

School Committee Meeting
March 15, 2018
Frederick Hartnett Middle School

The Blackstone Millville Regional District School Committee met in the library of the Frederick W. Hartnett Middle School at 7:10 p.m. with the following members present:

Jane C. Reggio, Chairperson
Caryn D. Vernon, District Treasurer
Tammy A. Lemieux, Member
Sarah E. Williams, Member
Diane C. Robin, Member

Absent from meeting: Tara L. Larkin, District Secretary, Jack R. Keefe, Member, Erin P. Vinacco, Vice Chairperson as well as the Student Representatives.

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

Motion: It was moved by Mrs. Robin, seconded by Mrs. Lemieux and unanimously voted to approve Consent Agenda A which includes Warrants, Field Trip Requests and Minutes of the February 8th meeting.

FY 19 Preliminary Budget Hearing

Allen W. Himmelberger stated that FY19 is shaping up to be the most challenging budget to match revenue to expenditures to offsets.

Reasons:

- Chapter 71 and Circuit Breaker are not fully funded.
- Reduction in federal grants.
- No longer use E & D to offset budget.
- Norfolk Agricultural and School Choice reduce our funding as parents choose other education options for their children.

Needs:

- Curriculum
- Technology
- Special Education

Definition of Increases Needed:

● New Staff	199,000
● Curriculum	22,500
● Technology	66,500
● Transportation	35,000
● Special Education	206,000
● Facilities and Maintenance	40,000
● Contractual	593,000
● Offset of Reductions	285,000
● Library Programs	6,000
● Offset for FY18 Reductions	37,557
● Insurance and Benefits	<u>190,000</u>
	\$1,680,557

New Staff needed:

● Tech Support	1.3	50,000
● HS Counselor	1.0	50,000
● MS Sped Teacher	1.0	55,000
● MES PE Teacher	.4	22,000
● JFK/AFM Library Para	.4	<u>22,000</u>
		\$199,000

They have been working on this budget since the town meeting last year.

Superintendent Himmelberger also put together a 3 year plan.

They have had lengthy meetings with the leadership team.

They need to meet with the Towns. Our communities have a tendency to see our schools as a separate entity. Everyone needs to realize that we are two towns, yet one district. We need to support our teachers and our students.

The Committee decided they need to ask for what our needs are and have the communities support their schools.

Bethany Dunton - is an educator and supports them. If you don't support it you have trouble recovering from a deteriorating school system.

Mrs. Lemieux urges those who look over the budget to look beyond the number. Please go and find out what the number represents.

The doors are always open for anyone needing an explanation of the budget.

Loretta Braverman - Director of Special Education

FAPE 2019 is costly. FAPE stands for Free Appropriate Public Education. Under Section 504, FAPE refers to the provision of regular or special education or aids and services designed to meet the educational needs of individuals with disabilities to the same extent that the needs of non-disabled individuals are met. In 2019 all students are getting FAPE which is not cheap.

She fears that in a short amount of time the District will be at a level 3 and our students will not be able to see as a reality the hopes and dreams they have aspired to. Every special education dollar is attached to children. She welcomes a visit, phone call or email. There are no bells and whistles or fluff in this budget.

Mrs. Reggio stated they will continue to work hard going forward. Thank you for listening to us.

Superintendent Himmelberger thanked the leadership team.

Unit A Early Retirement Incentive

This incentive is used to entice someone at a high salary to retire and replace them at a lower salary. They will receive \$7500 if they retire effective June 30, 2018. The Superintendent feels it will help mitigate gaps in our budget. It will come out of the FY19 budget.

Motion: It was moved by Mrs. Robin, seconded by Mrs. Williams and unanimously voted to approve the Unit A early retirement incentive for FY18. The funds are to be taken from the FY19 school budget.

Superintendent Himmelberger stated that the leader of the Middle School Washington D.C. trip will be teacher Kathie Finnegan. She led the recent parent meeting and informed all parents that she will be in charge.

Motion: It was moved by Mrs. Robin, seconded by Mrs. Vernon and unanimously voted to approve the FY18 Middle School D.C. trip with Kathie Finnegan as leader of this trip.

School Committee Forum

Mrs. Robin - thanks everyone for their hard work on the budget.

Mrs. Lemieux - enjoyed boys and girls basketball runs and took her family to all of the basketball games and enjoyed them very much. She has asked about adjusting end of quarter dates and moving exams to later dates in the District to address concerns so that snow days are not lost.

Mrs. Williams - thank you to all who worked on the budget. She has sent multiple emails and thanks everyone for getting back to her.

Mrs. Vernon -thanks the MES Cultural Council. Tomorrow at MES they will play a trivia game with the students. It should be a fun day.

Mrs. Reggio - Played Plinko at MES and had a great time.

Mr. Dudek - the school is our community and the community is our school. He wants our students to have the opportunity to get out in the community and go to see what is out in the real world. It makes them think about college and the choices they have. He feels great things are happening and wants doors to open for our students.

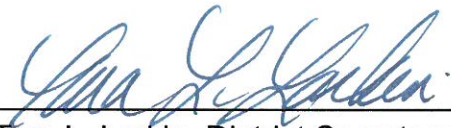
The next meeting will be held on Thursday, March 22nd.

Motion: It was moved by Mrs. Robin, seconded by Mrs. Lemieux to adjourn the regular meeting and enter into Executive Session to discuss non-union personnel at 7:55 p.m. This was followed by a roll call vote.

Respectfully submitted,



Monique F. Simard, Recording Secretary

ATTEST: 
Tara L. Larkin, District Secretary