

**School Committee Meeting
November 13, 2014
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:

William F. Chaplin Jr., Chairman
Steven J. Tringali, Vice Chairman
Wendy L. Greenstein, Treasurer
Diane C. Robin, Member
Brian T. Faulkner, Member
Georgette A. Jarret, Member
Jane C. Reggio, Member

Absent from meeting was Erin P. Vinacco.

Also in attendance was Superintendent of Schools, Allen W. Himmelberger and Assistant Superintendent of Schools, David Thomson, Ed.D.

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

Student Representatives

Eric spoke on Soccer and Football. A student faculty field hockey game will be played next week. Parent teacher conferences were held today at the High School. The online sign up has been getting a great response.

Griffin spoke on Cross Country. The Juniors black light dance is tomorrow night. The National Honor society fundraiser is selling light bulbs and baked goods and Student Council is having a Pampered Chef fundraiser. The Pep rally is underway and the theme is Decades. The Marching Band national championship will be held on Saturday night at Metlife Stadium in New Jersey. The drama production Footloose will be held on November 22nd.

Motion: It was moved by Mrs. Robin, seconded by Mr. Tringali and unanimously voted to approve Consent Agenda A which includes warrants.

Motion: It was moved by Mrs. Robin, seconded by Mrs. Jarret and unanimously voted to approve the field trip requests.

Motion: It was moved by Mrs. Robin, seconded by Mrs. Greenstein and voted 6 to 1 (Mr. Chaplin abstained) to approved minutes for October 23rd.

Rachel Oliveira was recognized for her accomplishments. Mrs. Oliveira won the Louise Sublette Award of Leadership Excellence. It recognizes those closest to the school nutrition program.

She has done after school cooking classes. Her second chance breakfast model has helped her to win the award. At the Middle School the students can have breakfast in the café while listening to the morning announcements without going to homeroom. A video which is being used across the State highlights Mrs. Oliveira's program.

Jim Egghert, Accountant for the School District since 1987 spoke at the meeting. Mr. Egghert gave the financial status of the District. He stated that the reconciling in the District is done properly. E & D was certified at \$876,000.

They have engaged new auditors this year named Brown and Barrett. The end of the year report was filed timely and there were no issues there.

E & D is a topic everywhere. You can keep 5% of the next year's budget in E & D. Many Districts keep between 3 to 5 percent. Ours is about 3 percent of next year's budget. Mr. Egghert would like to see a policy set by the school committee to set the E & D amount. It is important that you get a capital plan together and have a committee to time their needs plan and work with the Superintendent and member towns to determine the timing of the costs and what needs to be done.

Governmental Accounting Standards Board requirements – procedures that municipalities must follow requiring school districts in 2015 to show their cost sharing pension obligations to retirees. They are looking at OPEB obligations growing and growing and Districts are getting a bit nervous.

Mr. Egghert put together pie charts to show the funding of the budget. Assessments have gone up since 2009. Chapter 70 money has been going down due to student population.

He put a schedule together for the fund balance and E & D and stated that the continuity is good. There are no deficits in revolving accounts.

The distribution of the money across the Commonwealth will be checked on when the formulas used are being assessed. It is a common understanding that Chapter 70 does not begin to address the current needs. It will be a few years before we see the results of this.

John Smolenski is here this evening – there is a grant that we can receive from the state with federal funds which has been on the states budget to advance rigor in the middle and high school.

Advance Placement defined – a university level freshman course that you take in high school.

Goals – they feel that many more of our students can take advantage of this program. A goal would be to add a second science to the A.P. classes. They can increase

performance and increase college success. They have been in over 100 schools and they would be thrilled to partner with us. Eighty five percent of the students that they help stay in school and pass.

They offer teachers from our schools advanced summer institutes.

They ask for open access. They ask that they loosen up on letting kids get into these A.P. classes. They offer Saturday student study sessions and mock exams.

They have visited our school already and they will make recommendations. The cost to the District is about a \$10,000 program fee.

They are largely funded by the Commonwealth now. They would like to be a line item in the budget. They are doing very well with this. This helps with college success.

You can add new courses or add additional sections of courses. A.P. Statistics is a very strong course. Calculus helps with college admissions. They want kids to get into the college they want to go to and do well when they are there.

It is a win-win situation. We will need to apply formally over the next few months. They are broadly supported by the legislature. They will have an academic pep rally in September. This program would take our A.P. classes from good to great.

Mrs. Greenstein feels that if they want our kids to take more A.P. classes they need to move the math requirements in High School from 3 to 4.

Jeff Stewart, general manager of International Power wants to donate \$22,000 to be used on the sports fields. Many businesses have charters that they need to donate back to the communities. Superintendent Himmelberger recommends accepting the donation and move forward. That donation is earmarked for the improvements on the baseball field.

Mrs. Greenstein would like to see a balance and earmark toward the softball field as well.

Mr. Tringali would like to light the field and be able to use BMR for our band home show.

Mrs. Reggio does not want to go back and ask the donator of the \$22,000 to change and give to softball as well. They have the right to give this money and have it used for baseball.

Mr. Chaplin stated that we need to plan for all of this over the next five years.

Motion: It was moved by Mrs. Reggio, seconded by Mrs. Robin and unanimously voted to accept the \$22,000 donation from International Power to be used on the BMR baseball field.

Report of the Superintendent

District Improvement Plan – Superintendent Himmelberger and Assistant Superintendent Thomson worked on this together. They need to focus on Mapping Curriculum Frameworks and bringing this up to par. This will be a two year plan to run through June of 2016.

They want to focus on the most important goals as follows:

1. Improve Curriculum
2. Continue to implement educator evaluation system
3. Expand co-teaching model and make sure they are providing access and supports for all students
4. Technology needs - new applications being used as part of the mainstream
5. Review and analyze the needs of the High School – windows, doors, floors and heating system which need updating

Superintendent Himmelberger requests that the School Committee adopt this. He wants everyone to march to the same goals. He feels our teachers are great. We need to provide the resources and support.

Motion: It was moved by Mrs. Robin, seconded by Mr. Faulkner and unanimously voted to adopt the District Improvement Plan as presented by the Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent.

Roof Project update

The Complex roof project has been closed out.

Asbestos – wants all to know that we have worked diligently with Tighe and Bond and have met all requirements. The 3 year report will be produced before Christmas and he feels good about the work that they have been doing.

MES is the last project. Bricks are here and installed. The punch list will be worked on next week.

He would like to look at alternative forms of energy to place on the roofs.

He is asking the School Committee for approval for 2 new accounts for non-resident tuition for students enrolling from other districts. The donation account needs a new account as well.

Motion: It was moved by Mr. Faulkner, seconded by Mr. Tringali and unanimously voted to set up new accounts for Non-resident tuition and for donations.

They are currently having conversations with MSBA to see what they will cover on the units on the Millville roof.

Report of the Assistant Superintendent

Dr. Thomson stated that Edwin teaching and learning are midway on their building based training. After the holidays they will start on the in-school training piece. Education Evaluation systems are district determined measures – someone is working on this with teachers and they are on task and on pace with this piece.

There were no items for 2nd Public Forum

School Committee forum

Mr. Tringali – good luck to the marching band this weekend.

Mr. Faulkner – worked the 20th anniversary of the Colonial Feast – great event – 5th graders serve the senior citizens.

Mrs. Reggio – wished her daughter happy birthday

Mrs. Jarret – met with her sons teachers today and it went great.

Mrs. Greenstein – thanked parents that came out for regional agreement meeting – small group – less than she expected –

Parents are concerned with students being dropped off at bus stops that are not residents. The School Committee now has survey monkey.

MASC conference – Mr. Chaplin attended – good networking – issues around funding and the formula – school law and arbitration findings presented - Wants MASC to come in and do a workshop on the superintendent evaluation. It has changed a bit on how you measure.

Motion: It was moved by Mrs. Robin, seconded by Mrs. Jarret and unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Monique F. Simard
Recording Secretary

ATTEST:



Erin P. Vinacco, District Secretary