

**School Committee Meeting
October 6, 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
Wendy L. Greenstein, Vice Chairperson
Tara L. Larkin, District Secretary
Jo-Anne Watson, Member
Steven J. Tringali, Member
Georgette A. Jarret, Member

Mr. Chaplin and Mrs. Reggio were 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

Student Representative Brittany Dwyer spoke on sports. The Volleyball team won their game in Oxford. The Football team won their game last week and the Boys and Girls soccer teams won this week.

The Homecoming theme is from the Wizard of Oz, No Place Like Home. The Homecoming Dance and bonfire will be held on Sat. October 21st and Sunday, October 22nd.

PSAT's will be taken on October 19th.

Seniors are allowed an excused absence to take a college visit and to job shadow or job search. Brittany will be job shadowing a nurse on that day.

There were no items for Public Forum –

Report of the Superintendent

Lions Club presentation –

Mr. Catalano and Hank with the Lions Club were present. The Lions Club does vision screening for students. They have had the centennial organization for 100 years. For 92 years they strive to eradicate blindness and prevent sightlessness. They collect eye glasses and do vision tests. Kids are their prime concern.

Hank spoke with the nurses and they were supportive. They started the kids program in 3 states. They are screening, not testing. They want to spread it through other

schools. It is free and done with a camera. It is very quick to do it. All programs are covered by the Lions Club. A staff member needs to be there when it is done. The staff can do it or the Lions can do it. They get the report and you can give it to the parents if something is abnormal. If the child needs financial help the Lions will help.

They would send something home to get the parents' permission. Parents could opt out. There is a consent form. The Blackstone Lions have been operating for 58 years and they have no particular affiliation with any doctor's office.

There is a procedure in place that the nurse does not need to give us the name of the student due to Hippa privacy laws. This would be for Blackstone and Millville elementary students. We could roll it out across the District but now they will do K – 6th grade.

Just a recommendation is needed and not a motion.

Motion: It was moved by Mrs. Larkin, seconded by Mr. Tringali and voted 5 in favor, 1 abstain – Mrs. Greenstein to approve Consent Agenda A which includes Warrants and Minutes of the September 22nd meeting.

Motion: It was moved by Mrs. Greenstein, seconded by Mrs. Jarret and unanimously voted to approve the Superintendent's Goals presented and reviewed at the September 22nd meeting.

Completion of the Report of the Superintendent –

Approval of the Middle School Special Education teacher-

This is a position they suddenly need at the Middle School. This position would enable them to keep 2 or 3 students in the District and possibly bring back one or two others in the future.

Motion: It was moved by Mrs. Greenstein, seconded by Mrs. Watson and voted 5 in favor, one abstain – Mrs. Vinacco to approve the hiring of a new Special Education teacher at the FWH Middle School.

Mr. Tringali is amazed they went this long without one. Social emotional has been neglected for a lot of years and is needed.

Mrs. Vinacco wants Mrs. Braverman to come in and give the needs and the roll out of the new social emotional room. Mrs. Braverman will be here at the next meeting.

It happened quickly because the needs escalated due to move-ins. They will hire the teacher very quickly. They will probably also need support from a para-professional in the room. They need another pair of hands.

It is good to move the academic classroom forward. The cost is at a minimum since tuition and transportation would cost \$60,000 per student to outsource them.

Mrs. Cobb – 1st Quarter Financial Report

By the end of September they received 2 payments from the Towns and 3 payments from the State.

Rental of classrooms has increased by \$30,000 in revenue. Last year they had revenue of \$30,000 and this year they have revenue of \$60,000.

\$22,017,480 is our FY17 budget. \$836,000 is our unencumbered balance. It is tight and quite low. They are cautious about spending this year. There is a \$150,000 increase in insurance from last year. Last year we had a Kindergarten grant and this year we do not have it. We are down 2 para-professionals from last year. Considering the snow possibility and special education needs we don't have a lot of wiggle room.

Mrs. Vinacco worries it is so low and we want to watch it and we want to try to keep the school committees top priority goals in the forefront like the chrome books, etc.

The goal is to maintain and possibly put a freeze on the spending early. In past years it was done in January and February.

The goal is not to be zero at the end of the year. We will probably spend it all this year.

We need to be cautious at the meetings to look at what we have before we spend it.

Mrs. Vinacco wants to see this before the end of the second quarter at the December meeting.

The number of students we pay to go out of District has increased.

We leased the new handicapped van. The van saved us about \$35,000 per year on transportation. They are leasing it for five years at about \$15,000 per year. We will save the \$35,000 per year for having the van.

We will be going out to bid in October /November for transportation. Mrs. Vinacco wants to put more kids on our mini vans than on the Tellstone mini buses.

Everyone is aware of the situation we are in today and we will continue to monitor this in the months to come.

Targeted review prescribed by Massachusetts General law-

All Districts would be visited every six years. All areas are to be reviewed. It is quite a bit of work to prepare for and ends with a 3 day visit in March. A team would put together their report, the Superintendent reviews it and then it is made public. This is a cross between a NEASC visit and a CPR.

Opioid Substance Abuse Policy- This is legislation the governor signed into law. This will be recommended to be our policy and will be posted on the website. This is standard MASC language.

Motion: It was approved by Mrs. Greenstein, seconded by Mr. Tringali and unanimously voted to waive the readings on the Opioid substance abuse policy and to accept the policy.

Report of the Assistant Superintendent –

Tomorrow is the first professional development day of the year. The main event will be training on Understanding by Design. They will also work on curriculum maps or other various projects. There will be workshops offered during the day.

They will roll out the chrome books the first week in December. We have 220 out of the 240 chrome books ordered. We need the Go Guardian software in place before rolling them out. We are about one month behind now. The set up of the network needs to be done first. They need to be restrictive with the devices. The carts to hold the books cost \$800 - \$900 per cart.

Big Ideas Math training- The 6th grade should have the books and start using them.

CPI Training – restraint training de-escalation. This is a refresher course.

There were no items for the 2nd Public Forum-

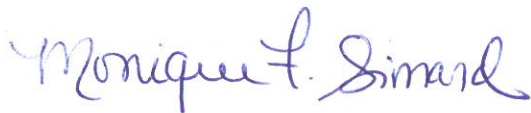
October 20th will be the next scheduled School Committee meeting.

The elementary report card committee will be here on October 20th.

Mrs. Braverman, Special Education Director will be here on the 20th as well.

A Motion was made by Mrs. Vinacco to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of Unit B and Unit C contract negotiations and the completion of the Superintendent Evaluation and not to return to the regular school committee meeting. This was followed by a roll call vote at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Monique F. Simard, Recording Secretary

ATTEST:



Tara L. Larkin, District Secretary