

**School Committee Meeting
May 26, 2016
Frederick Hartnett Middle School**

The Blackstone Millville Regional District School Committee met in the library of the Frederick W. Hartnett Middle School at 6:30 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
William F. Chaplin, Jr., Member
Jo-Anne Watson, Member

Wendy Greenstein was acting Chairperson for the meeting.

Erin P. Vinacco, Chairperson was absent from the meeting.

Also in attendance was 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 – He congratulated Brittany on winning as student council president. He also spoke on the ultimate Frisbee challenge.

Brittany Dwyer – the seniors last day was last Friday – She spoke on the Brazilian volleyball tournament. They had 8 or 9 teams with 2 courts in use. The seniors won over the faculty.

The National College fair at the Boston Convention Center was successful and fun.

Senior week next week – class trip to Brownstone – Friday is graduation at 6:00 p.m.

Class elections will be going on in the next few weeks.

Finals are coming up in 3 weeks.

Motion: It was moved by Mrs. Reggio, seconded by Mr. Tringali and unanimously voted to approve Consent Agenda A which includes Warrant, Field trip requests and the Minutes of the May 12th meeting.

School Committee 2016 – 2017 meeting calendar approval. Holding a meeting on February 23rd is questionable. They will make adjustments if need be. In February they will have meetings on the 9th and 16th.

Motion: It was moved by Mr. Chaplin, seconded by Mrs. Reggio and unanimously voted to approve the School Committee calendar for FY17 with a change in February moving the date of the meeting from the 23rd to the 16th.

It has been decided by the School Committee to extend the contract of Superintendent Himmelberger from July 1st for 3 years.

Mr. Himmelberger thanked the Committee and also mentioned the contribution that Dr. Thomson has made and how he would like to see his contract extended for 3 years as well.

Report of the Superintendent –

The Handbook changes were brought up.

Elementary came up first with Mrs. Desai, Mrs. Brown and Mrs. Shafer.

Mrs. Shafer has been doing a terrific job while Dr. Haughey is on the mend.

At the elementary level the following changes were proposed:

Update the emergency contact information section by giving the reasons why they may need this information in the future.

The program of studies – they want to delete that information and just provide a link to the Department of Education standards.

Dismissal procedures were changed just to clarify it a bit more. Photo id's must be presented even if a note is sent on dismissal of a student. If the person is on the emergency contact list they are allowed to pick up the child at school with a photo id. They just want to be sure that the students are safe.

They are looking at having an Aspen X2 curriculum map. In the future they can share the curriculum maps. There are parent letters that go home and provide them with important links. Parents have their own portal to follow along.

They are looking at revising the report card. Once they reach consensus they will move forward with that as well.

Mr. Cameron – Frederick Hartnett Middle School.

There are very subtle changes this year.

Updated points of contact. Mrs. Reggio asked to have a cancellation station in RI such as Channel 10.

Under attendance they added words to be clear as to what an excused absence is.

They do not like giving a zero on an assignment. They are trying to clean up discrepancies in grading with zeros, etc.

Under the cheating plagiarism policy there is a clarification.

Progress reports-4 years ago they did away with the paper copies of progress reports. They do not require a sign off on progress reports but they do for report cards.

They are going from 3 unexcused to 5 unexcused absences, the principal or designee will contact the parents to review the attendance policy. The parent involvement that they are pushing allows them to be less taxed in that area. The big thing is what constitutes excused or unexcused. This only affects a small number of students.

They are trying to get parents to recognize that they have access to the discipline records for their child.

They will take off the cafeteria policy.

Mr. Dudek - BMRHS

Students cannot be enrolled in more than one directed study hall.

Interim Progress Reports will be published in X2 student and parent portal to all students by teachers at mid-quarter.

A higher percentage of parents and students are going on X2.

Class dues they can be paid on-line. Parents and students may not know that.

Report cards are published in X2 student and parent portal at the end of each quarter. Printed copies will be available upon request.

Exam exemptions. The two students who are designated as class valedictorian and salutatorian are exempted from all final exams without restrictions.

AP students must take the AP test. AP students will be exempt from their AP level final exams.

Described what family vacation policy and trips are. Deleted a piece on page 3.

Change to: At the nurses discretion students sent home would be officially listed as an excused dismissal.

Change to the office phone policy.

Dress code on page 4. Pj's are inappropriate for school attire. They added it back in because it didn't say anything about pj pants.

Personal electronic devises. Cell phones are accessible in the cafeteria and at the discession of the teachers in the classroom.

They are going to open pilot the use of cell phones in the school. He doesn't think it will be an issue. They want to try this since cell phone as a part of everyone's life.

Change to: The use of any personal electronic devise can be disruptive to the educational process and may not be used during class time.

Deletion of: The playing of musical instruments is restricted to the music department areas. Skateboards and video games are not allowed in school.

Senior privilege has changed slightly to: Seniors who are assigned a study hall first period may arrive late to school between 8:20 and 8:25.

Change to: Students arriving late must sign in at the main office no earlier than 8:25 am.

Change to: Students leaving early must sign out of the main office upon completion of announcements.

Deletion of In house suspension lunch information.

Change in central detention personal electronic device information.

They are doing the signing of the handbook sheets on line.

Cell phones are allowed in classrooms in the Middle School. They are using them as part of the class. Now that they have bandwidth they can have kids use their phone. We need to allow the youth to use technology the way they want to and not the way we want them to.

Motion: It was moved by Mrs. Reggio, seconded by Mr. Tringali and unanimously voted to approve the handbook adjustments presented tonight.

NEASC Accreditation report

Collecting data to assess their strengths and weakness and all the good that we do. Many times you go in day in and day out and you don't realize that you have great faculty and staff.

Commendations –

Learning expectations. Our rubrics. Developing them was a strength for us. Our statewide rubrics is something that we need to work on.

They have picked up ideas. The reflection of core values and beliefs in the school culture.

The taught curriculum that emphasizes high levels of inquiry, problem solving, and higher order thinking skills in the AP honors and advanced classes.

Commitment of teachers utilizing PLC time to collaborate and reflect.

Allocation of funds to provide additional funding for curriculum including hiring an Assistant Superintendent and prioritizing needs for budget.

The positive school culture that allows students to feel safe, respected and supported including the Charger Strong program challenges all students to achieve.

Partnerships formed between the school and the local community that benefit students with internship opportunities. He feels they can do better. He has several ideas to bring real life experiences to the kids.

Concerns

The hiring of a full time Library/Media specialist-

The lack of dependable funding for programs and services including: professional staff, ongoing professional development and curriculum revision, tech support, sufficient equipment and instructional materials.

Develop and implement a plan to provide dependable funding for programs and services.

Develop a formal technology plan supporting upgrades and professional development.

Implement a plan to address the following: privacy of classrooms, ADA compliance, improved communication via classrooms, science labs, heating and location of offices.

Written curriculum is placed in common format.

Provides staff with time/funding to evaluation and revise curriculum.

Increase rigor in CP level courses.

Timely feedback on assessments.

Evaluate and refine the use of school wide rubrics.

The NEASC team saw a lot of respect coming from our students. Our kids are respectful and polite.

He has 2 years to report back to NEASC with what has been fixed.

We do need a long term plan for building and facilities.

Mr. Chaplin wants the science labs to be updated.

Comments on the senior exit interviews. They are looking for certain classes and being prepared for the real world and having a personal finance course. How do we get our underclassmen to join in extracurricular activities and Internships. The students this year have appreciated the time they have had at BMR.

FY17 budget update –

The process and the way it is being done is unacceptable. We need a school budget to grow at a modest rate every year. We need to be able to plan on this increase. It is challenging to do all the things that we need to do.

Millville town meeting is early and Blackstone is late. We may need to go back to the Town of Millville for another meeting. If that vote does not happen then the School Committee must call a super town meeting. If we don't have a budget by June 15th he must reduce the teaching staff.

Understand that teachers work very hard for the education of our children and if we do a good job everyone benefits. We need consistency. We need to move town meetings earlier. We lose good people, morale declines and the cost of unemployment goes up. That is totally unacceptable. We are not asking for 3 or 4 or 5 percent but we need to come to grips with what it costs to educate our students. He hopes that Blackstone supports his budget and if this happens he will go back to Millville. This number is a 1.1 percent increase of \$244,000 which is simply not enough but we will find a way to make it work. The system doesn't favor the sequence that we need.

If it doesn't pass in Blackstone then we have a super town meeting. Then our impact would be about 1 million dollars. Superintendent Himmelberger will try to get this on the agenda in Millville on June 1st.

If you are looking for property you want to settle in a spot that values education.

We are at a critical juncture. We have a fine district. If anyone has questions about the budget please call him.

The Regional Agreement committee only wants to do what is best for our students. Students could be grouped by grade level. That's the right reason. Millville did not support that amendment. It is article 3 in Blackstone on Tuesday night. The only other change made on the motion was to implement it one year later.

The motion to Amend Article 3 of the Warrant for the Blackstone Annual Town meeting is as follows:

To see if the Town will vote to accept the Blackstone-Millville Regional School Committee's proposed amendment to the Regional School District Agreement, as submitted to the member towns' Boards of Selectmen in accordance with Section VI of the Regional Amendment, by amending Section XII- Assumption of Jurisdiction by Member Towns over Grades Kindergarten through Five, Inclusive, by deleting sub sections (A) (B) and (C) and replacing said sections with the following language:

"All students in Grades Pre-K through Five of all member towns, regardless of which member town they live in, will attend the assigned elementary school regardless of where it is located, based on grade level, beginning with the 2018-2019 school year; and further, to delete Sub-Section (A) and (C) from Section XIII- Miscellaneous Provisions; on the condition that approval would be valid for six months through November 30, 2016; and thereafter expiring unless the Town of Millville accepts the Regional Agreement amendment at the Fall Town Meeting, as drafted and adopted by the Town of Blackstone on May 31, 2016."

It is not dead in Blackstone even if it was voted down in Millville.

The idea did not come from the Committee but from a group of people. Nothing can change unless this is passed. All voices must be heard and we need to be sensitive to what we have been through on this committee. It is not something that is being rushed or pushed.

Students are getting ready to move on and take their place in society because of the wonderful things going on in our district. This amendment would only enhance this. We may live in 2 towns but it is one educational community.

The Senior class has invited the Committee to awards night at the high school at seven and the senior class breakfast on Friday and graduation at six on Friday June 3rd.

Report of Assistant Superintendent

They are in the final preparation strategies for the summer math. One school one book and on line math-

There were no items for Public Forum

School Committee Forum

Mr. Tringali- The Chamber of Commerce breakfast was held today at Lake Pearl in Wrentham. The unsung hero award was given to Rebecca Hahn. Busy next week. A lot going on. So many people were recognized in our District this year. We are succeeding at all levels despite the funding that we get. He hopes we don't lose good people because of this.

Upcoming meeting - June 9th.

Motion: It was moved by Mrs. Reggio, seconded by Mr. Chaplin to adjourn the meeting and enter into Executive Session for the purpose of negotiations with union personnel at 8:55 p.m. and not to return to the regular meeting. A roll call vote was taken.

Respectfully submitted,

Monique F. Simard, Recording Secretary

ATTEST: _____

Tara L. Larkin, District Secretary