

**School Committee Meeting
October 23, 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:

Steven J. Tringali, Vice Chairman
Wendy L. Greenstein, Treasurer
Erin P. Vinacco, District Secretary
Diane Robin, Member
Brian T. Faulkner, Member
Georgette A. Jarret, Member
Jane C. Reggio, Member

Chairman Chaplin was absent from the meeting. Mr. Tringali was acting chairman for this meeting.

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

Student Representatives-

Eric Eisner stated that the seniors will dress up on Halloween, parade around the school and have their own breakfast. There will be a black light dance coming up soon. Eric speaks for the student body when he says that it is a big downfall to have such a great library resource and not be able to tap into it because they do not have a full time librarian.

Griffin Reilly stated there will be powder puff football game coming up soon. It is a flag football game where girls can sign up and play. It is a tradition that started last year. They are currently clearing the rock near the baseball field and will burn the remaining brush. He also feels it is a problem not having a librarian.

Mr. Tringali stated that in order to continue with NEASC accreditation a librarian will be needed. This needs to be placed in the budget.

Superintendent Himmelberger feels this is a key position cut due to budget considerations and a critical staff position that they will do their best to restore next year.

Consent Agenda A –

Motion: It was moved by Mrs. Vinacco, seconded by Mrs. Robin and unanimously voted to approve the Payroll and Accounts Payable warrants.

The Minutes of Meeting of October 9th will be held as there are changes to be made to them.

Report of the Superintendent

It is a pleasure to welcome Principal Dudek along with high school senior Connor McNamara and his parents to recognize Connor's student achievement for academic excellence. Connor was chosen as this student and is currently ranked number one in his class while taking A.P. courses. Connor will attend a luncheon with Superintendent Himmelberger at the Hogan Center at the College of the Holy Cross on January 6th with other recipients of the award. Connor plans on studying Computer Science or Engineering. He is interested in W.P.I., M.I.T., and UMASS Lowell.

Roof project update

They are finally seeing the light at the end of the tunnel. It has been a good test with the amount of rain in the last few days. AFM/JFK complex is closing out. The High School roof is complete with other small trade work to be done in the area of masonry. The Millville roof is complete except where the masonry work needs to be done around the flashing. The lag time is waiting for the brick to arrive.

Budget assessment percentages and enrollment –

They will assess what the Town's share will be for the future fiscal year. It has been very consistent between Blackstone and Millville. According to our October 1 enrollment the assessment will be 71.20 for Blackstone and 28.80 for Millville. The numbers are declining across the state. We have seen and 11.6 percent drop in students. There are students choosing other districts or other alternative forms of education. A survey will be sent home to the past 2 8th grade classes to find out the reason that their child is not attending BMR.

This year they had to abate asbestos materials in the High School auditorium. In 1980 the contractor did not complete his work and it was found that there is more material to dispose of. They are being very cautious. All soft surfaces had to be discarded. The stage curtains had to be discarded and will be replaced. They received quotes from 3 dominant vendors in this category. The contract was awarded to Major Theatre and the funds were paid for from the rental fund. The work should be complete by November 21st.

Request for additional staff –

Any new positions must be approved by the School Committee. They do not currently have the staffing levels in some areas to handle the increased

enrollment. They need to hire an additional special education teacher and para-professional to start in a few weeks. They are needed and we are able to pay for them through circuit breaker funds.

Motion: It was moved by Mrs. Robin, seconded by Mrs. Reggio and unanimously voted to hire an additional Special Education teacher and para-professional at the Millville Elementary School.

If we do not do this we will end up with out of district placements. This will be for Pre-K and Kindergarten and was not on the radar on Sept 2nd when they opened. We need to educate students in the least restrictive way.

At the next meeting agendas will become more lengthy and detailed. The FY16 budget process will begin.

They will try to increase rigor at the High School and add A.P. classes. There is an opportunity for a grant in this area.

Mr. Phil Toupin, Network Administrator will be leaving us after being employed by the District for 15 years. Superintendent Himmelberger thanked him publicly for all his hard work in the school district. Phil is wished all the best.

Report of the Assistant Superintendent

After the MASCU conference teachers put together their own measures of student growth. They are looking at the Edwin teaching and learning platform which allows Districts to develop curriculum maps. They are currently looking at managing the technology piece for PARCC testing. They are currently hiring substitutes in the District.

They are looking at becoming a technology leader. This is why the library media person is so critical. They can integrate the technology with the learning. Librarians do so much more today. They are a media and technology specialist.

There were no items for Public Forum

School Committee Forum

Mr. Faulkner – reminders for all to be careful on Halloween. The upcoming election is important for future funding of education.

Mr. Reggio – a brochure was printed – went out to all student in the elementary schools – started regional agreement sub committee meetings – survey monkey is being worked on-

She was impressed with the teachers who attended – surprised by the lack of support for the volleyball team –

Mrs. Jarret – no items

Mrs. Robin – no items

Mrs. Greenstein – model of 2 towns, 2 schools – opportunities moving forward – appreciates that some of the teachers came out There will be an elementary parent meeting to be held on Nov. 6th @ 7 pm here at the HMS to discuss the dialogue of strengths to improve student achievement. They are looking for people to have a voice.

Mrs. Vinacco – thank you to teachers that came out – thank you Mrs. Greenstein for the power point presentation-

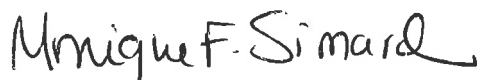
Mr. Tringali – Great job on the Regional Agreement meeting. He is hopeful that they will continue to highlight student achievement at future school committee meetings.

The next meeting will be held at MES on November 13th at 7:00 p.m.

Accountant, Mr. Egghert will be attending the next meeting on November 13th.

Motion: It was moved by Mrs. Robin, seconded by Mrs. Jarrett and unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Monique F. Simard
Recording Secretary

ATTEST:



Erin P. Vinacco, District Secretary