - Tony Harvey - She thinks that having 25 students in Kindergarten at the JFK Elementary School is too much and heart breaking because of the importance of early intervention. Is there a way to reconsider this decision? She knows every grade is important but feels Kindergarten is so important.

Mrs. Reggio stated at the last budget meeting the School Committee committed to making sure that the Kindergarten teachers will remain the same.

Cecilia Doyle - she stated that the letter sent was in no way trying to make one grade more important than another. Class size is of a huge importance at all grades at the elementary level.

Tonya Curt-Hoard - Recognized all of her staff in the effort to organize the D.C. trip. Kathie Finnegan did a great job.

Consent Agenda A

Motion: It was moved by Mr. Keefe, seconded by Mrs. Vernon and unanimously voted to approve Consent Agenda A which includes the Warrants and Minutes of May 24th and May 30th.

Budget Update - Mrs. Cobb, Business Manager

The Millville Board of Selectmen voted to hold a special town meeting on June 27th.

Without Millville's \$39,000 we don't get the \$100,000 from Blackstone.

Superintendent Himmelberger stated that there are things in play that will hopefully positively affect the FY19 budget. It looks like we will have additional funding available from a variety of circumstances.

Mrs. Cobb stated the budget was a group effort of members of the School Committee and the leadership team. She had good news. There should be an additional \$248,617 added back in to the budget for FY19.

The School Committee and the leadership team adjustment:

Superintendent contract payout - 31,138

Unemployment adj - 40,000

Change to start time stipend saving back to budget - (1683)

Start time change after school shuttle savings - (6000)

Shuttle cost picked up by bus company - 6,000

1:1 initiative chromebook lease at MS - 28,000

Technician - 40,000

Dept. head stipend at HS - 10,000

Level funded music budget (8,338)

Total **\$139,117**

FY18 Ch70 transportation, CB revenue offset by school choice, estimated net increase \$32,000

FY19 CH70, transportation increase offset by school choice, estimated net increase \$30,000

FY19 Circuit Breaker Assumption: Claim base stays the same \$450,000; CB rate 75% fully funded by state, the potential increase is \$47,500.

Health insurance costs - ran the projection -

FY18 actual \$2,512,574

FY19 budget \$2,524,395

Potential reduction is \$12,000. However, future enrollment will change the total.

JFK Class size change from gr. 5 (20), Gr 1 and 3 (28) to Gr K and 4 (25) and Gr 1 and 4 (21). The School Committee disagreed with these changes which was discussed in the 1st Public Forum. They decided not to make these changes.

Superintendent Himmelberger stated that administration said they could eliminate the Department Heads. For this reason those teachers could teach additional classes and more electives could be offered.

Mrs. Lemieux wants to know who will run the show if there are no Department Heads.

There will be \$7500 from the cut of department heads to go back in for curriculum instruction.

Mrs. Vinacco asked Mrs. Cobb if they will end the year in a negative or go into E & D and Mrs. Cobb said no they would not.

Mrs. Cobb stated we have \$248,000 to the positive that could go into staffing.

Report of the Superintendent Building update -

1. We have immediate needs in our buildings. The fire panels at MES and at the High School need updating. He asked Chief Sweeney to give us a quick snapshot of where we are and where we are going.

Chief Sweeney - stated that all buildings in Blackstone require quarterly fire alarm testing. Up until December 28th we never had an issue. They were never able to replace the entire system. If you open the panel at BMR he believes there is a hamster in there. The panel is 50 years old and outdated.

Rob at Precision Alarm said we have a major issue at the High School. Portions of the alarms are not ringing back to the alarm center. It is not designed to protect people but to project the building. Rob couldn't give a complete report of what was not working.

Superintendent Himmelberger contacted the Chief and the Chief went to the Town Administrator who said he had the money and to get it fixed. Precision Alarm had to give a written report. He

thought they may need to shut the building down. Everyone had an opinion and ideas on what they should and shouldn't do.

He received a written report saying the A, B and C wing devices were not communicating with the panel and sounding the audibles that the student and faculty would hear. They made a decision that afternoon to purchase 50 smoke detectors and install them in those areas. The custodial staff did this in 15 hours. They are all functioning but it still doesn't meet code. They want to incorporate the expense in the renovations but they are waiting to hear on the renovations. Do they need to spend \$214,000 on a brand new system? A quick fix was around \$50,000. When they upgrade the panel will need to go so they opted to let the citizens decide.

They want a system that can be carried over when the renovations are made. It will go out to bid. If they can't meet the time frame for opening of school he feels the building will still be open on time.

His concern is when there is no one in the building. He hopes some of the existing conduit can be used.

Mrs. Cobb and Dr. DeFalco will meet with chief Sweeney to be sure they put together the proper spec.

2. Sewer and septic issues at JFK-

Williamson is there this week making the necessary repairs.

The Town of Blackstone is picking up the cost and the Committee thanks them for their cooperation.

3. The request was sent again to MSBA for the repair project at MES.

4. They are moving forward on the JFK repairs.

5. MSBA has the High school project specs in front of them. MSBA chose not to move forward on it last year.

6. They looked at saving \$6000 to change start times at the High School and Middle School. They will leave the start times as they are and still realize saving through busing after discussing with Tellstone. The Committee needs to rescind them.

Motion: It was moved by Mr. Keefe, seconded by Mrs. Dunton and unanimously voted to rescind the change in start and stop times at the BMR High School and the FWH Middle School.

7. Motion: It was moved by Mr. Keefe, seconded by Mrs. Lemieux and unanimously voted to approve the Physical Restraint Policy.

8. The Stars assessment from Renaissance has been used with great success. We have included it in our list of reductions. It will mean a cost savings of \$17,000 per year. Dr. DeFalco would like to keep it. Students are moving at the state average. The big question is what do we use instead of Stars.

Dr. Haughey feels it gives a good measure of where our students are. He can't compliment Stars enough. They offered resource and support on it and assisted faculty and staff. We just concluded term 3 measures.

Mrs. Curt-Hoard feels some student need the Stars 360 for support. Students that were at risk and are struggling are helped by Stars 360.

Elementary level - they are giving the test 3 times per year but they are not doing anything with the data.

Dr. DeFalco wants them to use the data.

School Committee Forum

Mrs. Vernon - looking forward to Kindergarten celebration which will be happening soon. Please vote in Millville and let your voice be heard.

Mr. Keefe - best of luck with final exams.

Mrs. Dunton - thanked faculty, staff and administration for the hard work they do.

Mrs. Lemieux - thank you to Millville for getting the \$39,000 vote on the agenda.

Mrs. Larkin - echos all said. The playground opened today at Millville Elementary School.

Mrs. Vinacco - thank you to all who went to the playground dedication. She is so glad the kids have a playground.

Mrs. Reggio - It was a great graduation. She wishes them all the best.


Motion: It was moved by Mrs. Lemieux, seconded by Mr. Keefe and unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Monique F. Simard

Monique F. Simard
Recording Secretary

ATTEST:


Tara L. Larkin, District Secretary