

**School Committee Meeting
September 22, 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
Jane C. Reggio, Treasurer
Tara L. Larkin, District Secretary
William F. Chaplin Jr., Member
Jo-Anne Watson, Member
Steven J. Tringali, Member
Georgette A. Jarret, Member

Mrs. Greenstein 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 followed by a moment of silence for former BMR Principal Stephen Chrabaszcz who passed away recently.

Report of Student Representatives

Brittany – The Marching Band came in first at the Medford home show. Saturday is our home show at Medway High school.

Jack – BMMA – win a tractor donated by Stateline Auto with tickets to go on sale. The raffle will be in early November after the last marching band show.

Sports – 2 volleyball varsity wins. Cross country won this week.

There were no items for Public Forum.

Motion: It was moved by Mrs. Reggio, seconded by Mrs. Larkin and unanimously voted to approve the Warrants, Minutes of Sept. 8th meeting, Use of Facilities and Field Trip requests.

The Auditors Robert E. Brown and Sean Desorcy are here from R.E. Brown Company with information regarding the FY15 audit.

The change in the states entire pension unfunded liability had to be brought on the books 100%. It had an affect on the statements. Now it is just keeping up with it. It lowered the overall fund balance. They will also amend the post-employment benefits in the same way. This will happen in FY18. The liability is 100% on the books.

Teachers are waiting until they are closer to 65 to retire now.

As a result of the discussion of last year the person who takes in the money is not the one dealing with it on a daily basis.

Our bond rating depends on both of the towns. The rating agencies are looking at the Towns financial positions as well.

We are doing a far better job with Wen Cobb here. We are heading in the right direction.

The Superintendents evaluation and goals

All Committee members have had a chance to review the Survey Monkey which was part of the meeting packet at the Sept. 8th meeting. It has to be a public evaluation.

They are going to meet in Executive Session after the next meeting to discuss this.

Standard 1 - instructional leadership – Superintendent Himmelberger marked himself as needs improvement – 75% agree with needs improvement and 25% voted him as proficient.

Standard 2 – Student learning goals –Increased rigor at all grade levels - 12.5% did not meet standards– 37.5% some progress - 12.5% significant progress and 37.5% met the goal.

District improvement goal – Math program - 12.5% significant progress - 75% met the standard - 12.5% exceeded the standard.

District Improvement Special Education positive trend in MCAS scores – 14.29% did not meet standard - 71.4% made some progress - 14.29% made significant progress.

Standard 2 management of operations – 100% proficient

District Improvement Wireless technology – 12.5% some progress - 87.5% met the goal.

Standard 3 community engagement – learning of growth in students and staff – 12.5% unsatisfactory - 75% Proficient - 12.5% Exemplary.

Professional practice goal – 25% did not meet - 50% some progress - 12.5% significant progress - 12.5% met the standard.

Professional culture goal – 12.5% needs improvement - 75% profient - 12.5% Exemplary

They need to come to a consensus on all of the goals as a Committee.

Mrs. Vinacco dropped the high and low to get a better look at the average with the help of survey monkey.

They may need to have a discussion on some of them to come to a consensus.

When we had a meeting in Millville we were given all of the data and statistics. They need to keep the goals in front of them as the year goes and make mental notes of it. It is not the responsibility of the Superintendent to come with a data book. It is the duty of the Committee to keep records of what has been met along the way. When things are not met then they can give him areas that need improvement. You give him guidance and direction.

Concern is the balance between supporting all of the goals with artifacts as they go along the way. Some of what he does is public but some is also private.

Mrs. Vinacco feels that we should not have to ask for it. If he knows what they are looking for he should at some point have given them the information that they asked for along the way.

Mr. Chaplin would add that there should be meetings throughout the year on the off weeks to go over this as well.

Mr. Tringali feels some goals are a mess and too broad and need to be refined. The AP courses should be the responsibility of the School Committee to carve out the money for them.

Mrs. Reggio stated that this has been a learning process. Kudos to Mrs. Greenstein who has tried to be on top of it.

The proficiency of each goal was discussed with the members of the Committee.

Goal #1 – needs improvement

Goal #2 – 2 highs and 2 lows – need discussion – the way it was done on survey monkey it came to Needs Improvement.

Goal # 3 – 75% met the goal – they are in agreement

Goal #4 – Some Progress

Goal #5 – 100% proficient

Goal #6 – 87% met – the goal is considered as met

Goal #7 – proficient –

Goal #8 – some progress

Goal #9 – proficient

The sub-committee met with Superintendent Himmelberger on the goals for next year.

Some goals are repeated from last year and may be refined more clearly. We may need to have a discussion on whether it is too much for one person to do. We need to be sure it is fluid. If it is met we get the evidence for it. The sub-committee must stay on top of these things.

Big Ideas math program in grade 6 at the middle school. Sample curriculum to be shared. We would like to see if the students use the chromebooks specific to grades 9 and 10. Update in January and June. When they lost the technology director the boxes were not opened until this week.

Mr. Tringali – goals to improve student learning. Actions are to train the teachers. They need to pre and post assess the students in some way. How will they know if they have improved their learning. We need to add an assessment component to it. Change assessment to curriculum and also to align the curriculum. They will call it instructional delivery. The wording is changed to align curriculum and improve instructional delivery.

Mrs. Reggio wants parents to get involved somehow. Data showing how many classes utilized. We want to see the usage with the chrome books. We need to see improvement on them.

Mr. Chaplin – at the end of June we are going to have information around how it was rolled out, how it was used and an end of the year report. If 50% of the classes used it, this does not negate the whole goal. He is leery about putting 50% or 90% growth.

Mrs. Reggio wants to see usage in chromebooks that allows us to create another goal for next year. We have to get it in and get them using it and improve their learning.

Mr. Tringali – agrees chrome books are a tool but not student learning. Student learning needs to be data driven.

We need a better handle on how the special education department meets the needs of our students.

How do you measure it? This year we are not looking as much for improvement as we are looking for benchmarks for the future. We need an interim framework so that you can see the progress. Come up with a new plan for the weak areas. It's a goal in every school district. How do we enhance the special education learners and help them to meet their potential.

We don't know what the plan or the model is. We need to take a step back and define what the model is. Not just the special education administrator but all the leadership team needs to be involved. They need it on the front burner that they are getting updated on special education.

Mr. Chaplin feels that Special Education should have goals for the year and Superintendent Himmelberger should oversee those goals and report back to the School Committee. How will the leadership team analyze and prepare for the year? How do we enhance those struggling learners and help them to meet their potential?

We need to take a step back and ask them to define the model of special education and then they can measure and assess the progress on it.

The Superintendent will sit with Loretta Braverman, Special education director on this.

Assessment of student learning – The growth of the Stars program in grade six through nine- It got rave reviews and we have faith in what we put our money into. Is there a special learning plan if someone doesn't meet the goals? At least 50% of students will show significant growth. Define significant. The middle school is going to be a process. They have designed specific times to use the data. 50% of students are on target by mid- year and 80% by the end of the year. Benchmark will be based on middle school. 90% of students are on target by the end of the year.

Mr. Tringali wants to know what the results of last year were.

Standard 2 looks at the High School and Complex and uses the NESDEC report. Put the Superintendent in charge of approaching the Towns for maintenance and building updates. Some may be maintenance and some might be major capital purchasing.

Safety and security was added at the request of the School Committee – we have measures in place and town resource officers. Some is information that can be shared and some is private information. We are using the resource officers that the town is providing to us.

Fiscal system- Get a better handle on our budgeting process. Involve the towns and the Committee earlier on after the governor releases his budget. First 2 Saturdays in February but maybe it would read the first 2 Saturdays after the governor releases his budget. Looking for a 2% increase from the communities. The administrative team needs to wittle things down before it reaches the school committee. Rather than go to the towns with a 5% increase start with the 2.5 % increase and get the leadership team to do this early on.

Professional Culture –

We need to have a good understanding of our community.

Social media has become an avenue for people to complain. Members of the Committee try to answer all questions that arise but there are channels that must be followed and the chain of command needs to be followed. The Committee gets more from leadership on what they are doing in the schools and the needs of the students in our district as well. Attend meetings of various stakeholders.

Use One Call Now more often with important information and try to use it for positive things as well. The Superintendent stated that it should be used for a serious nature. They need to use another way for information to go out to the community. E-mail would work but do not overuse the One Call.

Mr. Chaplin stated that it is 50% of the responsibility to get the resources that are out there. There is a website where the parents, etc. can access these things. They need to take it upon themselves to find them as well.

Collecting the benchmarks - Mrs. Reggio feels it is the responsibility of the subcommittee.

Mrs. Vinacco feels they should have only one binder to use.

The way Mrs. Reggio perceives it is that the Superintendent presents them with information during the year. It is the evaluation sub- committees responsibility to place it in a binder and keep it.

Mrs. Vinacco was trying to make it easier by doing it herself. She feels 1 binder is sufficient or the sub-committee could do it. It does not have to be a binder but someone needs to be responsible for the tracking of all of this.

Mr. Chaplin asked why would the Superintendent be responsible for this? He feels it negates our responsibility to do our job as a school committee.

Mrs. Vinacco is requesting as the Chair so that she can keep it for the Committee that it be handed to her.

Mr. Chaplin feels you can make the request but it is the majority of the committee who makes the decision. What does the committee want?

Mrs. Vinacco's original request was to hold onto the information as it is presented through the year. She is offering to do this and she prefers it through a binder.

Mr. Chaplin – if she is proposing a decision take place he would like to take a vote on it.

When a teacher gets evaluated it is done 90% electronically.

Mr. Chaplin stated it could be a Google folder that the Superintendent slides it in.

Mrs. Vinacco feels it is our responsibility to take care of it.

Superintendent Himmelberger stated that it would be a challenge for him to keep a hard copy binder. He will keep a hard copy of things but not get 7 copies of it.

Mrs. Vinacco wants to take what is brought to the meeting and keep it in a binder for reference by the Committee and organization of the information.

Mrs. Reggio – MASC says it is the members responsibility to collect the evidence. It is not intended for the Superintendent to present his binder. It is intended to be a professional good set of evidence agreed upon in advance.

Mr. Vinacco- – compile the evidence in one folder for all members to use there will be no mistaking what the Superintendent did do during the course of the year.

Mrs. Reggio asked if there are to many things here for the goals?

They do not think there is anything to take out and leave it as is.

Report of the Superintendent –

This is the District improvement plan that the leadership team has worked on and it matches up with his goals. There are 5 and this is the work that we will do for this year:

1. Continue to refine and develop curriculum improvements to increase student achievement.
2. Improve delivery of special education services. Increase use of inclusive settings. Enhance co-teaching models.
3. Ensuring the social emotional well being of all students. All students not just those on IEP's. Many come with anxiety and depression and this gets in the way of their education. PBIS program is huge to this. All students know there are adults in their world during the day they can count on.
4. Integrate technology throughout curriculum and implement technology throughout the district. Continue on Google apps and chrome book initiative. Expanding rapidly how it is being used and what is being used. Online state testing initiative. Develop the digital citizenship in the District.
5. Continue to plan for renovations of JFK and AFM elementary and BMRHS. Great start with the NESDEC reports.

The budget got off to a dismal start. It is so important that we don't put ourselves in deficit to start the year. MES grade five teacher has been hired. All staff and classrooms are set. The MES building exudes the best of teaching.

Unit C negotiations are getting ready to open.

Report of the Assistant Superintendent

He had a great day witnessing the work of the Middle School Math.

Books have been passed out in 6th grade. Full introduction of on-line possibilities.

There will be a Professional Development day on October 7th on the Friday before Columbus Day weekend. Curriculum design process is the main training.

There were no items for Public Forum

School Committee Forum

Mrs. Reggio – started looking at School Committee policies. She realized that she can't do it and that we are way out of date and we need the MASC to help us for the \$10,000 fee. They have not been updated since 1996.

Motion: It was moved by Mrs. Reggio, seconded by Mrs. Larkin and unanimously voted to hire MASC to help us update polices and get us on track for a maximum of \$10,000 over 3 years. The funds will come from the school committee budget.

The mission statement was passed around by Mrs. Reggio. This is the strategic plan we should all look at. Feedback will be given at the next meeting.

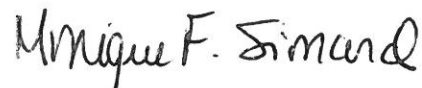
Dr. Thomson said many policies have been updated but are not in the policy manual.

Mr. Chaplin –we have a tremendous cross country team. Thanks Mr. Dudek for the communication that he has been giving in his Newsletter.

Mrs. Vinacco reminded everyone about the Marching Band home show to be held at Medway High School on Saturday.

Motion: It was moved by Mrs. Reggio, seconded by Mr. Tringali to enter into Executive Session at 9:15 p.m. for matters of union personnel and not to return to the regular meeting. This was followed by a roll call vote.

Respectfully Submitted,



Monique F. Simard, Recording Secretary

ATTEST:



Tara L. Larkin, District Secretary

