

**School Committee Meeting  
January 20, 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

Mr. Wozniak was absent from the meeting.

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.

**Recognition by Superintendent Himmelberger to Dr. Kathy Boisvert**

Ms. Boisvert received an honor for building classrooms in Turks and Caicos. She was the recipient of the 2016 CEC Clarissa Hug Teacher of the Year award. She was nominated by her colleagues from the Hope Foundation for Autism Awareness and for all of her hard work and due diligence in building classrooms for their young children. Congratulations on a job well done.

The Charger Marching Band members were in attendance led by Mr. Shafer. It was an incredible experience for our students and community – congratulations on winning the national championship this fall. They received an award of recognition yesterday at the State House of Representatives. All of the students went down to the house chamber.

There were no items for **Public Forum**

**Report of the Superintendent**

This is Part 2 of a 3 part series to present the budget needs-

**Mr. Cameron and Mr. Dudek-**

**Achievements**

**Mr. Dudek –**

Current budget –

**A.P. initiative** – They made a \$10,000 investment this year as well as greater P.D. opportunities, 5 teachers went to the AP summer workshop, greater number of AP certified teachers, AP sections went from 4 to 9 and 90 plus students are experiencing AP classes.

Student Council is the silver award recipient. Eric Eisner is the MA state president.

Marching Band makes them extremely proud.

NEASC visit this year. It was a positive visit. They are still awaiting the results of the visit. Highlights are the positive school culture, commitment of teachers and relationship with their students.

They hired a new Science teacher and now have a new television station, new cameras and video equipment.

They have data to drive instruction, curriculum mapping and PSAT 's for sophomores.

**Music Dept. -Todd Shafer, Music Director**– Asking for extra-curricular music supplies – some instruments need replacing and the writing of fall show music. This would be an additional \$3400 from last year.

**Athletics- Jill Tosti , Athletic Director** – There has been a request to keep the fitness room open after school. She would like to have a Fitness after school director in the budget. Student as well as athletes want to use it after school. The cost would be a \$2500 stipend.

Mr. Tringali asked if they could get an attendance update in a year from now.

Uniform cycle – they try to update old uniforms every year. This year they purchased girls soccer uniforms and middle school basketball uniforms. This budget they are looking for baseball uniforms and additional warm-ups.

Mrs. Greenstein questioned ordering the warm-ups before the JV Baseball uniforms. She wants the teams to be put together and be sure that all the uniforms are all the same and they look cohesive.

The boys indoor track team are in championships. Girls had a great season as well. The track program is improving. The dedication that students have is wonderful.

Mrs. Reggio asked if there are any soccer camps or activities in the works to promote interest in the program which seems to be down a bit.

They have a co-op with football. Bellingham dropped us in hockey. We no longer have the hockey program or the interest. She hasn't looked for another option.

She is looking into a lacrosse co-op. She is trying to determine what the students have an interest in.

Mrs. Greenstein wants to be proactive in hockey and find out how many middle schoolers coming up would be interested in the hockey program in the future.

Mr. Shafer will keep the same amount of marching band shows next year as they had this year. The Gator Bowl is still open for them if they want to participate in it.

**Mr. Cameron and Mr. Dudek –**

The High School Library/Media Communication specialist is needed and requested for the FY17 budget. It will help with the integration of technology to help students and teachers to understand where they are going with technology. They need help to manipulate what is out there.

The High School Initiatives are 1 to 1 learning, Charger Strong Program, Freshman Orientation, School wide use of Rubrics, peer to peer observations, AP Mass insight and STEM programs.

After school activities they are looking for are Outside Internships for students, Humanities Scholars, Robotics Competition, Leadership Conference, Art and photography Awards, State Recognized student Council, National Honor Society, SADD, Yearbook, Newspaper, Ski Club and Class Officers.

He is looking for the Library Media Specialist and Technology Teacher as well as another AP instructor.

The AP enrollment for new AP Chemistry has 11 students and Physics has 10 students.

Ideally they would like a 1 on 1 learning with Chromebooks. They would rather receive Chromebooks in their department than other things. They still want to renew textbooks as well.

Mrs. Reggio feels we have a level one high school and she is amazed they do not have the Chromebook program. We are increasing rigor and need to continue with the technology improvements.

Mr. Chaplin also realizes that they need to upgrade the science labs. What they have now is enough to get them through according to Mr. Dukek, however, they are completely outdated.

Mr. Chaplin wants to see a Stem program at the High School.

Mrs. Greenstein is wondering what the teachers are using to support the classroom. The teachers have computers in the classrooms. They have Google in the classrooms. They have a good amount of knowledge in this area. They have Google leaders in place.

Dr. Thomson feels the Library/Media person is key.

Mr. Cameron feels it is wonderful under the leadership of Dr. Thomson and Osiris Gonzalez. The teachers and students are ready for the Chromebooks. He feels that starting kids with Chromebooks in 8<sup>th</sup> grade and bringing them up to the High School with them is a great first step. With Chromebooks you are eliminating some textbooks and are current with the information.

Mr. Cameron thanks the Committee for their continued support with the Teaming Concept at the Middle School. If the day comes that they remove the teams they would become a true Junior High School with a completely different philosophy.

He also asks to continue the after school programs at the Middle School. He feels this differentiates our school with other Middle Schools and parents are very interested in it for their children.

His Stars section will be brief but he would be glad to ask the leaders of this program back to another meeting to make a more formal presentation. The program costs \$ 7.62 per student. If they were to get the Stars program they want it would increase the cost to about \$23 per student. There are also amounts in between the two. Each student has a license to have an account. They can see how each student in the building is doing regarding the MCAS testing and state standards. The fact that they have real data drives their discussion at the middle school. Before this year the discussions that were happening were just stories of students struggling. It is different now with Stars Assessments. The core teachers get real time data to evaluate and change the curriculum when a student is struggling and not performing well on the Stars Assessments. They want to open up a better Stars platform.

They are targeting students that need intervention during the school day. The Stars platform helps students with intervention. They have 5 enrichment classes in 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade and 4 intervention classes in 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade. They are targeting both the struggling and high achieving students.

If a student is not in enrichment and in intervention they are connecting with their parents and making a recommendation. They are not in a study class.

Mr. Tringali would like to address the turnover in staff. How can we stop this in the future?

Mr. Cameron feels many times if a teacher resigns it is that they are getting more money elsewhere. They are usually getting \$5,000 more in another district. We seriously need to look at where the teachers start with their salary.

Mrs. Reggio feels that they need to address this but we do not have the funds in either Blackstone or Millville to support these increases. She wonders if we should push to up the salaries of current staff instead of hiring new teachers in the areas of technology and media.

Mr. Himmelberger knows that they cannot make up this ground in one year. It takes time. We are moving in the right direction and he hopes they can continue in the right direction. We are not perfect but are getting better every day.

Mrs. Vinacco applauds the effort that went into the International Space Station contact. It made the front page of the newspaper and she was able to see the tweet from the astronauts. She sees all they are doing but to experience it brings it closer. Thank you for that.

It was the highlight of 16 years of education for Mr. Cameron.

Mr. Dudek appreciates the kind words. What keeps them going is hearing positive feedback. He feels so many great things happen in the school district. What do I feel when I walk into a building in a community. Money and technology are important but the school concept with phenomenal teachers who want to push students to be all they can be is important.

**Superintendent's evaluation –**

Mrs. Vinacco stated that we have not recognized him enough and they want to change that.

**Ratings:**

Instruction quality of effort and work – Rating 85.7% proficient – we are finally building and putting together a team.

Data informed decision making – Rating 71.43% proficient

Law ethics and policies – sound judgment – 71.43% proficient

Budget that aligns with the Districts missions and goals – 71.4% proficient

Family and community engagement – Proficient –He is building a strong community and has done a very good job in these areas.

Mrs. Reggio commented that overall he was seen as exemplary. There were only a few areas of needs improvement.

The open door policy is working well.

Management conflict resolution – 85% proficient

Managing Conflict and Consensus Building – 42.86% proficient and needs improvement at 42.86%.

He has a good balance of accountability and support. He makes his decisions on what is best for students.

This will be available to the public. The overall rating is Proficient Range. Proficient is not meant to be negative in anyway.

Mr. Chaplin stated that we need to talk about human capital on the next agenda for Executive Session.

All committee members are happy with his performance and no one is disappointed.

Mr. Himmelberger said he appreciates the hard work the Committee put into his evaluation. The students are terrific. When a day is not going smoothly there is nothing better than talking with the students. He wants to tell parents they have terrific students.

Our Towns can be a challenge to work with . He has nothing but cooperation and respect when working with them. He will always be accessible and accountable. He looks forward to continue delivering the

best education for all and move forward. The team is starting to really come together. We can't do our jobs if someone else is not doing there's. You rely on everyone's input in the District.

There were no items for **Public Forum**

**School Committee Forum**

Mr. Tringali – thank the band for coming out tonight and principals for their presentations.

Mrs. Reggio – Moving in the right direction and thank Dr. Thomson for his input as well. Wishes all Athletic teams success.

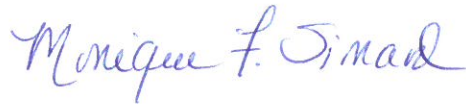
Mr. Chaplin – Recognize Dr. Boisvert for her hard work.

Mrs. Vinacco – thanks for the band coming out. Jackets are being purchased for the students who do not have them and patches for those who do.

The Committee will meet again next Thursday, January 28th for the last budget presentation.

**Motion:** It was moved by Mrs. Greenstein, seconded by Mrs. Reggio and unanimously voted to adjourn the School Committee meeting.

Respectfully submitted,



Monique F. Simard, Recording Secretary

ATTEST   
Georgette A. Jarret, District Secretary