

**School Committee Meeting  
October 20, 2016  
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  
Jane C. Reggio, Treasurer  
Tara L. Larkin, District Secretary  
Jo-Anne Watson, Member  
Steven J. Tringali, Member- Arrived at 8:15 p.m.  
Georgette A. Jarret, Member  
William F. Chaplin, Jr. Arrived at 7:30 p.m.

Mrs. Greenstein was absent from the meeting.

Also in attendance were Superintendent of Schools, Allen W. Himmelberger and Assistant Superintendent of Schools, David Thomson, Ed.D.

**Report of Student Representatives**

Jack Keefe stated that Wednesday PSAT's were taken. Seniors took the day as an explorative day. They had the opportunity to job shadow if they wished. He stated that senior entries for yearbook are due tomorrow. Marching band will play in CT this weekend. NHS gave away over 500 books last night at a Book Bingo Night. It is such a great thing for children.

Brittany Dwyer stated that the homecoming dance is tomorrow and they sold 250 tickets. They will use the outside courtyard weather permitting. The bonfire will be held on Saturday weather permitting. Spirit week has led up to the end of the week with the wizard of oz week, twister Tuesday, Thursday twin witch day.

Brittany went to the student council officer day at Holy Cross College. They had great workshops.

They will come in prepared to give the stats on all fall sports when the season has ended.

**Public Forum – no items**

**Motion:** It was moved by Mrs. Reggio, seconded by Mrs. Jarret and unanimously voted to approve Consent Agenda A which includes Warrants, Field trip requests and the minutes of the regular meeting and executive session meeting of October 6, 2016.

**School Committee –**

Results of the Superintendent's Evaluation were given. They moved through his ratings together. They met in Executive Session and rated him as proficient. They will give him a 3 percent raise.

The Superintendent thanked the Committee for all of their work. It was a busy year in every way that you measure it. We have a terrific District and he is proud to be a part of it.

## **Report of the Superintendent –**

October 1<sup>st</sup> enrollment is done every year. Operating costs are split between the towns. Millville's operating costs are 27.22% and Blackstone's costs are 72.78%. We currently have 1708 students in the District plus 57 school choice students. We keep as many students that we can here in the District. These are the numbers they reported to the state. This percentage breakdown will be used to construct the FY18 figures. Ratios are very similar to where we have been in the past.

## **District Improvement Plan –**

Information is in their packet – The Superintendent worked on it with Mrs. Greenstein. Several of the goals look familiar but there is more work to be done. Goal 3 is an additional goal which ensures the social emotional well-being of all students so they can achieve at the level of where they should be. School districts are really looking at this. We now have these classrooms in all of our schools in all of our grades.

On goal 5 which is continue to plan for renovations of Complex and High School. It is time for us to do this. The Superintendent went to the Blackstone Board of Selectman meeting this past Tuesday. All schools in the state were visited and they were assessed a rating. The next step is that the Superintendent can submit a statement of interest for repair at these 2 buildings. He expects they will be favorably considered. They are old buildings with original systems and equipment.

We want to be considered for this. They will need town meeting votes as they go through the year.

They will host walking tours for the public on Saturdays to show everyone the needs of our buildings. It is necessary and the right time to do this.

Dr. Thomson has done a terrific job in keeping our curriculum moving forward.

On November 3<sup>rd</sup> Mrs. Braverman will report on Student Services. The goal is to allow all students to achieve at their maximum potential.

They continue to look at infrastructure. Wireless is near completion in all of our schools.

Computer based tests will be taken next year in grades 4 and 8.

Sean Bouzan, Technology Director will be here on December 1<sup>st</sup>.

We will roll out chrome books to grades 9 and 10.

We need to keep reporting back on the timelines.

We are being visited by the Department of Education in March on the 12<sup>th</sup> through the 15<sup>th</sup>. They look at plans, policy, etc.

We expect to add interior upgrades at JFK/AFM. A whole list of things need to be addressed. Lengthy timeline. Spring is when the MSBA receive all statements of interest. The awards come in the following January.

The needs are in the initial report. The engineering study would place recommendations in order of need.

The windows and door replacement will be very important.

If MSBA says no then you need to see what you can afford to do.

They may even put in solar panels.

The Department of Education came out and said that every District will do computer based testing in grades 4 and 8 unless you had to apply for a waiver. It really was not a choice. With minor tweaks we should not have a problem and we agreed to do 4 and 8.

The wireless project is complete. Our out of pocket expense was roughly \$135,000 which was matched by E-rate. They are tweaking the settings. It is working but there is room for improvement with Harbor Networks.

**Motion:** It was moved by Mrs. Reggio, seconded by Mrs. Watson and unanimously voted to approve the District Improvement plan for the 2016-2017 school year.

#### **Discussion of transportation consultant –**

Originally Mr. Labrie of Senior Transportation Consultants proposed the following contract to be entered into with Blackstone-Millville Regional School District:

If he was retained by the District he would

- review our current transportation costs and related contracts
- identify any current transportation related issues or problems
- review the current transportation routes, with recommendations for improved efficiency
- prepare District requirements for the FY17-21 period
- prepare bid Specifications based on school district current and future requirements
- manage bid process on behalf of the District, under the direction of the District Business Office
- Chair Bidders' Meetings
- Prepare bid addenda, analyze bid results and prepare recommendations to the District
- Draft appropriate transportation contracts pursuant to the bid process
- Provide assistance through the process, i.e. clarifications and/or addenda, conferences, meeting attendance, etc. through to contract negotiations and signing

The cost of these services as outlined will be \$500 per day plus travel and other expenses directly attributable to this project. The total cost of which shall not exceed \$10,000 with progress payments paid upon invoice and evidence of satisfactory progress.

The timeline for the provision of these services would be from Sept. 1, 2016 through December 31, 2016, with a recommendation for contract award by January 1, 2017.

Since then his price has come down from the original quote of \$10,000 to \$6,000.

Superintendent Himmelberger feels it is a good investment. Under Chapter 71 this service is eligible for reimbursement. We should be able to get back about 60% of this. The net out of pocket would be roughly \$2400. There would be some offsets through Chapter 71. He hopes to save the \$2400 through the better busing.

He asks the Committee to reconsider. Other schools such as BVT and Fall River use this service.

Mrs. Reggio believes there is buying power in numbers. Transportation can be a huge savings in this District.

Mrs. Vinacco stated that we have already cut two buses this year. Where do you think that the savings will come from?

The Superintendent thinks that by engaging with Public Management Associates there will be more competitive bids and we can realize the very best price.

Mrs. Vinacco feels it is a gamble. We are gambling our kids. We have reliability with Tellstone. She would rather sit down with Tellstone and talk to them directly to see if they can come to a better agreement.

Dr. Thomson feels that this person brings a wealth of experience to the table. Mr. Labrie could have the conversation with Tellstone and bring new ideas to the table.

Mrs. Watson asked how many bus companies are there in our area? We have a unique situation where we have a bus company in our town.

Mr. Himmelberger feels that Durham and Double A could be possibilities. We need to look at every opportunity.

The goal would be to continue with Tellstone.

Mrs. Vinacco feels we did the 2 bus cut and getting the chair lift van with Mrs. Cobb doing a good job with it. We have the software and have used it successfully. The software cost \$11,000. Mrs. Cobb used the software in the spring.

Mr. Himmelberger stated that Mrs. Cobb can continue to do this but he feels that we may get a good return on the investment with this company.

You would look at a cost of a fleet and purchase buses for a larger group.

The Towns would get billed based on the \$6,000 rate.

**The following was the motion taken on June 23, 2016 regarding the hiring of Mr. Labrie, the transportation consultant:**

**Motion:** It was moved by Mrs. Vinacco, seconded by Mrs. Watson to reject the proposed transportation consultant, Mr. Labrie at this time.

Mrs. Vinacco and Mr. Chaplin opened it for discussion.

In favor of the motion made by Mrs. Vinacco, seconded by Mrs. Watson to reject Mr. Labrie's services – Mrs. Greenstein, Mrs. Jarret, Mrs. Larkin. Voting nay to the rejection motion– Mr. Tringali, Mr. Chaplin and Mrs. Reggio.

**Tonight's motions are as follows:**

**Motion:** It was moved by Mrs. Jarret, seconded by Mrs. Watson to rescind the original vote on June 23<sup>rd</sup> as outlined above – 6 in favor, 1 opposed, Mrs. Vinacco.

It is now open for discussion.

**Motion:** It was moved by Mrs. Reggio, seconded by Mr. Chaplin, 5 in favor, 2 opposed – Mrs. Vinacco and Mrs. Larkin to approve the hiring of Senior Transportation Consultants for a cost of \$6,000 with the services outlined above.

Mrs. Larkin feels we should be able to do all of this with the current software we have and spent \$11,000 on.

**Report of the Assistant Superintendent –**

The next Professional Development Day is November 8<sup>th</sup>.

We are going from MCAS to PARCC testing and MCAS 2.0 and the challenge is that we are looking at apples, oranges and tangerines moving forward. There is a higher order of questioning. There is a regular dip due to the fact that it is a different test. We need to get students ready for this test coming out this spring.

The Committee will get a report on this.

He feels it is a good swing but will be an adjustment in our learning.

**School Committee Forum**

Mrs. Larkin – the band cannot participate in homecoming due to other commitments. Some kids were disappointed that they could not go to the bonfire.

Mr. Chaplin – Core values day was a good day and everyone was busy.

Mrs. Reggio – need volunteers for MES - volunteering is a big part of the school district.

She volunteered at the booth at Gillette Stadium for the band. It is hard work, but fun. They need a minimum of 10 people to keep the booth going. Please consider volunteering for this wonderful cause.

The next School Committee meeting is November 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Mr. Chaplin will present in November on de-regionalizing the district.

**Motion:** It was moved by Mrs. Larkin, seconded by Mr. Tringali and unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Monique F. Simard, Recording Secretary

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_

Tara L. Larkin, District Secretary