

**School Committee Meeting
January 28, 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
Steven J. Tringali, Member
John M. Wozniak, Member
Tara L. Larkin, Member
William F. Chaplin, Jr., Member

Georgette A. Jarret, District Secretary was absent from the meeting.

Also in attendance were Superintendent, Allen W. Himmelberger and Assistant Superintendent, David Thomson, Ed.D.

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States was recited.

Eric Eisner gave a sports update. Basketball continues and they are doing well. Boys won the Dual Valley conference. The Stampede has come to BMR for the basketball games.

Griffin Reilly spoke about the Student Council book of excellence which is a lot of work but they are wrapping it up. The Home Show with Winter Percussion and Winterguard will be held on February 27 at 4 p.m. at BMR. Senior class fundraisers are underway – 69 school days left for seniors.

Motion: It was moved by Mrs. Reggio, seconded by Mr. Chaplin and unanimously voted to approve Consent Agenda A which includes Warrants, Use of Facilities and Minutes of January 14th and 20th.

Report of the Superintendent

Mr. Himmelberger wants to let folks know that he will be out meeting with parents, students and staff to discuss education in our District. It will take place on February 8th at the Hartnett Middle School at 6:00 p.m. and at the High School at 6:30 p.m. on February 10th.

They will have a meal provided by the food service staff. Questions, concerns, comments and feedback will be entertained.

Mrs. Braverman gave a recap on Special Education.

She looked at trends for FY15, 16 and 17.

They will be adding a wheelchair van. This will mean a neutral cost savings in this area for transportation.

The IEP meeting dates and times were at the will of the parents which is not an efficient way to utilize substitute teachers.

She has asked team chairs to be more efficient in scheduling these appointments. They will load subs in the building and use them consecutively during the day. They will call parents before team meetings to confirm that they are coming and then secure the sub.

Out of District tuition is a major portion of the Special Education Budget. There are 22 students in out of district settings. Seven of the students are in a private school setting and 15 students are in the collaborative setting.

Mrs. Braverman went to the Bi-County Collaborative and stated that the rates are not public right now. These figures will be made available shortly. It is looking like they will be level funded for now.

Mrs. Brown, Mrs. Desai and Dr. Haughey

All three principals presented together.

They look forward to addressing the needs and talk about what goes on in the buildings.

They are expecting 5 sections (over 100 students) for Kindergarten at the Complex next year.

This is the first year of the co-teaching initiative. They are working hard and planning. They have met through the year to talk about the strength of the model. They have implemented the Envisions Math program this year. It is a research based math program aligned to common core standards. The students are more engaged and they are using math vocabulary and work in groups to talk about math and not just do math. They are continuing with the program as well as the Professional Development for teachers. The online resource helps the parents to help their children. Children show pride and success with complex concepts. Parent resources are in a video component. It offers various strategies to problem solve. They have a variety of ways to problem solve. The level of engagements is great. They commend teachers for their commitment and hard work.

Literacy Teachers for Teachers initiative grades 3 through 5 continues this year.

They have opened their book room. They are inventorying the books they have and what they need. They had a gaping hole for non-fiction books. Once the bookroom was up and running then you can refine it.

The reading specialist, Mrs. Allard has done a wonderful job.

The question was raised on how is the book room different from the library? Mrs. Reggio is looking for a good argument for still continuing to use the library. The library is more free style reading and the reading room is more focused.

There are many different levels of readers. Teachers can find books that are high interest and on level with their abilities. This is the reason for the reading room. Students can decide if it's a just right book for the student and it is guided by the teacher.

The Complex will not purchase more books for next year. They want to look at what they have and then decide.

Millville will use \$10,000 next year for the non-fiction books.

Mr. Wozniak just wants the numbers. He doesn't want to have to drag the numbers out.

Mrs. Vinacco said that many times people need information on what they are proposing.

At the February 11th meeting the draft budget will be distributed.

Mr. Wozniak feels that you need to bring in the information and ask for what you need for next year and also bring the numbers for the budget for next year.

Mr. Chaplin feels that they should give information on how things are going earlier in the year. By this time we should have the numbers for what they want for next year. The disconnect is that when they give the needs they should be giving the numbers as well.

Reading Specialist Proposal

The reading specialist could give students and teachers support. Right now they each have a reading specialist. They need more help with the reading specialist intervention piece. They need another full time teacher. They need the ability to give targeted instruction. They have a true need to get them to the next literacy level.

Dr. Thomson stated that we are not using these people effectively. They don't have time to collaborate with the teacher and they are very talented people and we are not using them effectively. They are missing out on utilizing this person correctly.

1. Continue with the literacy initiative
2. Have the reading specialist be a reading specialist

It comes down to priority. How do you prioritize them. This is Mrs. Brown's 6th year without a reading specialist. She needs this. Most school Districts have them.

Dr. Haughey feels you need to put funds into general education so that they do not end up needing special education assistance.

They are telling them what they need and the Committee needs to tell them what they can have.

PLC time is essential for all teachers on every level.

They want a collaborative professional time. They want to take away the recess monitoring time for teachers. They would like to hire 2 resource monitors 2 hours a day so they can be there for the students recess. They could create the ability to establish professional time and give them time to work together for 30 minutes daily. They do not have time in their schedule right now for this.

They are asking for full time kindergarten aides for next year. They need 5 full time aides at JFK and 2 in Millville.

Millville is working with the Board of Selectmen to get some punch list projects taken care of on the roof projects.

Mr. Himmelberger gave everyone information on the state budget. Many things are in play for January through April when the budget will come out. State revenues increased at 4.3 percent. A 4.5 billion dollar account in our Districts received \$72 million dollars. They hope the house will increase it. The Governor mentioned that there would be no new taxes. A \$500 million dollar gap will result from this. We will wait and see how this all plays out. Good news on the Kindergarten grant which is being revamped and the possibility of \$350 per student.

He will have the budget to them very soon.

Mr. Chaplin sent out an email to everyone to make a motion and vote on tonight regarding the additional language proposed around regional transportation. The Mass. Association of Regional Schools wants the District to make a motion that you are opposed to them adding the additional wording "subject to appropriation". The District would be opposing the provisions of section 173.

Motion: It was moved by Mr. Chaplin, seconded by Mrs. Reggio and unanimously voted to oppose the provisions of section 173 HD 4338 adding the 3 words "subject to appropriation" and to recommend that they e-mail their legislators that they are opposed to the provisions of section 173.

Regional schools must supply a bus seat to all students. We cannot charge families for busing. Regional schools must abide by the current law that says that you must provide a bus seat to all students. Towns like Bellingham do not have to do this if they are not regionalized.

Mr. Tringali stated that we cannot charge anyone for busing. We must have a seat for all students on the bus and even if their parents take them to school every day we must still give them a seat. This is the reason you sometimes see buses that are not full.

Dr. Perry Davis is the new executive director of the Mass. Association of Regional Schools who is leading the charge on this.

Motion: It was moved by Mr. Chaplin, seconded by Mrs. Reggio and unimously voted to have Mr. Chaplin draft a legislative note and tweeting it out and blogging it on our Facebook page regarding their thoughts on opposing the provisions of Section 173.

There were no items for **Public Forum**

School Committee Forum

Mrs. Larkin – she is looking for a JFK fence update – Mr. Himmelberger stated that if Pre-K went to JFK they would need a larger fence that would circle around and enclose the playground. Ideally they would completely enclose the playground.

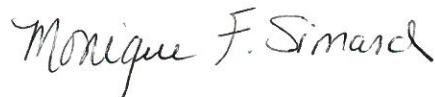
Mr. Tringali wants to know if the principals feel a fence is warranted.

Mr. Himmelberger does not want to speak for them but to completely enclose the playground would be ideal.

At the upcoming meeting they will have 3 or 4 years of budget history with major initiatives that are new and to be funded for next year. A 3 year trend with this year's actuals and what they are looking at for next year will also be included.

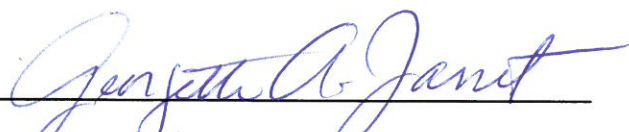
Motion: It was moved by Mr. Wozniak, seconded by Mrs. Greenstein to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 p.m. and to go into Executive Session for Unit A negotiations and not to come back to the regular meeting. This was followed by a roll call vote.

Respectfully submitted,



Monique F. Simard, Recording Secretary

ATTEST:


Georgette A. Jarret, District Secretary