

**School Committee Meeting
May 12, 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:

Erin P. Vinacco, Chairperson
Wendy L. Greenstein, Vice Chairperson (arrived at 6:40 p.m.)
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 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

Welcome to the new student reps for next year Brittany Dwyer and Jack Keefe.

Eric Eisner – senior class review- Last day is the 20th and then they will take exams. The class trip will be on Tuesday, May 31st. June 1st is the senior banquet at Crystal Lake. The awards ceremony will be held on June 2nd with graduation on June 3rd at 6:00 p.m. The senior breakfast will be held at 8 a.m. on the day of graduation.

Griffin Reilly– The teen driving simulator truck is at the High School this week. Students take practice runs with the driving simulator car. All seniors enjoyed it. National Honor Society induction was held. Ultimate Frisbee will be held tomorrow. Teacher appreciation week is this week. They were given goody bags, gifts and a breakfast. Super hero luncheon for the lunch ladies was held. Band is already starting again. They are holding a practice tonight. Jazz night for band is tomorrow night at 7 p.m. at the High School. Student Council is wrapping up. Week long spirit week for the seniors. Brazilian volleyball tournament will be held.

They gave parting gifts to the outgoing seniors.

They will both be speaking on graduation night.

Motion: It was moved by Mrs. Reggio, seconded by Mr. Tringali to approve Consent Agenda A which includes Warrants, Field Trips and Minutes. Mrs. Larkin and Mr. Chaplin abstained from voting on the Minutes as they did not attend that meeting.

Report of the Superintendent

Mr. Robert Ferrari from Northeast Water Solutions gave an update on the MES water situation. Water quality issues were discovered in 2006. The school has had a long history with water quality problems. They had high lead and copper problems originally. In 2010 new problems

arose and the one well went off line. Iron oxide was found in the well. Iron and manganese went up to 1 ppm. A green sand filtration system was used. Disinfection by products are not good for the water long term. There have been many years at elevated levels. In 2011 the system brought on line and iron and manganese were reduced below detection.

In 2012 and 2013 the system was not operating optimally. In August 2013 his firm got involved again. Operational issues were detected. They had to adjust the chemical feed and within an hour it was back in service. March 2014 refurbished the green sand filtration system. They monitor the water usage 24/7.

In February 2016 they did a routine monitoring of bi- products which happens 4 times per year. Took samples and results reported that disinfection bi products were high. Dispatched their lead operator and they adjusted the chlorine chemical feed rate. The reason the problem occurred is large amounts of iron in the water. As the iron level continues to go up and stay up they need to adjust the chemical feed rate. Once they did this the iron level went down.

Analyzed data and at the point that they had high levels the oldest water had been in the system for 7 days. They sampled again in March. The levels were somewhat back to normal. One level was still high.

They made more adjustments. They have 2 to 2.5 days of water in the storage tank now. They will be okay even if they have a weekend with no water being pumped. This will help them to be okay with disinfection by- products. The system is now running excellently. They will keep working to try and get the levels lower if they can.

They have made the submittal to DEM. They report monthly to them. They do keep track of things that they report. They believe this was an isolated incident. They have a low level of total organic carbon right now. He wants to keep tabs on this. He has made the recommendation to change the 3rd quarter monitoring from August to September when the school is occupied. He wants to assure the Committee and community that they take it very seriously. They are in the business of public health.

Mr. Chaplin likes that they do more than the minimum.

Mrs. Reggio comment – the memo that came out to parents was disconcerting with the language. In the future if they could have things worded in laymen terms it may help. He will write something in a follow up to the families to clarify that it is safe and how often this is being monitored. They still offer bottled water at all times. We have a monitoring system that is on the level of the best treatment facilities out there.

There is a separate tank that supplies the fire/water service to the school.

Vote to approve the draft school calendar. Legally and technically they are in negotiations and they cannot officially call this the calendar until the agreement is ratified. Families, students and staff want to know the dates for planning purposes. The draft calendar calls for staff to report on Tuesday, August 30th with the first day of school for all students on Wednesday, August 31st.

Motion: It was moved by Mrs. Greenstein, seconded by Mr. Tringali and unanimously voted to approve the draft copy of the school district calendar for FY17.

Mrs. Larkin would like to talk about the April vacation which is a long time out of school. They need to wait and see what the test window will look like. The only questionable day on the calendar is April 13th. They want to get in as many days as they can before the state testing.

Approval of school choice for next year- Districts need to make the decision by June 1st. They have space and they welcome students across all grades. They want to reduce the number of students who choice out and increase the number that choice in.

Motion: It was moved by Mrs. Reggio, seconded by Mrs. Greenstein and unanimously voted to approve the District's participation in School Choice for the FY17 school year.

Negotiating health renewal with MIIA- There was an informational meeting held at the Millville Elementary School this week to hear from both organizations and the two plans that are being offered. There will be small changes around co pay and another tier for RX . The HMO will have a 5.8 percent increase in the renewal rate. They have added a limited network plan as well and this will only have a 1.8 percent increase. There are some changes and we had a lively discussion with employees about the changes. We do our best to come up with the proper plan that makes the most sense and is efficient and more affordable.

Open enrollment will be May 26th. Everyone can come and learn about their options. They need to finish this by June 13th.

They will offer flexible spending accounts by allowing folks to use pretax dollars. They need to plan and they can set aside as much as \$2500 per year which will be loaded on a debit card. It will be payroll deducted and run from October 1 to Sept. 30th. Milford Hospital, UMASS Medical and St. Vincent's are the large hospitals on the limited network plan. Health insurance is getting complex because of many pressures on it. We are using our insurance more than ever before and not just retirees and large claims.

Mrs. Vinacco feels that if they need to budget for a ten percent increase next year she doesn't know how they will absorb this.

FY17 budget update – The Millville town meeting was held this past Monday. The senate budget is due out on Tuesday. We are in a very challenging time as we go forward. They want to preserve what they have and continue to be competitive. They have been meeting over the last few weeks.

The Superintendent would like to share pleasant happy and proud news. This has been an exceptional year for those who work and teach your kids. Mr. Cameron has been honored by the Massachusetts Secondary School Administrators Association as the Middle School Principal of the Year. This is a tremendous accomplishment and a true testament to the outstanding work that Mr. Cameron does each day on behalf of the students, staff and families in our education community. He has been placed in the running for the National Principal of the Year. We are a very small district but powerful in what we do. This is a testament to his great work.

Congratulations we are proud of your work. He has a consistency of professionalism that runs through everything that he does.

Mr. Thomson said that this is a very big deal. Only one of two candidates from Massachusetts can go to D.C. To be chosen to represent the state of Mass. in Washington is a very big deal. He is doing incredible things here at the HMS. The way he works with the faculty here is great.

The Middle school PTO has raised funds to put a marquee outside similar to the one at the Complex.

Motion: It was moved by Mrs. Reggio, seconded by Mrs. Greenstein and unanimously voted to approve the marquee at the Middle School to be funded by the PTO.

Mr. Tringali asked if they could get an electronic sign. It was stated that it is too expensive.

Report of the Assistant Superintendent

Dr. Thomson wants to remind everyone that they are doing STARS assessment and Middle School math pilot programs. The Elementary and High Schools have started as well. They want to bring a new math program in the 6th grade next year. We are using well tested and respected math programs such as Go Math by Houghton Mifflin and Envision Math 2.0 and have revamped the Middle School program.

There were no items for the 2nd Public Forum.

School Committee Forum

Mrs. Reggio thanked Griffin and Eric – she loved having them for 2 years. Millville town meeting was disappointing on the budget end. The turnout was very good that night. They were able to express their opinions. We have a tough road ahead of us.

Mrs. Jarret - Good bye to Eric and Griffin and welcome to the two new students Brittany and Jack.

Mr. Tringali – Corey’s Crusaders is a wonderful thing. It is getting bigger and stronger. He was disappointed on the meeting in Millville. Secret ballot was used. He is looking forward to the Blackstone meeting.

Mrs. Larkin –Spoke on the town hall comments of using the MES school for their offices. She wants to clear up that this is not an option.

The Superintendent stated that based upon Mass General Laws there does not seem to be an option for subletting. They are waiting for information from their attorney. The Regional Agreement did not pass with Millville voters. She asks that Blackstone go out and vote and let the Committee know if it is worth pursuing.

Mrs. Greenstein –Regional Agreement. Thanks to all of those on the Committee and she wants to apologize for those who were spoken to disrespectfully. What went on is hurtful. Each member of the Regional Agreement Committee worked hard and she is thankful. They tried to get information out the best that they could.

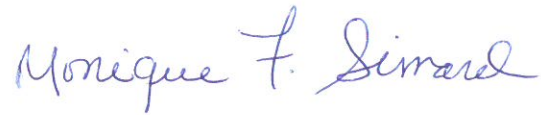
Mrs. Vinacco – Welcomes Mrs. Watson. She is glad that she stepped up.

The next meeting is a Budget Workshop to be held on Thursday, May 19th.

The Blackstone Town Meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 31st.

Motion: At 8:00 p.m. it was moved by Mr. Reggio, seconded by Mr. Tringali to adjourn the regular meeting and enter into Executive Session to discuss union contracts and not to return to open session. A roll call vote was taken.

Respectfully submitted,



Monique F. Simard, Recording Secretary

ATTEST:



Tara L. Larkin, District Secretary