

**School Committee Meeting
June 14, 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:

Wendy L. Greenstein, Vice Chairperson
Jane C. Reggio, Treasurer
Tara L. Larkin, District Secretary
Georgette A. Jarret, Member
Steven J. Tringali, Member
Jo-Anne Watson, Member

Wendy L. Greenstein was acting Chairperson for the meeting.

Erin P. Vinacco, Chairperson and William F. Chaplin, Jr. were absent from 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.

There were no items for Public Forum.

Student Representative Report

Jack Keefe - the school year is winding down. They had four options for the one school one book summer reading program. The 2 books chosen for this are Ready Player One a novel by Ernest Cline and Eleanor Park by Rainbow Rowell.

Brittany Dwyer – they voted for class officers. An AP initiative meeting was held for those taking AP classes in the next school year. Saturday sessions will be mandatory. Penny War was held by National Honor Society and raised over \$800. The sophomore ring banquet ceremony was held.

Motion: It was moved by Mrs. Reggio, seconded by Mrs. Larkin and unanimously voted to approve Consent Agenda A which includes Warrants and Minutes of May 26th and June 1st.

Report of the Superintendent –

Richard Labrie, M.Ed, Senior Transportation Consultant/Principal spoke. He was asked to give a proposal to the District by Business Manager, Wen Cobb. 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.

Mrs. Cobb emailed a bid to Mr. Labrie over the weekend and he reviewed it and he saw problems with the timeline of the bidding season stating that you want to award the bid in early winter. You want a bid cost built into your budget. He said to reject the one bid they currently received and award the 5th option year to your current contractor. He recommended that you could eliminate 2 buses and routes would be reconfigured. He has submitted a proposal to do the busing for the school district. They look at what the needs are going forward and keep the whole process honest.

Report of the Assistant Superintendent –

Grades one through five will follow the same summer math and reading program format. They are looking a bit more at Envisions and students have a choice over the math and reading summer program. School offices are open during the summer and they can call if they have questions.

Motion: It was moved by Mrs. Reggio, seconded by Mrs. Jarret to approve the summer math and literacy program.

Discussion: Mr. Tringali wanted to know how this ties into September when they return to school.

Dr. Thomson stated that they want to stop regression.

The motion was unanimously voted.

Dr. Thomson feels it is a significant improvement over last year.

Google training – came under 2 basic formats. They are getting very comfortable with it.

The next step might be to get the parents of students trained.

They may eventually have a Google night. They are breaking into the comfort level with the educators.

Envisions math has gone very well. A student with an IEP was using the strategies to solve a problem she had never seen before.

We are training students early on to think and do higher math.

It is an easier transition when you are in the lower grades. The quality of what they are able to do is far beyond what they could do in the past.

It was a good year in the area of training and professional development. ELL (English Language Learners) is up at about 75 students getting the services which is a significant growth. We are stretched as far as we can go. The ELL teachers have done a tremendous job this year.

Curriculum mapping – we have our scope and sequence. Next year we will go back and revisit them.

There are new science standards at the middle school. They are about inquiry. It takes a good amount of work to get this sketched out. We have the talent but we need the resources.

They are in the third and final year of literacy training. They have a well established literacy program. The next piece will be in research and writing the program.

Mentor program –they increased the rigor of it and improved the amount of information.

Mr. Tringali asked what has been negatively impacted due to budget trimming.

Dr. Thomson stated that 1 grade of math at the middle school and 1 stage for curriculum mapping instead of 2 stages has been impacted.

We were looking at grades 8, 9 and 10 for chrome books and now they are only looking at grades 9 and 10.

We should be buying instruments now. The high school science labs need dramatic help.

They are hard pressed to do the inquiry based science at the High School with the labs they have. This was part of the NEASC recommendation.

They would like to have a STEM class at elementary level. Children have a natural interest in inquiry and higher order of thinking.

It is not about the talent but the resources.

Report of the Superintendent

End of the year reports

Jeanne Sheridan – BMR school nutrition –

They had a good year and staff that by all means excels in many ways. The staff is wonderful and Lora Rayos is great. Three cafeteria ladies became certified in school nutrition.

Patty Rodrigues of Millville won for super lunch hero. She goes above and beyond. They give back to the community.

We served 180,000 school lunches and 32,000 school breakfasts this year. Free and reduced is at 33% which is a large increase from past years. The cafeteria is fully self-funded. They spent \$19,000 in new equipment and \$11,000 in equipment maintenance. They aced their DESE program review.

Mrs. Reggio asked Mrs. Sheridan if all schools served the same lunches.

There is a bit of leeway. Different schools in the district are doing different things and this is acceptable.

They don't sell anything that doesn't meet the standards.

Surplus of items – they have sold one unit at the MES School. Certain items have no value.

Wen Cobb – Business Manager –

Mrs. Cobb is going to present a snapshot. The projection is to finish the school year on budget. They will need to move lines of the budget on July 11th.

Revenue – they have received all of the towns and states revenues.

The Budget for this year was \$21,791,340

Expended to Date - \$19,022,388

Encumbered - \$2,750,409

Remaining - \$18,000

Special education transportation – out of district transportation is budgeted 8% less for next year. They joined the BICO transportation network this year. Van Pool will be transporting students to ESY programs starting July 5th. The District budgeted 8% cost saving from route share with neighboring communities.

They will rent 3 more classrooms to the Bi-County Collaborative next year. This means more rental revenue and will reduce the cost of transportation. They received \$33,000 in revenue this year and it will double next year. They will have BICO classes in Millville next year.

In District transportation - they purchased a wheel chair van with a 5 year lease to purchase. They were awarded a grant from Ford. They will pay \$839 monthly for the leasing for 60 months. They will save about \$35,000 in costs on the van by not having to transport the wheel chair student with out of district transportation.

Regular Education Transportation – They are proposing a fifth year extension to the current contract with 3 less routes based on actual ridership.

The health insurance increase for the district is \$154,000. The increase in the health insurance rates is as follows for FY17:

PPO 7.16% increase, HMO Regular Plan 5.8% increase, New HMO Limited Network Plan 1.8% increase

The High school and Millville roof projects are in the process of closing out. Three BANS rollovers in November, February and April. Two of the three rollovers the BANS interest were picked up by OPM and the General Contractor.

UFASI recommends that the District reduce the amount of outstanding BANS and issue another short term note. USAFI will put together a financing scenario based upon the projected share for the District for the roof projects.

Our Auditors report should come out by the end of July.

Our accountant, James Eggert will come to BMR in late July to close out the books.

In the summer and fall they will work on student activities policies and procedures and do an audit of student activities next year.

The business office will have more policies and procedures in place in the future.

Osiris Gonzalez – Technology

They are in final phases of the wireless project. On June 22nd they will start the process and get everything up and running.

They have upgraded the 3 major computer labs in the Middle School.

They are replacing older server hardware. They were replacing parts and they can't keep doing this. They bought newer servers and they can create new servers in a virtual sense.

He has been planning on the fiber ring and will have it ready as a presentation in the year 2017 to 2018. They are talking with vendors. They will decide if they will own the fiber ring themselves or lease it out. They will then move over to the voice over phone system. There would be significant cost savings.

They will purchase chrome books at \$220 per unit. This includes the management consult per chrome book. A great implementation with a lot more control on the content they are viewing. They are very durable made of a rubberized plastic in the event that accidents happen.

For the summer he will fine tune our website to be sure that everything is easy to find. It is a massive undertaking. Make it more user friendly and be sure all information is up to date.

They want to have at least 1 cart of chrome books in each building.

Loretta Braverman – Special Education

Legal issues, eligibility, specialized instruction and fiscal responsibility

They have strengthened capacity among team chairs through:

Professional Development, Facilitated discussion with director and Bi-weekly team chair plc meetings with the director.

They have had only 1 mediation, 2 students sent out of district based on safety and the well being of other students, 0 corrective actions and 0 hearings before the BSEA (Bureau of Special Education).

Part of Cohort 4 data collection – BMR was in 100% compliance.

There were:

98 initial team meetings

62 eligible findings

31 non eligible findings

40 dismissed from Special Education

Mrs. Braverman is concerned about the JFK kindergarten class.

They have had 421 meetings across the district. If a parent requests a meeting they try to have the meeting to discuss the child. They want the classroom teacher to try and take care of the issues first.

Specialized instruction – professional development offered to Special Education teachers through Bridgewater State University.

They are strengthening their para-professional capacity so they are more of an instructional aide rather than just a body in the classroom. Their major role is to encourage student independence.

The specialized classrooms in the District are as follows:

Intensive Pre-School, Social Emotional, Pragmatic Learning, Essentials with Language based techniques, Life skills and Post Grad Community based learning.

There will be a new sensory room that helps with all students at MES.

At the Complex there will be weekly whole group language lessons in the autism classroom. That classroom went on a field trip to the zoo.

They will minimize their liability exposure.

Mrs. Greenstein asked how does the deficit compare to last year? Mrs. Cobb will look for the information and get back to Mrs. Greenstein.

There were no items for Public Forum

Mr. Himmelberger thanked the leadership team for all their hard work. We have looked at every possible opportunity to refine the expenditures in our district to how we buy our electricity and all options on how we spend our resources. We have spent the last four months projecting where we spend. We are now recertified at our new budget. We have limited resources but we will continue to look for revenue opportunities. It is essential to maintain what we have and to know what we need to be competitive. It is essential we fight for students and we have the educational opportunities in Pre-K through 12. It will be a challenge to meet all of our needs on the current budget. Every penny that the Committee has earmarked is important. There are no frills and nothing that our students do not need. Education today is expensive. It is incumbent upon us as a leadership team to be sure every dollar is spent wisely.

We get audited by our own accounting firm, the state and the federal government. Every penny is accounted for and every penny is carefully spent.

The Blackstone town meeting did vote and Millville has a special town meeting to vote the assessment that will match the recertified number.

We must continue to look for revenue sources. There are a lot of good things going on and we need to continue to be supportive. Together we can produce a tremendous body of work. That is where we are.

School Committee Forum

Mrs. Reggio – thank you to Mr. Martins and Mr. Ireland for a wonderful 5th grade band concert. They were great. She enjoyed the high school graduation ceremony. Griffin's speech moved her tremendously. The 5th graders are excited about coming to the middle school next year. She wants to

work together with the Towns to continue to achieve the great things here at the school. We need to stop accusing and work together. Other budgets increase and ours needs to as well.

Mrs. Jarret – wishes students and teachers a great summer.

Mrs. Watson – Feels strongly that we are one school district, not they vs. us.

Mr. Tringali – thanks Mr. Dudek and Mr. Ducharme for a wonderful graduation. He feels that everyone did a great job. It was a wonderful, intimate ceremony. He asks for everyone to come out to the Millville meeting on June 27th at 7:00 p.m. at MES to show your support for the District.

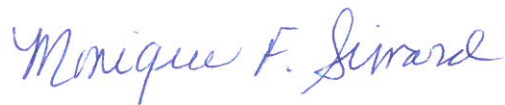
Mrs. Larkin – Wants to bring the Regional Agreement back to the School Committee for discussion as to how/if we will bring back to Millville in the Fall.

Mrs. Greenstein – Commends the 2nd grade teachers and students and the National Junior Honor Society at the Middle School.

Upcoming School Committee meeting will be held on June 23rd.

Motion: It was moved by Mrs. Reggio, seconded by Mrs. Jarret to adjourn the meeting at 9:10 p.m. and enter into Executive Session for the purpose of Union Negotiations not to come back to the regular meeting. A roll call vote was taken.

Respectfully submitted,



Monique F. Simard, Recording Secretary

ATTEST: _____



Tara L. Larkin, District Secretary