

August 11, 2016
School Committee Meeting
Frederick Hartnett Middle School

The Blackstone Millville Regional District School Committee met in the library of the Frederick W. Hartnett Middle School at 6:00 p.m. with the following members present:

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

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

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States was recited.

The meeting began at 6:00 p.m. At 6:10 p.m. the Committee went into Executive Session for personnel reasons.

At 6:30 p.m. the members returned to the regular school committee meeting.

Motion: It was moved by Mrs. Greenstein, seconded by Mrs. Reggio and unanimously voted to approve a portion of Consent Agenda A which includes Warrants.

Motion: It was moved by Mr. Chaplin, seconded by Mrs. Reggio and voted 7 approve, 1 abstain – Mrs. Vinacco to approve the Minutes of July 18.

Sub Committee Report – Mrs. Greenstein and Superintendent Himmelberger spoke.

Policies and Procedures - The School Committee Policy manual. Support staff negotiations coming up this fall.

Capital Improvements and Facilities - MSBA and how to renovate our schools - renovations of JFK and High School.

Community Relations and Government – School Committee forums with other groups in Towns and parents- Referendum in the Fall around charter schools, let them know the work of the Committee and upcoming issues and concerns. Celebrate the work we have already done.

Finance and Budget – this budget took longer than it should have and the Superintendent wants to approach it a little more open next time.

Mrs. Greenstein talked to Mike Guilbert at MASC. We can create a small sub-committee of 2 people - go to the MASC website and see the ones that we are not compliant with. MASC can work with the sub-committees and give us advice. The cost would be \$10,500 paid over 3 years. They will revise the

manual at \$3,500 for the first year. Each additional year after that would be \$950 per year. They have the knowledge behind it. The last time our policy was changed was on July 11, 1996.

Mrs. Reggio feels we cannot forget about the Regional Agreement. We can't leave it out in left field. Mrs. Reggio wants to pull together the stakeholders again. Mrs. Reggio feels they should get the stakeholders together so they can hash it out, do the research and get the process down.

Mr. Chaplin – would like to explore de-regionalizing the School District. There are many pros and many cons to it. He feels we should explore it. He wants to see what the process is. The lack of unreliability and quality is the driving force. He doesn't want to go through another budget process like they have had in the last 3 years. It takes years to de-regionalize. Explore what the picture would look like.

Mrs. Jarret would like to put together school safety. We talked about building safety and security.

It would be more school based and less stakeholder based. Work in cooperation with policy.

Mrs. Greenstein wants to look at the Complex and work with the Selectmen to look at building maintenance and facility. Who is taking care of what? Working one on one with the Selectmen will help us to figure out who will upkeep certain things. We need to focus on the Complex and where we are going right now.

At the next meeting she will send out a survey monkey to see what everyone is interested in.

Superintendent's Evaluation-

Mrs. Greenstein has a timeline of what is expected through the process. This timeline is for the Superintendent's evaluation. The goals should be discussed prior to the artifacts of evidence. Mostly everything was followed the same way last year.

Superintendent Himmelberger will present his evidence today. We will move on and by Sept. 8th we will review cycle one and talk about the goals of the District and what we are hoping for. We need to keep everything moving forward. It will feel rushed this time because we are behind but it will not feel that way in the future. The Superintendent will present his goals to us and then the Committee presents theirs and then they come together and decide how to proceed together.

Standard 1 - Instructional leadership – Superintendent Himmelberger rated himself as needs improvement. He will present his evidence. Part of the issues were the timing it took outside of being in the classrooms, budget, Unit A negotiations, etc. Increase student achievement through curriculum improvements which has been done, scope and sequence across all areas. It's not web based yet. Train all staff on X2 which was done in March. Assemble building data teams –

Mrs. Vinacco would like it in front of her to see the work that was done by the data teams. The Superintendent should have some visual sample to present with this.

Moving forward we will have a digital portfolio and things are put into this throughout the year.

Mr. Chaplin feels that we need data but not micro-managing. He feels there has to be some trust.

Mrs. Vinacco feels that people put the work into this and it deserves to be displayed.

Mrs. Greenstein expects artifacts.

Mr. Chaplin stated he did not expect a binder and it should be what the majority of the school committee defines as acceptable and not the Chair or Vice Chair.

Mrs. Reggio does not expect a binder because the School Committee receives data throughout the year at each and every meeting and she feels it does not need to be duplicated again.

Standard to management and operations. Superintendent Himmelberger has rated himself as proficient. He included a letter sent to Ryan Fattman. This year he did not compile data and artifacts throughout the year but he did spend time with the Committee on different committees.

Going forward he will do this. He apologizes for not having the breadth and depth of detail. He feels that they have had a year of transition. It was a very challenging year.

Standard family and community – partnerships with those that support the District. He rated himself as proficient. Supper with the Super, updates to faculty on the budget, curriculum, etc. We have reached out to families, we answer calls and meet with parents with concerns.

Professional culture – he rated himself as proficient. Opening day on August 30th presentation. He wants all staff to feel valued. Communication and accessibility for all staff is what they have worked very hard to do.

Attends many outside meetings and advocates for us at the state level. Always looking at best practices. He feels they are accessible and all are welcomed into the District. We are moving in the right direction. We continue to work for the best for our kids.

Mr. Chaplin has a question. He would like it if when the Committee does the evaluation that we all sign it. Mr. Chaplin feels that they should know where the comments on evaluations come from. All should sign it.

Mr. Tringali feels that there should be a level of accountability and follow through. He feels that the Superintendent should see everything.

Motion: It was moved by Mr. Chaplin, seconded by Mr. Tringali, 5 in favor, 2 opposed – Mrs. Greenstein and Mrs. Vinacco- to sign all of the individual evaluations completed by the Committee regarding the Superintendent.

Report of the Superintendent

Building updates – New carpeting has been installed in the Main Office at MES and the entryways. It will be paid for by the BICO rental income account. The air quality was poor at the HMS and we have increased the stack so the air clears the roof now which is being paid for out of the maintenance budget. The sign at the bottom of the driveway looks very nice and has been paid for by donations. At the High School he has received the NEASC report. Guidance is back near the Central Office. They replaced the carpet in the High School main office to meet insurance requirements. It is a cleaner looking main office paid for by BICO rental income.

In all schools, the custodial staff has worked their magic again. They have painted, micro cleaned surfaces, resurfaced gym floors and rehabbed each school top to bottom for opening day. This work is done in the heat of the summer in uncomfortable conditions and the care and effort they bring to the job shows in the attention to detail throughout all schools.

Personnel update – many changes with retirements and resignations. We are keeping very busy addressing all of these. He will continue to update the list through the next couple of weeks.

FY17 budget is going to be official on Sept. 1st. They will be receiving additional Chapter 70 money. We did get a small increase - \$61,845. It will be corrected but it does not change our Towns assessment. This is additional state funding.

Motion: It was moved by Mr. Chaplin, seconded by Mrs. Greenstein and unanimously approved to change the budget figure with the increase in Chapter 70 funds.

A legal alert was sent to the School District by MASC. It is a reminder of the necessary policy concerning the implementation of the recently enacted opioid bill. MA General Law Chapter 71, section 96 states that each public school shall have a policy, regarding substance use prevention and the education of its students attending the school of the policy and shall post the policy on the school's website. The policy, and any standards and rules enforcing the policy, shall be prescribed by the school committee in conjunction with the superintendent of the board of trustees of a charter school. The DESE in consultations with the department of public health, shall provide guidance and recommendations to assist schools with developing and implementing policies and shall make such guidance and recommendations publicly available on the department website.

The Committee will vote on the Substance Education Abuse policy on Sept. 8th and then it will be put up on the website.

Report of the Assistant Superintendent – This past spring the Middle School math teachers piloted two math series to follow the Elementary Envisions Math series adopted last year. The overwhelming choice of the teaching staff, after close consideration of all aspects of the two programs was Big Ideas Math. The program is used by several other districts to follow specifically the EnVisions program and has been met with great success. This program has the additional feature of an advanced text as an option for those excelling in the math program. It is their belief that this program will continue the pursuit of the higher level of math and overall achievement that is expected with the newer math standards.

Envisions was adopted last year at the elementary school. The teachers at the Hartnett Middle school liked the Big Ideas math program. Asking to adopt the new textbook series and we will roll it in. It will not be Envisions but the Big Ideas math program in Fall of 2016. The incoming 6th grade class will not lose the momentum that they gained in 5th grade. The Common Core math is an approach to teaching that is researched based and gets results.

Mr. Tringali asked about the timeline. Dr. Thomson stated that because of the budget this would have already been done and P.D. would have been set up on it. There should not be a big learning curve to teach the math. There are 6 teachers and all will be teaching it.

Motion: It was moved by Mrs. Reggio, seconded by Mrs. Greenstein and unanimously voted to approve the Big Ideas math program at the Hartnett Middle School for the Fall of 2016.

We do not have the machines to do the online testing.

The state has just released 50 million dollars to go towards technology and we will go after our fair share.

Mr. Tringali was upset to see Osiris Gonzalez is leaving. They have posted for his replacement. Hopefully next week they will start to interview. The wireless is complete and tweaking and fine tuning is being done.

There were no items for the 2nd Public Forum.

School Committee Forum –

Mr. Chaplin - thank you to custodians for their hard work. Wishes all a good school opening.

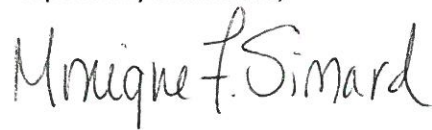
Mrs. Reggio - thank you to Osiris.

Mr. Tringali – we had a lot of talent slip out the door. We have a rocky road here. We do not look like a stable District.

Next meeting will be held on Sept. 8th.

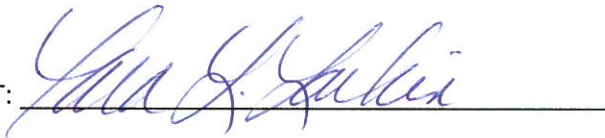
Motion: It was moved by Mrs. Reggio, seconded by Mrs. Jarret and unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting at 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Monique F. Simard, Recording Secretary

ATTEST:



Tara L. Larkin, District Secretary