

**School Committee Meeting
December 1, 2016
6:00 p.m.
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:

Erin P. Vinacco, Chairperson
Wendy L. Greenstein, Assistant Chairperson
Jane C. Reggio, District Treasurer
Tara L. Larkin, District Secretary
Steven J. Tringali, Member
Georgette A. Jarret, Member
William F. Chaplin, Jr., Member
Jo-Anne Watson, Member

Also in attendance was Superintendent Himmelberger, Assistant Superintendent of Schools, David Thomson, Ed.D and Wen Cobb, Business Manager.

Report of Student Representatives

Jack Keefe –The Powder Puff football game was a Freshman and Senior win. In the final football game varsity lost to Sutton in a very close game.

Brittany Dwyer – Senior Superlatives – pep rally preparation –

Honor Roll breakfast was put on by the National Honor Society. Canned food drive – collected 330 cans. Marching Band won Nationals at Metlife Stadium.

Recognition of the Marching Band – they were congratulated by the Superintendent. They practiced for 227 hours this year.

Mrs. Vinacco stated that the time and dedication is beyond understanding.

Mr. Tringali recognized the hours that the parents put in as well.

Motion: It was moved by Mrs. Larkin, seconded by Mrs. Greenstein and voted 7 in favor, 1 abstain, Mrs. Vinacco to purchase jackets and badges for the Marching Band students.

They may need about 22 jackets this year and 79 patches.

Mr. Shafer thanked them for their support. The support and help from the Committee assisted in the building of the wonderful music program they have today.

Mrs. Reggio – what can we do to support you more? They want to put up signs showing they are champions. The teachers try to inspire 5th and 6th graders to want to become a part of the marching band.

Mrs. Vinacco would like to challenge the Committee to go and help out at Gillette stadium as a group. They get about \$55,000 from fundraising per year including the booth at Gillette Stadium.

Financial Report by James Eggert, Accountant

Year end and general fund revenues – The most efficient close in 29 years with the District. Mrs. Cobb did a great job in closing the books. All filing was done timely and correctly. His fees have decreased significantly since she was so efficient.

E & D should be certified very soon. The 2016 audit has been scheduled for next month. The balance sheet is stable. Undesignated fund balance is between 2.5 and 3% maintained over the years. You want to give yourself a bit of a cushion in case it is needed. Overall they expended less than they budgeted.

At the end of June 30,2016 they ended up with E&D funds of \$564,209.

The debt recap went from \$6,056,553 in June of 2015 to 5,549,178 at the end of June 2016.

Mrs. Cobb does not reconcile the bank accounts but has Patty Gauthier do this in the office.

Mrs. Cobb has a good handle on the financials of the office.

Public Forum –

Mrs. Davis, a concerned citizen came across information she finds disturbing. In the Spring of 2015 BMR was 3rd in a group of 12 communities who took the standardized testing. This year they are 12th in the group. Per pupil expenditure is \$18,000 which represents the highest per pupil expenditure in the group. This concerns her as a tax payer. She knows they will want more money for the school budget again this year.

Superintendent Himmelberger stated that the tests are changing right now and difficult to do comparisons. The state assessments are changing and they are in the middle of this right now. They are part way in PARCC testing. These are decisions that are made at the state level. Not every district uses the same test. This will change again and they will be going to computer based testing. They are trying to maintain their focus on curriculum instruction.

Superintendent Himmelberger asked that she stay for the rest of the meeting and listen to the principals. We are a district that has been underfunded for 11 years. The school budget has not kept pace with the needs of the District. We are doing a lot of different initiatives.

We chose to take the more difficult PARCC test last year. MCAS is the easier test to take. Dr. Thomson expects the results to be less so they can be ahead of the curve. We are looking long term, 3 to five years down the road.

Mrs. Greenstein asked that all members get copies of her report to be able to respond adequately.

Motion: It was moved by Mrs. Greenstein, seconded by Mrs. Reggio and unanimously voted to approve Consent Agenda A which includes Warrants, Field Trip Request and Minutes of the November 3rd and November 18th meetings.

Report of the Superintendent

Mrs. Cobb stated that the balance in the accounts is \$345,230. She will send a comparison of snow removal to Mrs. Vinacco.

We currently have only one 403B plan and we need the permission to add more vendors.

Motion: It was moved by Mrs. Greenstein, seconded by Mrs. Jarret and unanimously voted to add a list of new 403B vendors in the School District.

Sean Bouzan, New Technology Director

The Committee welcomes Sean. He spent 11 years at King Phillip. They are very happy that he is here. He is hard at work already.

Blackstone Millville Regional is launching a digital learning program with the aim of enhancing student and teacher technology use. This Technology Program will be the pillar on which we plan to continue increasing technology use throughout the District. This manual sets out to help understand the policies and procedures associated with the technology program. BMRSD intentions for creating this technology policy is not to impose restrictions that would contradict the District's established culture of openness, trust and integrity. BMRSD is however committed to protecting students, staff and the community from illegal or damaging actions by individuals either knowingly or unknowingly.

Core Values: Innovate, Communicate and Appreciate.

Technology Use as one way of enhancing the vision to teach the skills, knowledge and behaviors students will need to succeed in the global community. The technologies may include, but are not limited to, district provided equipment as well as personal devices (computers, tablets, cell phones, laptops, netbooks, e readers and more).

If students fail to comply with all guidelines the following consequences may apply:

1st offense – mobile computing device will be confiscated until the end of the day, when the student may retrieve it.

2nd offense – the mobile computing device will be confiscated until the end of the day when the students parent or guardian must retrieve it.

3rd offense – loss of mobile computing device privileges for an undetermined period of time.

Chromebooks – personal computers running the Google chrome operating system. The students have equipment responsibilities.

Motion: It was moved by Mr. Chaplin, seconded by Mrs. Reggio and unanimously voted to waive the three readings of the policy.

Motion: It was moved by Mr. Tringali, seconded by Mrs. Larkin and unanimously voted to accept the Technology Program Policy and Procedures Manual.

Discussion made by Mrs. Reggio on page Page 4 of the manual. General concern on the vagueness that the administrators will determine what is appropriate or not appropriate. Anything that I do with this network or this account can be monitored. She would like to see this change made.

The **motion** is on the floor and “anything that I do on this network or account” is to be added to it. Unanimously voted.

Mrs. Desai – Improvement Plan –

Goal #1 – Students in Grade K-2 will learn the required mathematical concepts and skills as identified in the Common Core standards.

Goal #2 – Students in Grades K-2 will demonstrate and apply use of effective reading and writing strategies to think critically and communicate effectively through a balanced approach to teaching literacy across the curriculum.

Goal #3 – Family Engagement/Community Outreach: To increase parental and community involvement in the JF Kennedy School and to increase school involvement in the community.

Goal #4 – To create positive classroom and school environments acting on the belief in and value of the school having a safe healthy and intellectually stimulating learning environment. Our school climate fosters positive character traits. Students feel respected and connected with the staff and are engaged in learning (BMRSD Core Value).

Mrs. Brown

Goal #1 – Students in Grades 3-5 will learn the required mathematical concepts and skills as identified in the Common Core Standards.

Goal #2 – Students in Grades 3-5 will demonstrate and apply use of effective reading and writing strategies to think critically and communicate effectively through a balanced approach to teaching literacy across the curriculum.

Goal #3 – Family Engagement/Community Outreach: To increase parental and community involvement in the A.F. Maloney School and to increase school involvement in the community.

Goal #4 – To create positive classroom and school environments acting on the belief in and value of the school having a safe healthy and intellectually stimulating learning environment. Our school climate fosters positive character traits. Students feel respected and connected with the staff and are engaged in learning (BMRSD Core Value).

Sharing of information between para-professionals, teachers and other interested parties.

Mr. Chaplin asked how last year’s goals are connected with this year’s goals. They want to make it a community effort.

Mrs. Reggio would like students involved in the discussions.

Mrs. Greenstein wants the positive to be promoted. She would like to know how the data is going to be used. Are the students being challenged? What was put in place?

Mrs. Reggio would like to know how we are bridging the gap between our schools?

Mr. Cameron and Mr. Dudek –

Mr. Cameron – PARCC / MCAS results – Grades 6, 7 and 8 took PARCC for ELA and Math - there are not a lot of comparisons out there. Accountability data comparison for 2015 – 2016. There are gaps that are shrinking.

Goal #1 – Continue to refine and develop curriculum improvements to increase student achievement.

Continue developing curriculum maps using UbD stage 1, Identifying Desired Results.

Implement Middle School Big Ideas Math program.

Support second year and first year implementation of STARS.

Revise Science Curriculum 6-8 to reflect new standards.

Formalize implemented and use of RTI/MTSS strategies and interventions.

Goal #2 – Ensuring the Social Emotional Well Being of All Students

Revise and relaunch PBIS at the middle school and support the establishment of PBIS in all Schools.

Increase student connections with adults in all classrooms and schools.

Goal #3 – Integrate technology throughout curriculum, implement technology throughout the District

Support 21st century learning through Google Apps and Chromebook initiative

Continue to define other forms of Tech integration.

Prepare for administration of grade 8 online MCAS assessments.

Develop Digital Citizenship in the school.

Goal #4 – Create opportunities for more shared and distributed leadership throughout the middle school.

Offer and develop opportunities for teachers and staff at the middle school to participate in shared and distributed leadership opportunities.

Continue to offer all teachers and staff under Ed Eval opportunities to model an indicator in the DESE Rubric.

Model from Cumberland High School and ask students what their idea might be for a school improvement plan. All students in ELA wrote what they would like to see improved.

PTO funds will go for the Robotics Stem program. They will have an assembly soon to celebrate Fantasy Reading.

Grade 8 will take MCAS online this year.

They showed a video about the data points about the number of students who made progress through STARS and left the intervention period.

Mr. Dudek BMRHS

Culture, Respect and Personal Responsibility

Goal #1 Create an environment of respect and positive rapport.

Implement research based systems of intervention, enrichment and support for all students.

Implement and train all staff in PBIS.

Increase student connections with faculty and staff.

Develop a shared understanding of the deficits to motivation and utilize strategies to help students cope with their deficits.

Establish a formal transition program for students entering the high school.

Goal #2

Increase student achievement through curriculum improvements and enhanced instructional practice. Provide meaningful learning opportunities to actively engage students in challenging content.

Develop a long range technology plan including integration and instructional resources.

Data driven practices to inform and develop targeted instructional strategies.

Continue developing curriculum maps using UbD stage 1, Identifying Desired Results

Utilize best practices to improve instructional methods to engage all learners.

Establish a 1:1 learning environment embedded with differentiation and 21st century skills.

Implement the STARS assessment and intervention program.

All students will experience high level and authentic learning opportunities throughout their 4 year career.

Goal #3 Effectively utilize communication tools to articulate the learning beliefs and core values of our school.

Identify, establish and enhance partnerships to help meet student social emotional and academic needs and interests.

Address NEASC commendations and recommendations with all community stakeholders.

Increase communication and efficiency through all media.

Strengthen community partnerships to meet student/staff social, emotional and academic needs.

Student progress data will drive instruction and initiatives.

NEASC commendations and recommendations will be addressed in a timely manner.

Improve comprehension through proper annotation of text. Turning passive readers into active readers. Develop a mindset of sticking to it.

Engaging students with annotation: A community of scholars, Different ways to Engage.

They are looking at how to motivate their students at the High School Level. They want them to say I can if I put in a little bit more work.

How do they transition school choice students a little bit better.

Be able to identify best practices with teachers. PD opportunity at the Collaborative and good framework. Framing learning on the board.

Authentic Learning opportunities, internship program, career paths. Students are ready and prepared for a career.

Building partnerships. NEASC accommodations and recommendations. Work together where they are and where they are going.

FY18 budget timeline.

1. Leadership team submits budget requests by 12/2
2. Compiling of FY18 draft budget by 12/23
3. Review and finalize with Leadership team by 1/13
4. Governor's House 1 Budget released 1/25
5. Review draft budget with School Committee 1/26
6. Saturday morning breakfast and budget roundtable at BMRHS 2/4 and 2/11
7. School Committee public hearing on FY18 budget 2/16
8. Public forums for all stakeholders by 2/17 – 3/8
9. School Committee adoption of FY18 budget 3/9
10. Finance Committee Meetings 3/10 – 4/10
11. Budget approved at Annual Town Meetings 5/1 – 5/30

Report of Assistant Superintendent

One to one roll out. Infrastructure is in the schools and the tools are getting into the students hands. They are phasing it in. Computer based testing used through the Commonwealth all by 2019. If we want students to do well they need to be used to using the tools. They foster creativity and communication and collaboration and help with problem based learning. They are not toys but tools. Any high paying job involves the use of technology. They need to to coding and robotics.

Chrome book assemblies will be held.

Chromebooks are being giving to the students. They are school property and must be returned. They can get insurance for a nominal fee. If students don't have online and cable in home they can stay after school. They can go to libraries and use the home computer. The principals have been very proactive in getting the families access to online data. Students do not have to take the books if they want to use their own. The difference is that the Chromebooks have filters and their own devises may not.

Public Forum – Les Davis, from the Town of Millville – wants a copy of what is presented tonight in their improvement plans. He wants paper copies.

Mrs. Greenstein clarified that the DESE website is hard to navigate. Our website is easy to navigate and everything is available online the day before the meeting.

He recommends putting together a summary showing what they will do as a school district to improve the school system. Summarize these and put them in a handout and how they will make the district more attractive to students. Also how they will try to curb School Choice students. How you are moving forward in the next 5 years. You could do a handout or a PowerPoint presentation. You could even post it on the website. He was impressed tonight with the principals.

Mr. Himmelberger stated that they will have the documentation ready for the meetings. Not just numbers but bullets on the different initiatives.

Mr. Chaplin stated that they have done this every single year. It is disheartening to him to hear that they need a plan. They do this every single year.

They are increasing their advanced placement offerings. They need the support of the Towns to continue to do this in the future.

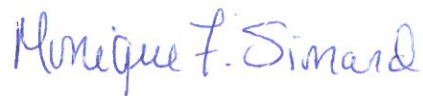
School Committee Forum – Next Thursday, December 8th is the Regional Agreement workshop. A whole new Committee looking at new ideas.

There will be a policy meeting on December 12th

December 15th is the next public meeting.

Motion: It was moved by Mrs. Greenstein, seconded by Mrs. Reggio and unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting at 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Monique F. Simard, Recording Secretary

ATTEST: 

Tara L. Larkin, District Secretary