



## BLACKSTONE-MILLVILLE REGIONAL DISTRICT SCHOOL COMMITTEE

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**Frederick W. Hartnett Middle School**  
**Thursday, March 24, 2016**  
**7:00 PM**

Included in this transmission is the following:

- I. Opening of Meeting**
  - a. Call to Order
  - b. Pledge of Allegiance
  - c. Introduction of Members
  
- II. Public Forum**
  - a. Awards and Recognition  
Congratulations to Mrs. Jeanne Sheridan for being awarded School Nutrition Association of Massachusetts Director of the Year
  
- III. Report of Student Representative**
  - a. Eric Eisner
  - b. Griffin Reilly
  
- IV. Consent Agenda A**
  - a. Warrants
  - b. Use of Facilities
  - c. Field Trip Request
  - d. Minutes of Meeting
    - a. March 10, 2016
  
- V. School Committee**
  - a. Regional Agreement Update
  - b. Discussion of District Three Year Plan
  
- VI. Report of the Superintendent**
  - a. FY17 Budget Update
  
- VII. Report of the Assistant Superintendent**
  - a. Curriculum Update

**VIII. Public Forum**

**IX. School Committee Forum**

- a. Mrs. Erin P. Vinacco, Chair
- b. Mrs. Wendy L. Greenstein, Vice Chair
- c. Ms. Georgette A. Jarret, District Secretary
- d. Mrs. Jane Reggio, District Treasurer
- e. Mr. William F. Chaplin, Jr., Member
- f. Mr. Steven J. Tringali, Member
- g. Mr. John M. Wozniak, Member
- h. Ms. Tara Larkin, Member

**X. Upcoming Meetings**

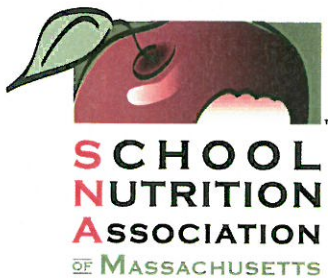
- a. Thursday, April 14, 2016 – Public Meeting/Annual Reorganization of BMRDSC
- b. April 28, 2016 – Public Meeting

**XI. Executive Session**

- a. Unit A Negotiations

**XII. Adjournment**

The items listed on this agenda are those reasonably anticipated by the Chair to be discussed at the meeting. Not all items may in fact be discussed and other items not listed may also be brought up for discussion to the extent permitted by law.



March 14 2016

Jeanne Sheridan  
Acushnet & Blackstone Millville Regional School District  
35 Federal St  
Blackstone, MA 01504

Dear Jeanne:

It gives me great pleasure to congratulate you on being awarded the School Nutrition Association of Massachusetts Director of the Year award. The award is considered the highest honor a school nutrition director can earn.

This award is given to the director who successfully demonstrates their skill in coordinating extra ordinary program enhancements, management and development of staff, involvement in SNA, school involvement, and community outreach. You have been identified as a director that exceeds in all of these areas. Congratulations on a job well done. The Blackstone-Millville Regional School District and the School Nutrition Association are lucky to have you in the nutrition field.

As the state winner for Massachusetts, you will be recognized at the SNA of Massachusetts Fall Conference (invitation to be sent this fall) in Worcester, MA on Worcester, MA on Tuesday, October 25, 2016.

Should you choose to attend, you will also be recognized at the National level at the Annual National Conference in San Antonio, TX, where you will receive a certificate and ribbon and you will be recognized at the Red Carpet Awards Ceremony on July 10 at 10:30am. As your nomination will also be forwarded to the National office of School Nutrition Association, to be considered for the North East regional and National winner, we do not yet know if you will have other honors bestowed upon you. National and Regional award winners will be announced and recognized at the conference in San Antonio.

I wish you sincere congratulations on your award and hope to see you both at the conference in Worcester this fall and this summer when you can walk the red carpet in Texas!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Sylvana Bryan'.

Sylvana Bryan, SNS  
President, School Nutrition Association of Mass  
School Nutrition Director  
Pittsfield Public Schools

CC: Dr. Stephen Donovan, Kristin Flynn, Dr. Paul Haughey, Mr. Allen Himmelberger



**BLACKSTONE-MILLVILLE REGIONAL  
DISTRICT SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

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**Regional Agreement Workshops**

**April 4, 2016**

**5:00PM – 6:15PM**

**Building Tour - John F. Kennedy Elementary**

**April 21, 2016**

**4:00PM**

**Millville Senior Center**

**To Discuss the Regional Agreement Amendment**

**April 21, 2016**

**6:30PM**

**Blackstone Public Library**

**To Discuss the Regional Agreement Amendment**

**May 2, 2016**

**5:00PM – 7:00PM**

**Building Tour – Millville Elementary**

**BLACKSTONE-MILLVILLE  
REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
ALLEN W. HIMMELBERGER  
SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS**

**TO: Blackstone-Millville Regional School Committee**  
**RE: School Committee, Consent Agenda A**  
**DATE: March 24, 2016**

Recommended Consent Agenda A – Items

**1. Warrants**

a. Payroll

- i. Move to approve payroll voucher numbers: 24 and 1027 as submitted by the Superintendent of Schools

b. Payables

- i. Move to approve the payable voucher numbers: General 1854, Café 1855, and Millville Roof 1856, as submitted by the Superintendent of Schools

**2. Field Trips**

a. Humanities Scholars Club – College Visits to:

Assumption College - March 29, 2016  
Nichols College - April 12, 2016  
Worcester State - April 26, 2016

- i. Move to approve field trip to Assumption College, Nichols College, and Worcester State as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools

**3. Minutes**

- i. Move to approve the school committee minutes of March 10, 2016

# **Blackstone-Millville Regional School District**

**3-Year Plan 1/1/16-12/31/18**

**Submitted 11/12/15**

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Blackstone-Millville Regional School District is moving forward to meet the needs of all students. From adding Advanced Placement courses at the High School, to implementing a new math program at the elementary level, to replacing four school roofs, to new baseball and softball fields, to our award winning National Championship Charger Marching Band, there is a vibrancy, a willingness to embrace change, and positive can do attitude prevailing with our students, our staff, our families, and our entire community.

The District, from all accounts and indicators, is moving in a positive direction. This positive change is necessary to keep BMRSD competitive in a very challenging public education environment, with the federal and state political winds constantly shifting and the competition for students more pronounced than ever. The District is facing several important issues that should be addressed over the next several years. Human Resources, Technology, Curriculum, and Facilities and Maintenance are the areas that are of extreme importance to be analyzed as part of an overall Plan.

## HUMAN RESOURCES

Human Resources is an area often overlooked over the long term, simply addressed as needs surface at the end of the year or when a vacancy occurs. Interviewing, hiring, and training personnel is a very real cost to the District and managing employment issues is both time consuming and expensive. From evaluating staff performance, to hiring only the best available candidate to reviewing job descriptions; they all seem to be best practices. However, often because of schedules, perceived lack of time, or turnover, the managing of human resources does not get the attention needed to insure the most efficient use of time and money. For example, to hire just to fill a position may end up costing more time and money as that employee leaves quickly for another position or becomes difficult to train and manage. Would it have been better to hire a long term sub, fill through a third party on a temporary basis, or reassign or do without until the best candidate is available? Having continuity of leadership is key to hiring and retaining the best employees possible and to create a stable work-friendly environment.

As the largest employer in our member towns and with the responsibility of the safety and education of our children, it is incumbent on the District to spend the time to focus on HR needs, policies, and direction before pressing needs, legal requirements, or the budget cycle force decisions that may satisfy the short term immediate needs but do not meet the long term goals and objectives of efficiency, improvement, or stability. Professional development around the interview and hiring process along with clear communication of needs will insure that the best decisions are made and will minimize or eliminate costs such as unemployment. Planning sessions that incorporate enrollment projections, union contract language, and the District Goals and Improvement Plan will make the managing of human resources more efficient and less costly.

### TECHNOLOGY

The District has begun the work of updating current technology, no longer defined as desktop computing or work stations and traditional computer labs. Technology is changing rapidly as evidenced by our current E-Rate supported wireless project. All aspects of supporting teaching and learning from printers and copiers to our website to Google Apps make education more dynamic with a deeper texture to support our students. Who has the crystal ball that could have predicted smart boards, after chalkboards were replaced by white boards; or that flat screen computing can already make smart boards obsolete. Balancing future needs with capital spending is a challenge for sure. The unlimited storage of the Cloud has freed up budgeting for expensive traditional storage but what about security and privacy concerns. The cottage industry that is educational technology produces more questions than answers about when to spend how much with whom on what.

At the state level, the funding for technology needs to be addressed in Chapter 70 and not simply by steering folks to E-Rate funding. Whether it is public/private partnerships funding more specific grant opportunities or expanding MASSCue from annual to a more frequent event, or having discussions with higher education that seems to be several years ahead of elementary and secondary education, there needs to be a more timely exchange of information to make the best long term decisions, which in tech speak may only be three to five years.

### CURRICULUM

Curriculum is being redefined constantly, from a Nation at Risk, to No Child Left Behind, to Race To The Top at the federal level to the assessment debate over MCAS versus PARCC vs Option 3 currently playing out in Massachusetts to the evil empire known as Common Core, it is little wonder that veteran teachers liken curriculum changes to the New England weather, just wait a minute and it will change. Certainly what we teach, when we teach it, and how we teach it have changed almost as rapidly. The skills needed for college and career success emphasize

how to breakdown and synthesize information, the ability to read complex text, sharing work in a team, how to search for data and prove that it is valid, and how to present material in a clear and concise manner using multiple technologies. Keeping curriculum current to match these skills has been much of the ongoing work done over the past few years under the umbrella of Race To The Top. As the decision making around curriculum shifts from federal to state, less attention should be placed on the brand and more emphasis placed on what students need to know should be the benchmark.

One area that will need financial planning is the next generation of science standards that are due out in their final version in the next few months. The new K-8 Massachusetts science standards will most likely redefine what we teach and how we teach it. These standards may go into effect as early as the 2017-2018 school year and will cost, if ELA and math curriculum changes are any indication, a minimum of \$150,000 and up to implement. While more definitive information around timelines and requirements will be coming in the near future, the District will need to convene science teachers, department heads, and leadership team members to understand both standards and materials needed to provide the very best instruction as soon as possible.

#### FACILITIES AND MAINTENANCE

Our High School and the JFK Elementary School along with the AFM Elementary School have had recent Facility Overviews completed by the New England School Development Council (NESDEC) and will serve as the starting point for discussions on how best to address well documented deficiencies in these three schools. While renovations for these buildings will dominate the discussion, over the next several years the maintenance needed for the Millville Elementary School and the Hartnett Middle School will also require a thorough analysis to understand what long term solutions are needed to balance safety and efficiencies with capital costs to fund the proper maintenance schedule.

The installation of new roofs funded partially by MSBA on Millville Elementary, JFK and AFM Elementary and the High School were cost effective as the Massachusetts School Building Authority underwrote over 57% of the cost. However, it means that they must be maintained properly to get the maximum return on the investment as well as to provide safe educational environments for the next generation of students. The use of solar energy to reduce our heating and cooling costs needs to be studied in conjunction with further renovations so that maximum efficiency can be attained through future MSBA funding.

Certainly, few would disagree that forty-five and fifty year old schools need to have original building systems replaced. It is in the details of how much and when is where the devil resides. The District's facility and maintenance needs must be a part of both Blackstone and Millville's financial planning and further discussions are necessary to understand scope, timelines, and funding options to insure viable, safe, and efficient schools with planned maintenance to



provide the most efficient use of resources. It will take a dedicated effort by all parties to understand the full ramifications of the intersection of revenues, expenditures, and funding sources over the next two or three years to make the necessary improvements to our schools so that we may continue to provide the best education in the best environment to all our children for a generation to come. Attached are the ***State of the Educational Facility Overview*** reports submitted by the New England School Development Council for the Blackstone-Millville Regional High School, the John F. Kennedy Elementary School, and the Augustine F. Maloney Elementary School.

# BMRSD Technology Plan

2017-2019

***DRAFT***

# **Table of Contents - *Draft***

Goals and Objectives

Budget

Existing Resources and Equipment

New Software

New Hardware

Professional Development

Multi-year Blueprint

## **Goals and Objective - Draft**

The goal of the technology plan is to keep Blackstone Millville Regional School District on the clear path towards bringing 21<sup>st</sup> century technology to the classroom. Our students will need to learn in an environment that harnesses technology to facilitate higher order thinking, effective communication, and rethinking learning outcomes. Presently many careers use technology to increase the creative capacity of the workers and build effective teams through advanced communication structures. Through the increase of student use of technology we not only increase engagement but also foster the thinking needed for the next generation job market.

To assist and monitor these goals a committee will be created and meet on a bi-yearly basis to go assess the technological needs of the district and plan for the future.

Currently, we continue to move forward in bringing faster speeds, bigger connectivity pipeline, and more powerful computers/devices. With our network infrastructure revamp in 2015-2016, we have completed PHASE 1 of a three phase approach. In 2015, we started to reinvest in our network infrastructure. We purchased new Extreme Network 2nd generation switches with 10g uplinks and new Entersys wireless access points. This investment will allow us to build out our network for more capacity.

## **Budget - Draft**

As the cost of technology is a moving target this is an area of constant revision.. There are often significant reductions prices each year as well as the introduction of new technology that cannot be foreseen at this point.

## **Existing Resources and Equipment - Draft**

Of our schools, have older Microtek servers that were purchased over 7 years ago. These older appliances are slowly experiencing hardware failure. They are being replaced with newer high density DELL servers that can take the load, have higher capacity, and have 3-year extended warranty.

Most of our schools have older Dell Optiplex 745 and 755 models. We have recently upgraded three computer labs at the Harnett Middle School to a thin client solution using thin clients designed by NComputing. The new thin client solution allows for our computers labs to be controlled by 2 high powered servers. This significantly cuts down in time spent troubleshooting issues and reduces downtime when there is a problem. The 84 computers removed from the three computers labs will be refurbished. The quality computers will be dispersed throughout the other computer lab to upgrade their older computers until we can purchase more thin clients for those labs.

The district is in the process of purchasing chromebooks in the form of a one to one initiative as well as carts at the elementary level. Individual Chromebooks will enable students to integrate their Google accounts into the multitude of learning opportunities offered in the district and truly create a 21st century learning experience. Furthermore, with computer based assessments on the horizon, it is imperative that our students have the opportunity to master this medium and demonstrate their full potential.

Lastly, the district currently has several carts of older iPads that cannot continue upgrade to the latest IOS nor take advantage of newer applications. Our intent is that eventually Chromebooks will replace these devices.

## **New Software - Draft**

### *Moving targets:*

Star Renaissance Learning

BudgetSense - Online

AESOP

MCAS/PARCC 2.0 Online Assessments

## ***New Hardware - Draft***

We have started replacing our older servers with new Dell Edge R370 servers that carry of capacity of 4TB and memory of over 137G. These new servers will allow us to virtualize our environment and reduce our physical footprint. These new servers will also to centralize all of our technical operations onto no more than 3 HIGH powered servers per building.

The district has also started making an investment in a thin client solution. We purchased a proven solution from Firefly/NComputing. Their solution allows 2 physical servers to provide a computing environment to over 100 stations. These stations no longer require an individual desktop and users do not see a difference in performance. All functions and operations can be moved from the server to the thin client boxes which enables the technology staff to work more efficiently and eliminates the time consuming replace and repair of our aging desktop fleet.

One-to-One chromebooks initiative is where older students will have a chromebook assigned each student so that they can be used to facilitate student learning. The proposal is to begin in FY17 by purchasing and deploying Chromebooks in grades 8, 9, & 10. Each following year we will then extend the grades to early as grade 5. With an investment in an insurance policy for the chromebooks, We will be asking families to purchase an insurance policy through the district to cover breakages and loss.

This past year we upgrades our copier fleets to devices that can have print jobs sent to them, as well as scan and copy. Under the previous contract we had 12 copier that were dispersed throughout our buildings. With the new partnership with Axion Business Solutions, BMRSD is able to more than double the fleet of copiers for similar cost.

Our new network infrastructure is now designed to consume 200W less power during operation than the previous set up. Every building is getting an upgrade that will increase the speed of the online resources for teaching and learning. The SummitX650 network switching system is complemented with Intel's new lower power 10GBASE-T adapter that provides state-of-the-art interfaces to our high-performance servers. These new adapters will also allow a more robust bandwidth throughput for our ethernet and wireless devices.



## **Professional Development - *Draft***

Periodic training:

Google

Star 360

TeachPoint

Printer/Copier

New website

## **Multi-Year Blueprint - *Draft***

So where do we go from here. How do we continue to use the momentum to build up BMRSD?

3 year refresh plan for:

laptops/chromebooks

interactive projectors

Build out robotics clubs/programming after-school program

Build out fiber ring

VOIP phone system

Early response system/security cameras

More investment in Follett Aspen SIS

	FY17	FY18	FY19	FY20	FY21
Chromebooks	3 classes one to one & 3 and carts \$330,000	2 Classes one to one & 2 carts \$221,000	2 Classes one to one & 2 carts \$221,000	1 Class of one to one & 2 carts \$113,000	1 Class of one to one & 2 carts \$113,000
Estimated Cost	\$330,000	\$221,000	\$221,000	\$113,000	\$113,000
Network Improvements		Phase 2 Fiber			
Estimated Cost		\$230,000			
Phone System			VoIP		
Estimated Cost			\$65,000		
Smart board Replacement	30 boards	30 boards	30 boards		5 Boards
Estimated Cost	\$45,000	\$45,000	\$45,000		\$7,500
Computer Replacements		Lab-Thin Client 30 machines \$30,000	Lab-Thin Client 30 machines \$30,000		
Estimated Cost		\$30,000	\$30,000		
Software Improvements	Go Guardian	Microsoft licences	Microsoft licences	Microsoft licences	Microsoft licences
Estimated Cost	\$60,000	\$23,000	\$23,000	\$23,000	\$23,000