

**School Committee Meeting
May 10, 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
Sarah E. Williams, Member
Jack R. Keefe, Member
Bethany B. Dunton, Member

Also in attendance was Allen W. Himmelberger, Superintendent of Schools.

Jessica Morris- Student Representative

Seniors will be taking the A.P. exams during their last week of school which is next week. Graduation will be held on June 1st. The prom was held on April 27th. Student Council is holding seeds for change. They are taking donations for Puerto Rico to replenish the crops there.

Presentation - Monica Carty, teacher at the John F. Kennedy Elementary School

She would like to hold a summer camp at the Complex. Her salary will be funded by B.E.P.O. Each day will have a different theme such as Science, Technology and Mathematics. It will be held in the computer lab and the classrooms surrounding the lab. It will be on a first come first served basis. The money collected in fees for the camp will be given back to B.E.P.O. to offset the cost.

Motion: It was moved by Mrs. Vinacco, seconded by Mrs. Larkin and unanimously voted to approve the Technology Summer Camp at the Complex as presented by Monica Carty.

Jeanne Sheridan - Food Service Report

The High School was her priority this year. High top tables, a coffee station and salad bar were added this year and have been very successful. Over 100 high school students per day participate in the breakfast program.

The school lunch program is self funded. They are coming much closer with their ability to stay in the black. The easiest way to stay in the black is to increase the cost of the school lunches and breakfast across the board by twenty five cents.

Mrs. Lemieux wants to know what the outstanding balance is for school lunches. Currently it is close to \$4000 in unpaid balances. Mrs. Sheridan is making a direct appeal to families by sending letters home to pay off balances. It is a handful of about 20 families that make up most of the balance.

Any balance on the books will have to be paid out of the school budget and not the cafeteria budget.

The current revenue is projected at \$7000 to the black. It would then be eaten by any contractual increases next year. If they do not get an increase they will not be in the black next year.

The school lunch program will never be a money maker but they want to cover their costs.

The last increase in school lunches was in 2014. The goal is not to come back asking for an increase for 3 years.

If parents have 3 kids in school and they all get lunch 5 days per week it will cost the family about \$180 per month.

They get some reimbursement on the free and reduced lunches by the FDA.

Motion: It was moved by Mr. Keefe, seconded by Mrs. Lemieux and voted 7 in favor, 1 opposed - Mrs. Vinacco to increase the cost of breakfast and lunch as part of the school lunch program by 25 cents in all schools.

Mrs. Reggio thanked Mrs. Sheridan for her service to the District for the last nine years. She was always so accommodating and will be missed.

The Superintendent is looking for approval of the **School Committee calendar for FY19**. They will definitely hold the 1st meeting on July 9th.

Sub Committee Discussion

Marketing and Outreach - do more of that - telling people what we are good at here.

Regional Agreement - they revisited the agreement this year and it was disbanded. Does the Committee have an interest in reconvening with a different focus? We have to start looking at all potential options and the regional agreement stops them from doing this.

Policy- this committee will continue.

Advocacy and Government liaison -We can get more involved with people in office.

Finance Committee - Mrs. Cobb might want a small group that she could work with. The Committee decided to keep it as a large group.

Personnel and negotiations - They will enter into negotiations with Unit A. They want both Blackstone and Millville representation.

Transportation - there isn't really much to talk about since it is very tied to the regional agreement.

Technology - Mr. Bouzan developed a technology plan which runs until next year. That is his area. They are not going to move forward with this committee.

Facilities - have a group of people working with the Towns in this area. They agree that this is important. It is beneficial to us and the Towns to have open conversations with those that do capital outlay.

School Committee goals and self evaluation - one of their responsibilities is to have the schools and district improvement plans. There is interest in this.

Superintendent evaluation process - they just need people willing to stay on top of this as it is quite scripted.

Please let Mrs. Reggio know if you are interested in serving on these committees.

There were no items for the 1st **Public Forum** -

Consent Agenda A

Motion: It was moved by Mrs. Lemieux, seconded by Mr. Keefe and unanimously voted to approve Consent Agenda A which includes Warrants, Field Trip requests and the Minutes of the April 26th meeting.

Executive Session Minutes

The Committee approves the record and after a certain length of time they are made available if someone asks to view them.

Motion: It was moved by Mrs. Lemieux, seconded by Mr. Keefe and 6 in favor, 2 abstain, Mrs. Williams and Mrs. Dunton to approve the Executive Session Minutes of September 27, 2017.

Motion: It was moved by Mrs. Williams, seconded by Mrs. Vernon 7 in favor, 1 abstain, Mrs. Dunton to approve the Executive Session Minutes of October 10, 2017, February 13 & 15, 2018 and March 27, 2018.

Motion: It was moved by Mrs. Williams, seconded by Mrs. Lemieux and unanimously voted to approve the Executive Session Minutes of April 26, 2018.

Report of the Superintendent

Superintendent Himmelberger is asking the Committee to approve School Choice for the upcoming year in all grade levels based on class size.

Motion: It was moved by Mrs. Larkin, seconded by Mrs. Dunton and unanimously voted to approve school choice for the FY19 school year for all levels based on class size.

Resubmission of the Life Threatening Allergy Management Policy

Mrs. Vinacco originally held it with a question and she did receive her answer from Mrs. Young, HS nurse. The procedures are not changing. The signs will still remain in the Pre-K areas and in the Middle School.

Motion: It was moved by Mrs. Lemieux, seconded by Mrs. Vernon and unanimously voted to approve amendment to the Life Threatening Allergy Management Policy as written.

Mrs. Lemieux will submit it to Dorothy and a code number will be placed on it.

FY19 Budget Update

It is a long process that continues and started back in November with the release of the Superintendent's 3 year strategic plan and moved into the April 30th special town meeting asking for an override that did not pass.

The School Committee met last evening with town officials. We are faced with a perfect storm and a large gap with what we have for anticipated revenues. The Millville Town Meeting will be held on May 14th and the Blackstone Town Meeting will be held on May 29th. These meetings will give us what they are able to support. Both Towns are in constraints with the lack of support at the state level and the continued reduction at the federal level with our title grants.

The cost of the Norfolk Agricultural School is a source of problems.

The BMR per pupil expenditure for 2017 was \$13,488 which is considerably lower than the state average of \$16,000.

We are looking at a year where we will need to regroup and hold initiatives. It puts us in a very challenging position. The Committee has been blurry eyed looking at the numbers on how to reduce with the least impact to livelihoods and family economics.

Everyone wants to know what we are going to do. It is not fair to talk about staff reductions in a public forum.

They want a number when Dr. Defalco arrives on July 1st. Thirty five percent of your school budget is spent in the first quarter so you need a number by July 1st.

Results of the BMRDSC workshop on May 9th

They had valuable dialogue.

We as a District need to cut \$1,514,529. This is going to be a very difficult process.

If the Town of Millville does not accept our request through their contingency plan we will need to cut an additional \$138,000. They are asking Millville to put this money in to match the amount given by Blackstone.

They are looking for creative ideas on how to make the cuts.

Mrs. Reggio wants the message to be clear. We are only asking for the support that is reasonable.

Mrs. Lemieux thanks the Blackstone Finance Committee for supporting more than the Board of Selectman supported.

At the State House they considered several initiatives that could aid Regional School Districts. There is finally some attention being paid to the plight of financing public education in Massachusetts.

Public Forum

Joe Fraser- Millville resident - If the override does not pass is it possible to not have to cut the 1.5 million dollars? Mrs. Reggio stated no. We have no choice but to cut the 1.5 million dollars regardless of the override.

Tom Merolli is running for State Senator. He wants to introduce himself to the School Committee. He looks forward to talking with the Committee. He sees the growing problem and looks forward to working on how they can move forward and get it right.

Mrs. Vinacco will we be presenting the cuts to the public. Meetings will be set to work on this.

Mrs. Lemieux feels we need to start letting the public know what we are planning on cutting or increasing fees so they can give their feedback before they make their final decisions.

Everyone feels strongly that athletics and band should not be on the table to cut.

Mrs. Dunton feels that if we lose our band and athletics we are going to lose so many students. Property values will be sure to decrease.

Mrs. Lemieux feels that cutting extra- curricular activities will not save us money in the long run. These kids will school choice out so we will lose all around and in the end it will cost us money.

Ideas for cuts talked about at the budget workshop:

- Increase class sizes.
- Does the Bi-County Collaborative want to rent more space?
- Condensing a building and moving 8th grade to the high school.
- There is opportunity to lease space. There is room in every building.
- All schools must continue as schools or they have to pay off the bonds on them which they are not able to do.
- Before and after school daycare.
- Getting the state to adjust the funding formula for agricultural high schools.
- Is there wiggle room in the regional agreement when a school district is in a crisis?
- Superintendent Himmelberger feels we should revisit the Regional Agreement.
- The science curriculum is not in the new budget.
- The 1:1 chromebooks and new technology are still in the budget. They need this for taking computerized MCAS testing which is mandated.
- At the High School they spend considerable funds on subs covering classrooms. Have the 1:1 chromebook teachers put their work on Google. Condensed classes with no required sub teachers.
- shared grade classes.

The next budget workshop will be held on Monday, May 21st at 6:00 p.m.

Mr. Tringali feels that all extra curricular is so important and we must hang on to it. He would like to show people around his school to show them the current state of the school. He would love to give anyone interested a tour. Contact himself or any other principal to make an appointment. Even those who do not have a connection to the school right now.

Public Forum

Mrs. Williams - Foundation budget review commission bill passed the senate and moves onto the house next. All amendments specific to regional schools were withdrawn. They will be taken up in the Senate Ways and Means budget. Continue contacting Senator Fattman and Representative Kuros.

Mrs. Vernon - Asks the community to reach out to us to ask questions or give us ideas. Please send them creative out of the box ideas. Get your voice heard.

Mr. Keefe - encourages people to attend their town meetings. There are always seats reserved for the Town Boards at graduation if you would like to attend.

Mrs. Vinnaco - the Committee is invited to the awards night on May 31st.

Mrs. Lemieux - wants to commend the seniors on final stretch. Thoroughly enjoying the college acceptances and seeing them on the facebook posts. She is a social media user and tries to get information out to friends and the community. She accepts private emails at anytime.

Mrs. Dunton - thanks the faculty and staff who work with our children. She doesn't think they are praised enough for the work that they do.

The next two school committee meetings will be held on May 21st at 6:00 p.m. (School Committee Workshop) and Thursday, May 24th at 7:00 p.m. (regular meeting).

Motion: It was moved by Mrs. Williams, seconded by Mrs. Larkin to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 p.m. and enter into Executive Session to discuss personnel issues and not to return to the regular meeting. This motion was followed by a roll call vote.

Respectfully submitted,



Monique F. Simard
Recording Secretary

ATTEST:


Tara L. Larkin, District Secretary