

**School Committee Meeting
June 23, 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 (arrived at 7:10 p.m.)
Wendy L. Greenstein, Vice Chairperson
Jane C. Reggio, Treasurer
Tara L. Larkin, District Secretary
Georgette A. Jarret, Member (arrived at 7:40 p.m.)
Steven J. Tringali, Member
Jo-Anne Watson, Member
William F. Chaplin, Jr., Member

Wendy L. Greenstein was acting Chairperson for the meeting.

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.

Public Forum – Stefanie Saraidarian- parent of an incoming Millville Elementary School 5th grader. She has heard rumors about the class size for next year. She is here to find out if there is truth to this.

Superintendent Himmelberger stated that there will be only one 5th grade class and there will be 28 students in that class.

Her concern is that it is a very dynamic group and they are concerned as to how this will play out. With the high percentage of IEP's she is concerned.

The leadership staff shares the same concerns that they do and they will provide the supports necessary and needed so that the students can have a successful year. The quality of instruction is by far number one. As a leadership team they try and do the best they can for all of their students.

What happens if things don't go well? They will have the supports in place so that everyone is ready to expect the very best for the students. Support from all the way around. Students are able to achieve in an environment that they may not have had before. You have his steadfast promise on that.

The question was asked as to which cuts will be made elsewhere in the District?

The \$63,000 needed from Millville is part of the additional contribution. The contribution is all of it. You cannot isolate it. They will not have the perfect budget. They know the towns have limited resources and they need to try and make it all work. The original number was deemed too high and it was reduced again. The bottom line is that we have lost a lot of students to other districts. We are not in the business of pink slipping staff. There is an unemployment charge if

we do this. Two years ago it was in excess of \$100,000. The answer is yes that cuts were made in Blackstone. We have an unforgiving budget and if we get a lot of snow we don't have the ability to manage it. A 1.1 percent increase is an extremely tight budget. They hope they don't have to go and make further cuts. There are some very proud people in both towns but he must look at it as one community.

In the first round of reductions there were many reductions made. The 5th grade classroom teacher is the best you will find. It is still a fluid process until they know the final budget outcome.

Can they school choice if they want to between Blackstone and Millville? Within a regional district they cannot do this. You need to change the regional agreement in order to do this. When we lose a student to another town we lose money. When someone goes from Millville to Blackstone it is not a money exchange. Anyone can propose the regional agreement change at any time.

Budget scenario:

They began with an increase of 3.6% - 794,295 taken on 3/10/16 - reduced curriculum of \$190,000 and salaries of \$283,000-

They then cut and went to an increase of 1.1% - 244,295 taken on 6/1/16 - curriculum reduced by \$150,000 and salaries of \$400,000. The budget here is extremely tight. The visual learners will suffer. They need the technology which is what the future is.

If they need to cut an additional \$230,000 they will need to take the further reductions from supplies and technology.

Salaries already cut and all adjustments taken. To continue to cut would only add unemployment costs and erode gains in trust and morale. It would mean cuts in Chrome books, Smart boards in all buildings as well as grades 9 and 10 \$136,000, supplies of \$80,000 and textbooks of \$14,000.

Mrs. Vinacco would like to see more detail on the scenario above before it goes on the website.

If Millville does not pass the \$63,000 then it will mean a 0% increase.

Mr. Tringali stressed that we do not have a spending problem we have a dramatic revenue problem.

Jennifer Dean-Wing –gave her thoughts on the 5th grade classroom. Her child who will be entering the 5th grade classroom in Millville is very concerned as to what the class will be like. What will this look like with a teacher who has not taught reading in many years? Mrs. Dean-Wing is concerned that the reading will suffer.

Superintendent Himmelberger stated that they are working on this and they have the summer to get this together. This is a top priority.

Mrs. Reggio- the 5th grade class that just left there was a difficult group. Her daughter stated that 5th grade was the best year of her life. It takes parent initiative and encouraging your kids. Schools are different now but we have parents who care.

All concerns need to go to Dr.Haughey. They can also email Superintendent Himmelberger and Dr. Thomson.

Retirees – 3 of the 6 retirees are with us this evening. They are as follows:

Mrs. Daignault from the Middle School, Mrs. Rousselle from the Middle School , and Mrs. Almquist from MES.

We have 3 professional educators that have given their best every day for many years. Superintendent Himmelberger wants to extend his personal thanks. He stated that students benefited by the work that you did and the reach that you have.

The retirees discussed the book that the District will donate to the school library on their behalf.

Mrs. Daignault chose Memories of an Imaginary Friend by Matthew Dicks. Matthew Dicks grew up on Federal Street in Blackstone. Matthew was in her class and she didn't know this until she read his book. It won an award in CT. She loves his writing style. Matthew would like to come to the Middle School sometime next year.

Mrs. Rousselle chose Kiss My Math by Danica McKellar. Danica went on to become a great mathematician. She pushes for math education in children. She wrote this book from her love of mathematics. It is designed to help teens that are stressed by or show math anxiety.

Mrs. Almquist – chose the Giving Tree by Shel Silverstein. It is a story about giving, sacrifice and sharing which are lessons we need to teach our children. We sometimes forget these lessons and what is most important in life.

The Committee thanked the retirees and spoke on the wonderful qualities they found in them.

Motion: It was moved by Mrs. Reggio, seconded by Mrs. Jarret and voted 6 in favor 2 abstain on the voting of the minutes (Mr. Chaplin and Mrs. Vinacco) to approve Consent Agenda A which includes Warrants and Minutes of the June 14th meeting.

School Committee discussion of Regional Agreement - Mrs. Larkin – doesn't think we are ready to bring it back to Millville in November. She wants to continue researching it.

Mrs. Vinacco agrees with this. They feel we need to focus on the budget issues.

Mr. Chaplin agrees and feels years of work went into it but we do need a break from it. We will not try to get it done this fall. He encourages the vocal citizens to work on this as well.

They will not bring this Amendment back to Millville in the Fall of 2016. The School Committee will look to open the Regional Agreement for amendment again, hopefully in the Fall of 2016. They will again be asking for volunteers to serve on the committees to review ideas/ways to amend the Regional Agreement.

Superintendent evaluation will be presented by Superintendent Himmelberger at the July School Committee meeting.

Report of the Superintendent

The Athletic director Jill Tosti has the results of a survey. She asked which sports the students were interested in participating in. After compiling the surveys she discovered that the students are interested in hockey and also in Lacrosse.

She recommends Lacrosse. If they co-op with Hopedale it would not cost the District any money. The students would pay Hopedale \$250 to participate and they would need to get their own rides to the practices. Adding Lacrosse would benefit the district.

Mrs. Vinacco would be concerned because we don't have the numbers on the current teams we have.

Ms. Tosti stated that the beauty of a co-op is that you don't have to field a full team. It would be Hopedale, Whitinsville Christian and BMR.

There was a co-op for hockey with Bellingham. No one seemed interested and because of this they dropped us. She hopes that maybe it can be re-opened again.

Mr. Chaplin, Mr. Tringali and Dr. Thomson feel that even if 2 kids play Lacrosse it is worth it.

Motion: It was moved by Mr. Chaplin, seconded by Mrs. Reggio, 7 in favor, 1 opposed – Mrs. Vinacco to approve the Co-op with Hopedale for a Lacrosse team with the understanding that the students will get their own rides to practices, pay the \$250 user fee to Hopedale and the District will not incur any fees.

Mrs. Cobb stated that one transportation bid was received from Tellstone and Sons our current vendor for the 2016-17 school year. In May we brought in a senior transportation consultant, Mr. Labrie to review our contract and bid. He made the recommendation that we reject the bid by Tellstone and award a 5th year extended contract. He recommends re-bidding this again in the Fall. We were able to reduce 3 bus routes for a total savings of \$95,000 from last year.

Motion: It was moved by Mrs. Vinacco, seconded by Mrs. Watson and unanimously voted that any and all bids received for the Request for Bids, Transportation of Pupils, specifications dated March 16, 2016 be rejected in their entirety as not being in the public interest.

Motion: It was moved by Mrs. Vinacco, seconded by Mrs. Watson and unanimously voted that the fifth option year (2016-17) under the current contract with Tellstone and Son, Inc. at an estimated total cost of \$965,520 be awarded at the following rates contained in their bid and subsequent contract:

Elementary - 13 routes at \$195 per day for a total of \$456,300

Secondary - 11 routes at \$192 per day for a total of \$380,160

Secondary routes other - 3 routes at \$239 per day for a total of \$129,060

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.

Mrs. Reggio would like to know if we saw any multiple Districts coming in with us and with the stronger buying power potentially we would be seeing lower bids and more bids. She wonders about the guarantee of this and doesn't see the upside at this point.

Mrs. Vinacco stated that we cannot spend any money if we don't have any.

Mr. Chaplin stated that it is not in the School Committee's scope of voting on whether the District hires consultants. This is for the operational side and the leadership team. He has been here for over 3 years and has not voted on the District hiring consultants.

Dr. Thomson agrees with their point. He does however feel that Mr. Labrie could save the District money.

Superintendent Himmelberger agrees that we don't have a budget and extra money to spend at this time.

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.

The District sent invitations for quotes for the collection of rubbish from the schools for the 2016-2017 school year. The District is recommending Republic Services at a rate of \$13,860 with a summer pickup rate of \$45 per container.

Motion: It was moved by Mrs. Reggio, seconded by Mr. Tringali and unanimously voted to approve the quote from Republic Services of Fall River, MA for rubbish collection services for the 2016-17 school year at a rate of \$13,860 with a summer pickup rate of \$45 per container.

Dr. Thomson did not have a report this evening.

There were no items for the 2nd public forum.

School Committee Forum

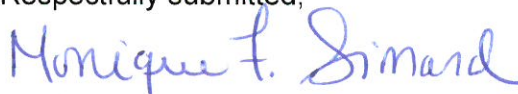
Mrs. Watson – thank you to the teachers at the Complex. Her child will be moving to the Middle School next year.

Mr. Tringali – thank you to those who came to public forum.

Upcoming meeting - July 11th

Motion: It was moved by Mrs. Greenstein, seconded by Mr. Tringali and unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 p.m. and enter into Executive Session for negotiating purposes and not to return to the regular meeting. This was followed by a roll call vote.

Respectfully submitted,



Monique F. Simard, Recording Secretary

ATTEST:



Tara L. Larkin, District Secretary