

**School Committee Meeting
March 10, 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
Wendy L. Greenstein, Vice Chairperson
Jane C. Reggio, Treasurer
Georgette A. Jarret, District Secretary
Steven J. Tringali, Member
Tara L. Larkin, Member
William F. Chaplin, Jr., Member
John M. Wozniak, 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.

Motion: It was moved by Mrs. Reggio, seconded by Mrs. Jarret and unanimously voted to approve Consent Agenda A which includes Warrants, Field Trip Requests and Minutes of the February 25th meeting.

FY17 proposed budget – information can be found on the District website.

There is a reluctance to address the foundation budget by the State of Massachusetts.

Motion: It was moved by Mr. Tringali, seconded by Mrs. Reggio and unanimously voted to adopt a gross operating budget for the 2016-2017 school year in the the amount of \$22,585,635.

Motion: It was moved by Mrs. Larkin, seconded by Mrs. Greenstein and unanimously voted to apply the following reimbursements to reduce said gross operating budget for the 2016-2017 school year:

Chapter 70	\$10,764,934
Regional Transportation	\$ 469,116
School Choice/Charter Offset	(\$ 245,917)

Above reimbursements total \$10,988,133. The total net operating budget for 2016-2017 is \$12,071,214.

Motion: It was moved by Mrs. Greenstein, seconded by Mrs. Reggio and unanimously voted to assess the amount of \$8,351,225 to the Town of Blackstone to be

applied to the operating budget for the 2016-2017 year which includes \$6,241,740 for the minimum contribution, \$1,247,165 in exclusionary costs and \$862,320 in supplemental investments.

Motion: It was moved by Mr. Chaplin, seconded by Mrs. Larkin and unanimously voted to assess the amount of \$2,767,277 to the Town of Millville to be applied to the operating budget for the 2016-2017 year which includes \$1,941,214 for the minimum contribution, \$488,383 in exclusionary costs and \$337,680 in supplemental investments.

Motion: It was moved by Mrs. Reggio, seconded by Mrs. Larkin and unanimously voted to apply the following amounts to the gross operating budget for the year 2016-2017:

Medicaid	\$60,000
Interest	\$4,000
Music and Athletic Fees	\$65,000
E&D	<u>\$350,000</u>
Total	\$479,000

Motion: It was moved by Mrs. Jarret, seconded by Mrs. Reggio and unanimously voted to adopt a capital and interest budget in the amount of \$517,226 to be assessed solely to the Town of Blackstone which includes \$160,216 for the FWH Middle School, \$102,995 for the BMR High School sewer connection and \$254,015 for the roof projects.

Motion: It was moved by Mr. Tringali, seconded by Mrs. Greenstein and unanimously voted to adopt a capital and interest budget in the amount of \$205,019 to be assessed solely to the Town of Millville which includes \$62,740 for the FWH Middle School, \$40,332 for the High School sewer connection and \$101,947 for the roof projects.

Superintendent Himmelberger recommended offering the early retirement incentive to Unit A members who have not declared that they are retiring and/or submitted their retirement to the Superintendent by March 10, 2016. The District would pay a lump sum of \$7500 to the employee in the last pay period of June, 2016. This amount will be taxed and is not pensionable. If accepted, the employee would not be eligible for the sick leave incentive or any portion of it. The employee would have had to have at least 20 years of service with the District or be eligible for retirement with the Massachusetts Teacher's Retirement System. If approved he will let Mr. Juba know and send a letter home to staff who meet the qualifications. They are not reducing staff but this is an opportunity to bring someone in at a lower pay. This is only for this year and not ongoing. Typically it is done in December but not this year.

Mr. Tringali feels they should consider doing this every December.

Motion: It was moved by Mr. Chaplin, seconded by Mrs. Reggio and unanimously voted to offer the Early Retirement Incentive to those teachers who qualify (as outlined in the above paragraph) in the District for the FY16 school year only.

Regional Agreement update – Jessie Dufault is working hard on a presentation for us on our 3 plus year study. The video will be played now and will be available on cable. This is just the beginning and the Committee is looking forward to feedback from the public. A lot of work went into this. They received feedback from students, teachers and all avenues affected by a big change.

Mr. Chaplin asked if they should schedule an open house in April.

They could have an open meeting which is not just geared to a certain set of parents but the community at large. Mr. Chaplin wants to have one in each Town. Check out our link and let people know about it.

Mrs. Vinacco asked if Mr. Chaplin would draw up something by utilizing the high school print shop.

Mrs. Larkin wants all Towns to be invited and could go to either meeting. It will be open to all community members.

Mrs. Reggio recommended having it at the libraries.

The date would be Tuesday, April 26th at 6:00 p.m. in Blackstone. They may also be able to put it in the Blackstone Enlightener. They will also consider holding it at the Millville Senior Center on Thursday, April 21st @ 4:00 pm. This will be an informational meeting to have questions and answers. They are looking to change one sentence in the Regional Agreement that allows students to be educated in either town.

Report of the Superintendent

Transportation update – we have the bid specs ready for the next regular education transportation contract. The bid closes on April 6th. We would like to be able to reduce the number of buses.

It has been a 3 year contract at a cost of \$900,000 per year for the last 3 years. Based upon the Regional Agreement it is the law that we have a seat for every child right now. They cannot charge families for busing. We are looking at 70% reimbursement from the State for this.

The Foundation Budget Review Commission did great work and now the State has decided not to address this.

It does not seem that there will be any movement by the State. There is not enough revenue at the state level to support the reform so Chapter 70 will probably stay where it is.

Day on the Hill – we talk to our representatives, senators and legislators. There is not a lot of great news right now.

Superintendent Himmelberger thanked Mrs. Cobb, Business Manager for all of her hard work on the budget.

We will still have a deficit of \$473,712. This is a combination of many factors. From the number of students who move in and out of our towns and have an impact on the budget. We will be looking to work with the Committee and leadership team to get the deficit to zero. We have pressing needs and also take care of the updates to our schools. They will also look at staffing to be sure they are appropriate and efficient.

There are many pieces of what the Towns have to meet to fund all of the educational pie. We need to advocate for our needs and realistically we need to make some strategic plans. There are also many mandates and regulations that you have to meet.

School Committee Forum –

Mr. Tringali – would like to see people attend the Regional Agreement sessions.

Thursday March 24th is the next School Committee meeting.


Motion: It was moved by Mrs. Greenstein, seconded by Mr. Wozniak and unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Monique F. Simard, Recording Secretary

ATTEST:



Georgette A. Jarret, District Secretary