

**School Committee Meeting
January 14, 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
John M. Wozniak, Member
Tara L. Larkin, Member
William F. Chaplin, Jr., Member

Also in attendance was Superintendent, Allen W. Himmelberger and Assistant Superintendent, 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 Mr. Chaplin and unanimously voted to approve Long and DiPietro, attorneys from Hingham, MA for legal services as needed for the Blackstone-Millville Regional School District.

There were four retirees present at the meeting. They were Cassie Foley, Margaret Lane, Ann Ruscitti and Sharon Goldstein. Each retiree chose a book to be donated to the library of their choice.

Superintendent Himmelberger gave each a bouquet of flowers and thanked them for their service and dedication to the District and it's students. They provided consistent professionalism. He wishes them nothing but the best in their retirement.

There were no items for Public Forum

Report of the Student Representatives

Griffin stated that students are cracking down for exams. His Calculus class had a speaker come in today. National honor society – give up their studies and tutor people – Empty bowl dinner will be held on February 11th. The NHS make bowls, those who attend eat soup and are entertained by the Jazz Band. All proceeds go to the food pantry. Student council pep rally was held and all had a great time and enjoyed a ton of spirit and competition. Seniors were the winning class. State conference will be held the first week of March and 12 students will go. They will have three great motivational speakers.

Eric – The Boys basketball team is off to a slow start, the girls team is doing great – the fan section is called the Stampede- Track has been doing well and are undefeated. They have a DVC meet tomorrow in Northbridge at 3:30.

The Marching Band has been invited to go to the Statehouse where they will be recognized for their accomplishment. It is a wonderful opportunity.

Band organizations are in the practice stage. Students are hard at work practicing. The jazz band has received help from very good jazz instructors.

Planning senior class trip – The prom will be held at the Pleasant Valley Country Club in Sutton. They will hold a Matchmaker fundraiser which is a fun way to raise money for the class. Mr. BMR will be held in March. Trees were cleared away around the Rock and a controlled fire was started to remove the brush.

Motion: It was moved by Mr. Wozniak, seconded by Mrs. Vinacco and unanimously voted to approve Consent Agenda A in its entirety.

Report of the Superintendent

Superintendent Himmelberger discussed the Bi-County Collaborative quarterly report. He feels they have a strong relationship with the Collaborative. They are currently renting classrooms in the District and he feels they may expand to other schools in the District as well.

We now have cable at the High School. Mr. Juba and Mr. Gaudet furnished curriculum to put in a television studio at the high school. It was voted unanimously by the Board of Selectman to give 60,000 in cable funds to the program.

Mr. Chaplin would like to add that every year they need to add on to it.

School choice enrollment – Our enrollment is down a bit from last year. They feel that the more offerings they can have for students could keep students here instead of opting to leave the District.

Most districts in the Commonwealth have declining enrollment.

Norfolk Agricultural School is currently \$22,000 per student, per year. BVT is our main vocational school. You can go to other schools if BVT does not offer the certain program you are looking for. If they are not accepted to BVT they can go to the other schools. There are restrictions from the Dept. of Education to allow us to have a vocational program within the school.

We don't have the ability to compete with these schools. We would need to seek a waiver to keep these kids here.

There are a few schools that still have everything under one roof but it is very costly.

You can only offer the students a better educational product and make them want to stay here.

Mr. Himmelberger delivered this opening day speech and he told the staff to upgrade our curriculum, etc. and not worry about everybody else, but worry about us.

When you invest in your educational program you are saving money in helping to stop students from wanting to leave the school district.

Our High School is currently at a level one status. We want to get the word out to everyone. We are improving every year.

We want to bring in more and more activity.

He would like to see Mr. Goulet, Guidance Director at the High School come here and tell us how much money our students are getting in scholarship funds. Demonstrate the impact the dollars make.

He thanks representatives Ryan Fattman and Kevin Kuros for setting up the recognition for our marching band.

He welcomes anyone who wants to come in to have a conversation around the budget. He would like to exchange ideas moving forward.

Wen Cobb, Business Manager

Report on financials - 2nd quarter revenue and expenditure report as of Dec. 31 2015- The revenue to date is at 23 million dollars. School Choice is a deficit. Other revenue received about 12.5 million.

Year to date expenditure – we have a healthy balance. Comments on accounts – we need to keep some accounts open. Hold off to April 1st to propose a movement in the budget.

Out of District Special Education transportation has been overspending. The deficit in our Out of District Collaborative education will be offset by Circuit Breaker.

We have revenues of 23 million and we are spending 21 million. Members want to know why we are off.

It is a rolling 3 years. There are a lot of moving parts to a school budget. We are well positioned now for going into the third quarter. Special Education is impossible to forecast. Now we have students who move around and may come to our school district and need a lot of care or are sent out to an out of district school. Health insurance benefit costs and special education are volatile and hard to predict.

They needed subs this year to cover leaves of absences and maternity leaves.

Loretta Braverman- Special Education –

Improve academic achievement – not meeting their MCAS targets.

Maximizing the potential of students who require the sub separate.

Instill in the group resiliency and fortitude. Positive environments. Students feel safe, supported and welcomed.

They have stations that are set up that grab the students attention.

The BCBA Rebecca Ryan is wonderful at what she does. She works to try and integrate the student.

The students are making effective progress. They utilize the coping strategies in that environment. Social emotional classroom students who have had depression, anxiety , trauma at an early age and are very fragile kids.

Autistic students are in the pragmatic classroom.

Concern - what is the curriculum and is it robust enough in the social emotional classroom?

She listed all the curriculum that these students are engaged in.

They would like to offer more of the science centers.

Mrs. Greenstein wants to know if we are reaching all of the students in the room like the Bi-County Collaborative school would?

They stacked the classroom with curriculum and sensory materials. You would never think this is a year one classroom.

Teachers are seeing how they can utilize the BCBA (Board Certified Behavior Analyst) teacher, Mrs. Ryan. She works in any school that needs her.

Pragmatic classroom for autism- Maximizing their ability to stick to routine. They use their visual memory. They are visual learners. They think logically. Honest and strait forward. Intense focus on tasks. At the complex – sub separate classroom. They are woven into inclusion when they feel it is appropriate.

They need to develop the classroom at the Middle school. It looks different when they get to the High School. They are more high functioning here.

There is a BICO course coming up soon. They need the ABA techs to take this class. It will cost \$400 dollars.

Inclusion – universal design as a learning approach.

Essentials language based classroom – ½ of the special education students have a problem with language.

Tier 3 curriculum to address it.

Read 180 for grades 4 through 12. The cost of the program Districwide is \$60,000. She is proposing that they look at and pilot the program in one building. She built \$17,000 in the budget for one school for next year. They will need to decide where they will pilot the program

based on the need. Read 180 does an analysis of where the students reading level is. They have books and they level those readers.

Mr. Wozniak feels we should have this conversation at a later time when they have more realistic numbers.

In the next 3 meetings they are bringing us their needs. Eventually the numbers will be there.

On February 11th you will have a draft budget in your hands.

They have \$469,000 in grants. If enrollment continues to decline these numbers will be lower. This is one of the reasons that special education is difficult to budget.

They have saved \$500,000 due to keeping students here in the District and not sending them out.

They cannot ignore taking into account all of the factors that go into the cost of having this classroom. Mr. Wozniak feels they are underestimating the money they are spending.

If they had taken the 12 students and sent them to Out of District schools they would have spent \$500,000 more.

The projected budget amount was given. See the last page of her report for the figures.

She is looking at how it will tax teachers to learn another program and she wants to pilot the program and start small.

The Committee can cut somewhere if they need to.

Mrs. Greenstein was looking for a more detailed request. Knowing that they have a new special education program there are things that need to be added and tweaked.

She would like to come up with a better way to use substitute teachers. When there is an IEP meeting they should be able to work it out better.

They are also looking at going to Bi-County collaborative for transportation bidding.

Dr. Thomson and Osiris Gonzalez – Curriculum and Technology Report

Dr. Thomson gave the curriculum needs update. They need to get rigor up in our Math program. Stars is a computer based benchmarking assessment for \$40,000, the middle school math series for \$17,000 and an elementary math series for \$34,000.

They have the capability to push this out to the chrome books. They have labs in the elementary school.

The teachers will have the opportunity to identify what they will need to supplement in the books.

Professional Development needs-

Curriculum design mapping - 5,000
Mass Insight A.P.grant - 10,000
Math instruction professional development - 9,000
Literacy professional development - 38,000
Google leader training - 1100
Teaching strategies – 1450
Mentoring - 24,000

Technology needs-

One to one chromebook - 103,500
Mobile management software chromebooks - 5700
Aspen X2 IMS curriculum mapping - 4500
Smartboards replacements - 7,000
Smartboard projector replacement - 20,000
Virtual high school continuation of program – 17,100

We have been on a track of a 3 to five year plan and every year we are updating.

Elementary students are not left out. They do not always need the computer at this level.

The learning changes at the Middle and High School level.

Networking Update – Osiris Gonzalez

Phase 1 – Fiber wiring in all buildings

Phase 1.2 – upgrade networking and wireless in all buildings

Phase 2 – Quotes from vendors for external fiber connections. E-rate would subsidize 50% of the cost.

Phase 3 – Migrate phones for analog to a new phone system.

Implementation of new website

Printer scanner fleet fully deployed

Additional person in technology department

NEASC- Rubrics for schoolwide learning

Superintendent Evaluation – will be continued to the meeting held next Wednesday.

School Committee Forum –

Mr. Chaplin – he is glad to be back

Mrs. Reggio – Thanks the AOK club for the cards they sent to the School Committee members

Mrs. Jarret - welcome back Mr. Chaplin

Mr. Tringali – Congratulations to the retirees and welcome back to Mr. Chaplin

Mrs. Larkin – best wishes to the band and have fun at the Statehouse

Mrs. Vinacco – 6th grade science teachers – live chat invite.

Mrs. Greenstein – the next meeting will be held on January 20th.

Motion: It was moved by Mr. Chaplin, seconded by Mrs. Reggio and followed by a role call vote to adjourn the meeting at 10:12 p.m. and enter into Executive Session to discuss union matters, not to return to the regular meeting.

Respectfully submitted,



Monique F. Simard, Recording Secretary

ATTEST:


Georgette A. Jarret, District Secretary