

**School Committee Meeting
February 25, 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.

Mrs. Morin's 4th grade students gave an interesting, interactive presentation of student writing from the book, "The Day the Crayons Quit".

Report of Student Representative – Eric Eisner – senior class – matchmaker fundraiser raised \$200 –seniors were measured for caps and gowns - Mr. BMR will be held on March 31st. Prom, Senior banquet and senior class trip were discussed–A Roast will be held by the Junior class next Thursday night - Empty Bowl was a huge success – NHS induction will be held in May – Student Council is preparing for Cape Cod state conference- Autism awareness month in April – girls missed basketball playoffs by only one game – track went far – Band home show on the 27th starts at 4 pm – senior class trip will be held on a lake in CT-

Report of the Superintendent

The arena that is public education is putting more on the local budgets.

Healthcare, retirement and debt service is taking all of our new growth in Massachusetts.

The biggest things we need help on are special education and health insurance.

The one promise the Governor did keep was not to implement new taxes –

Mr. Himmelberger doesn't anticipate any great help from the State. He doesn't see the math on the state side adding up.

There is a lot of information going back and forth.

We are looking at going with the Collaborative as the single source provider for Special Education transportation which should save us money.

The District will also go out to bid for regular busing in the Spring.

This is a needs budget – there are no nice to haves, but true needs.

They need to address the infrastructure needs at JFK and the High School- these schools are 45 years old and need updating – they need to maintain clean and safe environments – they need to get the best bang for the buck for our students –

They are looking to purchase chrome books for grades 8, 9, 10. This is a huge initiative but it must be said that we are not leading the pack here, but are merely giving our students what they need to succeed.

We now have a television production studio at the High school thanks to the Board of Selectman in Blackstone.

They will come together in 2 weeks for the adoption of the budget. There are a lot of moving parts that will continue to shift over the next six to eight weeks.

We educate everyone with the best of intentions.

The Superintendent doesn't believe that Circuit Breaker or Chapter 70 will be added to where they should be.

Norfolk Agricultural has added an unfair burden on the Towns.

There are 45 students being tuitioned in and 90 students tuitioned out. They want to make our district the first and best choice for our students.

The Superintendent has included the rationale for the changes.

He wants to have incremental increases once they get back what they have had to cut over time.

Salary and benefits are about 77 percent of the budget this year.

The goal in the next 6 to 8 weeks is to come up with a budget that fits the needs of our students and fits the pocket books of the Towns.

We are not eligible for most of the grants that are out there since we are not low income enough to qualify for most of them.

Jerry Finn from Millville – asked if health insurance is level funded for FY17. Right now they are using the old number until they know the new number. The statewide average is an indication of the range which has been from 6 to 14 percent – they go back and forth – even though we don't know the exact increase we should still show some kind of increase here.

They may look at plan changes if the increase is too high. Last year they ended at five percent.

Mr. Finn feels they need to put something in for the Unit A increase as well. It is better than putting nothing in.

It puts additional pressure on the Committee to understand what the right number is going to be.

Mr. Wozniak – his approach to this is the problem we have is we went cheap in 2012, 13 and 14 and now we are really suffering. We are so far behind in our technology that we have trouble getting back there. There is no hidden box of money here. The kids don't have what they need. He is looking at value for our students and bringing them back up so we don't keep losing kids to other schools. We need to move us forward. Do what we need to do.

Mr. Finn stated that saw tooth budgeting done previously drove us to where we are right now. He feels that a plan would be important and not this up and down but a long term plan.

Mr. Chaplin stated that we need a plan but he wants to hear Millville's plan to help us as well. We give you a plan but then we hear that we can't do that or don't have the money.

Mrs. Reggio – in this time of constant change we take care of public education and need to find ways to fund it.

Mrs. Vinacco – \$74 dollars per day, per student is so much less than what they need.

Moved from Public hearing back to our regular meeting

Motion: It was moved by Mr. Wozniak, seconded by Mrs. Greenstein and voted 7 in favor, 1 abstain – Mrs. Vinacco to approve Consent Agenda A which includes Warrants, Field Trips and Minutes of the February 11th meeting.

Regional Agreement – A vote yes would allow students in Pre-K through 5, regardless of which member town they live in, to attend the assigned elementary school regardless of where it is located, based upon grade level. As an example: all preK, Kindergarten, Grade 1 and Grade 2 at JFK and AFM schools and Grade 3, 4, and 5 at MES. It will

allow the District the flexibility to deliver the consistent and high quality education to all students.

A no vote would keep the current assignment that MES students in K through grade 5 would attend MES and Blackstone students in K through 5 would attend JFK and AFM Elementary schools.

An informational video will air on cable on this topic. They may also have information nights.

Motion: It was moved by Mrs. Reggio, seconded by Mr. Chaplin and voted 7 in favor, 1 opposed – Mr. Wozniak to approve all students in Grades Pre-K through 5 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 2017-2018 school year.

Mr. Chaplin stated that this has been tried before but this is a different proposal. Back then they were separating grades and doing it based on geography. This is for grades being together, meaning all of one grade would be in one building.

Mr. Tringali – the driving force is to balance inequities in class sizes - this would not happen for FY17 but for FY18.

Discussion of sub-committees – Mrs. Greenstein – wants sub-committees that are doing something with a goal.

Mr. Tringali stated that in the next few months the sub-committees will take a back seat to everything else happening.

Dr. Perry Davis is Interim Executive Director of MARS (Mass. Association of Regional Schools) and they are meeting the first week in March. They will discuss Common Core vs. Mass Frameworks and PARCC vs. MCAS. Superintendent Himmelberger will report back on it.

Mr. Chaplin – Resolution calling for the full funding of the Foundation Budget Review Commission's Recommendations-

1. The cost of providing a quality education has increasingly been borne by local communities, most often at the expense of other vital municipal operations.
2. Investing in education today leads to higher incomes, and thus less investment in police, prisons, subsidized health care, low income housing, welfare, etc. in the future.
3. State and local economies are most effectively strengthened "by investing in education and increasing the number of well educated workers.

Motion: It was moved by Mr. Chaplin, seconded by Mr. Tringali and unanimously voted that the Blackstone-Millville Regional District School Committee calls on the Massachusetts Legislature and the Governor of Massachusetts to fully fund and adopt the recommendations of the Foundation Budget Review Commission in the immediate future.

He would like good representation on the Day on the Hill.

The formula being used is wrong and needs to change.

We can't keep being second fiddle.

They need to do better than what they are doing.

We need to hold our Representatives accountable. They work for us. Everyone is being unified.

Report of the Assistant Superintendent –

Dr. Thomson spoke on the next Professional Development Day which will be held on March 11th and will be the last of the school year.

There were no items for **Public Forum**.

School Committee Forum

Mrs. Jarret- thank you to 4th graders for their wonderful presentations - So nice to see they use the technology given them-

Mrs. Reggio – echos the congratulations on the 4th grade presentation – thank you to the audience – wants to return this by going to the Town meetings - fundraising going on to get money for the students and programs in schools-

Mr. Chaplin – echo presentation tonight –

Mrs. Greenstein – so glad to see town representation here at the meetings - important to know what's going on –

Mrs. Larkin – Successful Supper with the Super at the Middle School – concerns – would like more information given to the younger kids regarding what goes on at the High School.

Mr. Tringali – Home Show held from 4:00 to 9:15 at the BMR High School on Saturday, February 27th. We have a revenue problem in the District, not a spending problem.

Mr. Wozniak – Asked if there is a cost to get in to the home show. Yes there is, students are five dollars and all events are held indoors. He feels it is so important to talk about the budget and start communication by having debates – All members are

accessible so if there are questions please contact him and please get involved. We need to transfer energy and enthusiasm.

Mrs. Vinacco – thank you –she would like to see all members attend the Finance Committee meeting - March 10th budget adoption –

There were no items for Executive Session this evening.

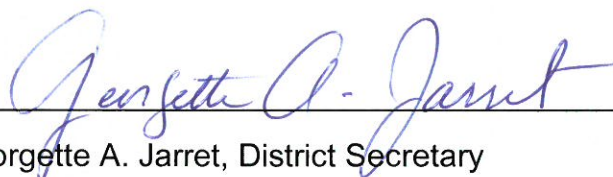
Motion: It was moved by Mr. Chaplin, seconded by Mrs. Greenstein and unanimously voted to adjourn the School Committee meeting at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Monique F. Simard, Recording Secretary

ATTEST:



Georgette A. Jarret, District Secretary

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