

School Committee Meeting

April 26, 2018

4:30 p.m.

BMR High School

Media Center

The Blackstone Millville Regional District School Committee met in the library of the BMR High School at 4:30 p.m. where the School Committee Reorganization took place as follows:

Superintendent Himmelberger indicated the floor was open to nominations for the office of Chairperson of the Blackstone-Millville Regional School Committee.

Motion: It was moved by Mr. Keefe, seconded by Mrs. Vinacco and unanimously voted to appoint Jane C. Reggio as Chairperson of the Blackstone Millville Regional School Committee.

Chairperson, Mrs. Reggio indicated the floor was open to nominations for the office of Vice Chairperson of the Blackstone-Millville Regional School Committee.

Motion: It was moved by Mrs. Lemieux, seconded by Mrs. Vernon and unanimously voted to appoint Erin P. Vinacco as Vice Chairperson of the Blackstone Millville Regional School Committee.

Chairperson, Mrs. Reggio indicated the floor was open to nominations for the office of Secretary of the Blackstone-Millville Regional School Committee.

Motion: It was moved by Mrs. Vinacco, seconded by Mr. Keefe and unanimously voted to appoint Tara L. Larkin as District Secretary of the Blackstone Millville Regional School Committee.

Chairperson, Mrs. Reggio indicated the floor was open to nominations for the office of Treasurer of the Blackstone-Millville Regional School Committee.

Motion: It was moved by Mrs. Vinacco, seconded by Mrs. Lemieux and unanimously voted to appoint Caryn D. Vernon as Treasurer of the Blackstone Millville Regional School Committee.

Motion: It was moved by Mrs. Lemieux, seconded by Mr. Keefe and unanimously voted to appoint Wen S. Cobb as Assistant Treasurer of the Blackstone Millville Regional School District.

Motion: It was moved by Mrs. Dunton, seconded by Mrs. Lemieux and unanimously voted to appoint Monique F. Simard as Assistant Secretary of the Blackstone Millville Regional School District.

Motion: It was moved by Mrs. Lemieux, seconded by Mrs. Dunton and unanimously voted to appoint Long & DiPietro as District Counsel of the Blackstone Millville Regional School District.

Executive Session

Motion: At 4:45 p.m. it was moved by Mrs. Lemieux, seconded by Mrs. Vernon to enter into Executive Session to discuss Union and Non-Union employment and to return to the regular meeting. This motion was followed by a roll call vote.

Resume Regular Meeting

At 5:05 p.m. the regular meeting reconvened.

Discussion of State House Communication

Mrs. Williams went to a Day on the Hill, MASC's legislative advocacy day, which brings school committee members, superintendents and student leaders to the State House in Boston to meet with the executive and legislative leadership as well as local senators and representatives. This annual event is an increasingly critical moment for MASC members to advance the message of the value of public education and ensure that legislators and other key decision/policy makers understand the issues and challenges that you confront and that they can support.

Mrs. Williams met with a member of Senator Fattman's staff while she was there and asked what would happen if the Town of Millville went into receivership. She was told that they would get the answer the following day and get back to her. We are not the only District with a Town seeking an override.

Special Education is not addressed under regional transportation or circuit breaker.

Senator Fattman is pushing for the full funding of regional transportation.

Mrs. Williams wrote a letter to the Honorable Jeffrey Sanchez, House Chair and asked that all School Committee members sign it. In the letter she asked that in the budget process he supports the following priorities that reflect the basic commitments our state has made for K-12 public education as follows:

- That the minimum per pupil increase for FY2019 be funded at \$100 per student.
- That Regional School Transportation reimbursement be fully funded to provide the statutory 100% reimbursement.
- That the Circuit Breaker for Special Education be fully funded to achieve the 75% reimbursement rate.
- That significant progress be made to fund the recommendations of the Foundation Budget Review Commission, particularly those related to health insurance and special education costs.
- That funding be established for the study of the regional school foundation budget formula and recommendations made thereon, as described in Senate Bill 217.

These requests are essential to maintaining the success we have had in our district in preparing the students for a forward thinking, competitive MA economy.

All Committee members were given a copy of the letter to review and vote on.

Motion: It was moved by Mrs. Lemieux, seconded by Mrs. Vernon and unanimously voted to send the letter to Jeffrey Sanchez, House Chair outlining the Committee's requests for Public Education which was penned by Mrs. Williams.

Consent Agenda A

Motion: It was moved by Mrs. Vinacco, seconded by Mr. Keefe and unanimously voted to approve the Warrants and Field Trip requests.

Motion: It was moved by Mrs. Vinacco, seconded by Mrs. Lemieux, 6 in favor, 3 abstain, Mr. Keefe, Mrs. Larkin and Mrs. Dunton to approve the Minutes of March 22, 2018.

Prom

Mrs. Lemieux asked if there were any precautions being taken to maintain the sobriety of our students at the prom. The Superintendent stated that they are taking precautions headed by Mr. Ducharme and Mr. Dudek.

Mrs. Lemieux heard there were issues at some of the school dances and wanted to be sure that there were no issues at the prom. At her school they use a breathalyzer and a metal wand detector.

Report of the Superintendent

Motion: It was moved by Mr. Keefe, seconded by Mrs. Larkin and unanimously voted to approve the transfer of \$26,298.28 from the student activities agency account to the student activities checking account.

Health Policies

Superintendent Himmelberger discussed the Health Policies as it relates to the latest pieces of Mass. General Laws which are as follows:

- Management of the Medication Administration Program
- Physical Examination of Students
- Immunization of Students
- Head Injury/Concussion Policy
- Policy for the Administration of Epinephrine by Unlicensed School Personnel in a Life Threatening Situation
- Life threatening Allergy Management Policy

Mrs. Vinacco had a question on the Life Threatening Allergies policy. She noted that it states that we cannot guarantee that we can prevent life threatening issues. She would like to see it as part of the policy that they have designated areas that are peanut free. The policy as she sees it looks like we are not free of anything.

Mrs. Reggio stated that that they are doing away with the peanut free tables in the cafeteria but keeping the peanut free classroom.

Mrs. Vinacco wants to continue to encourage the peanut free environment and wants the policy to state how we are minimizing exposure. She is not looking for them to do more than they are currently doing but she also does not want them to do less.

Mrs. Reggio stated that it has become the DESE stamp to encourage schools from a legal standpoint to be very careful what you say on this subject.

Mrs. Lemieux asked why the peanut allergy is worse than other allergies.

Mrs. Vinacco stated that it is an anaphylactic shock issue with the peanuts as it is with bee stings.

Mrs. Reggio stated that we can use this as the first reading of the policies and she will ask the policy committee to follow up on these questions.

Mrs. Lemieux thinks it would be a good idea to ask legal counsel how to proceed with the no peanut signs, etc.

They will hold the Life Threatening Allergy Management Policy and move forward with the Epinephrine In a Life Threatening Situation policy.

It was stated by Mrs. Reggio that these were the only two policies out of the list mentioned above that still need to be voted on.

Motion: It was moved by Mrs. Williams, seconded by Mrs. Larkin and unanimously voted to approve the Policy for the Administration of Epinephrine by Unlicensed School Personnel in a Life Threatening Situation.

Our online manual can take up to two months to receive. MASC sends it out and it takes up to two months to reach us.

MOA- Health Insurance Reimbursement

The Committee members approved the Memorandum of Agreement between the BMRSD School Committee and the BMRSD Educators Association and the BMRSD Support Personnel Association.

In this agreement it was voted to add a line item in the FY19 budget in the amount of \$30,000 to be used to reimburse any employee who, for the period of time beginning July 1, 2018 and ending June 30, 2019 has deductible expenses greater than \$1500 for an individual health insurance plan and greater than \$3,000 for a two person or family health insurance plan with certain stipulations to apply.

The full Memorandum of agreement has been approved by the District School Committee and is awaiting the approval by the BMRSD Educators Association and the BMRSD Support Personnel Association.

FY19 Budget Update

Business Manager, Wen Cobb gave her budget update and stated we currently have \$2,000 of unencumbered money.

She gave each member a copy of her Expenditure Report as of March 31, 2018.

We should be receiving additional revenue of \$32,627 from our State Revenue Sources over what we thought we were getting.

Mrs. Lemieux wants to know if the money will be applied to the areas that are short on the first 2 pages of the report they received.

Mrs. Cobb stated that when we calculate the free cash it will be put all together to reduce the short areas on the first 2 pages.

Facility Update

Superintendent Himmelberger gave a facilities update. They are currently waiting to hear back from MSBA on the MES, HS and AFM proposed projects.

The JFK project now needs approval by the Town of Blackstone.

There is now a new septic system issue at the Complex. It started to fail and hasn't been touched since it was installed when the school was built. The metal brackets holding the pumps have disintegrated. We have received one quote close to \$30,000 to fix this. The Superintendent spoke with the Town Administrator about it. The Town of Blackstone will deal with it as a capital expense.

The Superintendent stated we do not have a facilities manager who schedules updates in our buildings.

Mrs. Lemieux would like to see us inform the Towns of issues as soon as we see signs of these items breaking down. If we don't get ahead of it we will always be in a position of catching up.

On Monday, April 30th the Town of Millville public hearing of the Finance Committee will be held. The School Committee does not have a presentation ready for that night but they do have the budget books ready to be distributed.

Superintendent Himmelberger made a recommendation to give Loretta Braverman, Director of Special Education a one year contract.

The School Committee met and made the decision not to renew Mrs. Braverman's contract for one year.

Mrs. Williams asked to be taken off of the policy committee. The Committee agreed and Mrs. Vinacco agreed to take it on.

A new list of committees will be discussed at the next meeting.

Committee Forum

Mrs. Vinacco feels that going forward our April meeting on reorganization should be the week of the elections.

Mrs. Reggio stated that she is never free on the first Thursday of the month.

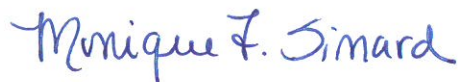
Mrs. Larkin - Be safe at prom and have a good time. She is very concerned with the FY19 budget.

Mrs. Vinacco - wished all students a good time at prom.

Mrs. Reggio - She reached out to Dr. DeFalco regarding a plan to have dinner with him. It has been decided that the Committee members will meet him in Providence for dinner on Wednesday, May 9th.

Motion: It was moved by Mr. Keefe, seconded by Mrs. Lemieux and unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Monique F. Simard
Recording Secretary

ATTEST:



Tara L. Larkin, District Secretary