

**School Committee Meeting
February 8, 2018
Frederick W. 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
Diane C. Robin, Member
Jack R. Keefe, Member

Anita Lahue, student representative and student council president was present at the meeting and gave a student activities and sports update.

The boys varsity basketball team will play tomorrow night at the high school and both girls and boys basketball will qualify for tournaments to close out their season.

Indoor track will compete in Fitchburg on Saturday. Many runners are close to beating records. A senior class bake sale will be held this Saturday from 9-2 at Park n Shop.

The student council will give back to the less fortunate by creating digital Valentine's Day cards so they may spread the love to those who need it most.

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

A.P. English Students

A group of A.P. English students made a presentation. They prepare for tests by writing essays on the test and create their own essay prompts. They give the student perspective. Further understanding of important topics. They look at the reason for homework. They feel it is hard to do your best in every area. They gave pros and cons to having homework assigned during vacations. Homework can be good but can also create conflict and stress between student and parent. Teachers are always having to juggle different class times. To keep learning outside of classroom they need to give homework on weekends and during breaks. A.P. classes keep it necessary for kids to keep up with work.

A survey by the Metlife foundation does research on education and did yearly research projects. They look at relationships between teachers and students. They found through a graph that teachers and parents both agree that homework is necessary and important and it is necessary to students as well.

Homework can be a big source of stress to students trying to juggle everything.

Mrs. Reggio asked how many play instruments. When you first learned it did you go home and practice? If you didn't would you be playing music today. If you don't practice lifelong learning in other areas you will not be good at it. If people can love the learning it doesn't become homework, but learning.

2nd group of A.P. students

These students discussed a balanced school year. They looked into shortening their summers and keeping things equal all year round. Pro is because the breaks are shorter they retain knowledge of things. Reduces stress.

Cons can be economic issues with more costs like air conditioning etc. as well as teachers going to school in the summer, students and summer jobs and parents babysitting issues.

There are schools in Hawaii, Alabama and Texas that do this. This helps to reduce overcrowding.

They do not feel the balanced school year is not a good idea for Blackstone and it is expensive. Many parents opposed it in Boston.

Search for Superintendent

Finalist candidates will be visiting tomorrow and next week. We have a full schedule to go through.

Friday candidate. Timeline. **Dr. Jason DeFalco** will meet with Mr. Keyes, then move his car to the high school and meet with Superintendent Himmelberger and meet the members of the Business Office, then on to the principals conference room with the Administrative Team and a walk through scheduled with Mr. Dudek to tour BMR. After the High School it is off to Millville Town Hall with Jennifer Callahan and then back to Hartnett Middle School and Mr. Keefe will come in just before 12:30 and he can take him to MES and then to the Complex and Mrs. Larkin will take him through the Complex. Mrs. Larkin will bring him back for the staff presentation at the BMRHS. At the open session Mrs. Brown will introduce him. At 4:00 he will move to the foyer. By 4:30 they are leaving and he will be with Mrs. Robin. They are going to dinner and Mrs. Robin will bring him back to MES for an open presentation to the community. This is the School Committees formal session which will be recorded. At 8:30 he will leave.

This schedule will continue for Monday and Tuesday. There will be a bit of tweaking of this schedule but basically it will be the same.

Monday - **Dr. Richard Drolet** - no Blackstone Town hall at 8:30 a.m. but at 1:30 p.m. and at the Middle School in the evening and not MES.

Tuesday - **Mr. Kevin McNamara** - similar schedule as Monday.

Mrs. Reggio said that these meetings are being set up for everyone to meet with the candidates. We do not want the Committee watching them. The presence of a school committee member sends a different message.

Mrs. Vinnaco wants to see the candidates interacting with staff and students.

Mrs. Robin feels that staff members need the one on one with him.

Mrs. Lemieux feels that she should not be intimidating to others as a school committee member. Members would like to be present at more functions to not be seen as intimidating. She wants to watch the interaction with the leadership team.

Mrs. Vinacco would like to keep it as is with allowing school committee members to be present.

There will be a very short survey monkey set up for people who came to meet him on that day so they can give their feedback.

Consent Agenda A

Motion: It was moved by Mrs. Robin, seconded by Mrs. Vernon and unanimously voted to approve Consent Agenda A which includes warrants, school committee minutes of January 23rd and field trip requests.

Report of the Superintendent

Motion: It was moved by Mrs. Robin, seconded by Mr. Keefe and unanimously voted to approve the High School Student Activities account for reimbursement from the Student Activity Agency Account to the Student Activity Checking Account in the amount of \$17,092.62.

School Committee Health Policy

Superintendent Himmelberger spoke on the updates on the School Committee Health Policy. There was great work on the Concussion Policy by the nurses in the District to be sure that it meets state guidelines. These are still in compliance with MASC.

All coaches and the A.D. are given the policies as well as a complete training.

They will vote on this policy at the next meeting.

Early Retirement Incentive

The Superintendent spoke on offering an early retirement incentive to Unit A members. They offered a \$7500 incentive last year. The goal is to replace the higher salary with a lower salary.

Mrs. Robin would like a representative from the Mass. Teachers Retirement Association to come here and give a seminar on retirement. If we are looking to encourage staff to retire a seminar would be helpful.

Motion: It was moved by Mrs. Robin, seconded by Mrs. Larkin and unanimously voted to offer the early retirement incentive to Unit A members in the FY18 school year.

We currently have 3 members retiring this year.

The money could be moved from the FY19 year. They may be able to pay it in the first payroll of the next year. Mrs. Vinacco wants the answer to this question before it is approved. Superintendent Himmelberger will ask Wen Cobb to answer this question.

Mrs. Robin will table the motion and all approve the tabling of the motion.

MES Courtyard

In September it was approved by the Committee to name the courtyard after former principal and Superintendent of Schools, Everett B. Campbell. The Town wanted to be sure we put it forth on a warrant article to make it official at an annual town meeting. They sent the appropriate request to the town of Millville.

School Committee Forum

Mrs. Vernon - is looking forward to interviews with candidates.

Mr. Keefe - hopes they can stay on task with the interview schedule.

Mrs. Robin - echoes Mrs. Vernon's response. Mrs. Robin will not be running for her seat in April. The last date to submit nomination papers will be February 12th. She feels they need more parent involvement.

There are 2 seats available. Mrs. Williams will be running.
There is someone who is running for Mrs. Robin's seat.

Mrs. Vinacco - hopes that the staff and community will come out to meet our candidates. Please be involved in the process. Everyone's input is welcome.

Mrs. Reggio - The hiring of a Superintendent is one of the most important things that they do.

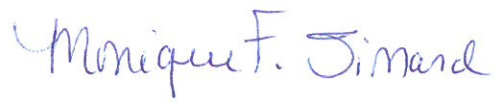
Mrs. Lemieux - She reached out to Representative Kuros on the Regional Transportation number. Representative Kuros said it is high on his list of priorities. He recommended that the

Committee should reach out to the Ways and Means Committee as they are part of the decision making process.

Representative Fattman's Chief of Staff responded back and will speak with her. She asked for numbers for the past 2 years so she can have an intelligent conversation. She will draft a letter from the Committee as well.

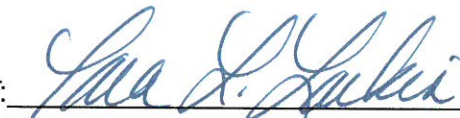
Moton: It was moved by Mrs. Reggio, seconded by Mrs. Robin to move into Executive Session at 8:25 p.m. and not to return to Open Session. This motion was followed by a roll call vote.

Respectfully submitted,



Monique F. Simard, Recording Secretary

ATTEST:



Tara L. Larkin, District Secretary