

**School Committee Meeting  
October 9, 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 Chaplin, Chairman  
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

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

**Student Representatives-**

There are internships being held at the BMRHS. Students will apprentice a teacher and there will be a few outside internships.

Principal's Council -Students of all grades assemble with the principal and vice principal to discuss matters that affect the student body. It is a very productive organization.

Band shows – Autumnfest Parade October 13<sup>th</sup> – Dartmouth High School on October 11th and Cranston on October 18<sup>th</sup> - October 25<sup>th</sup> Band state championships in CT.

A tractor trailer truck wrap was donated and they unveiled it this evening.

**Consent Agenda A –**

**Motion:** It was moved by Mrs. Robin, seconded by Mrs. Greenstein and unanimously voted to approve the Warrants.

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

Mr. Tringali is concerned with the fact that students take time out of their school day to go on tours of other schools.

Superintendent Himmelberger feels there is a delicate balance needed which is being addressed at the state level now. It doesn't make sense to lose classroom time. There may be other options to look at. The pendulum is swinging away from us. This issue needs to be addressed and decisions made that will benefit all parties. His other colleagues have the same questions.

Mr. Tringali feels that indoor soccer should not be on the indoor facility. He was told that if there is damage it is the responsibility of the league to repair it.

**Motion:** It was moved by Mrs. Robin, seconded by Mrs. Jarret and unanimously voted to approve the Use of Facilities requests.

**Motion:** It was moved by Mrs. Robin, seconded by Mrs. Jarret to approve the Minutes of Meeting of 9/25/14, 7 in favor, 1 abstain – Mrs. Vinacco.

Roof Project updates-

Superintendent Himmelberger stated that we are in the final stages of the High School roof project. More asbestos was found in the gym roof similar to what happened in the auditorium. Tighe and Bond are very cautious with this.

The Complex project is now complete.

The good weather has propelled the Millville roof project back on track. They are down to the home stretch on this. All should be completed within three weeks. The roofers have been there working hard on the weekends.

Mrs. Vinacco feels that Millville looks great. From the architects to project managers there has been a lot of very good cooperation. The cooling units are still in interpretation on the Millville roof which will cost approximately \$40,000 to replace. The bid at MES came in substantially lower than they thought so they are in good shape with it.

All collaborative schools have new agreements which are approved by DESE. As part of the regulations each member school committee must approve the agreement.

Chairman Chaplin talked about how the bi-law language is written.

The school committee will appoint the Superintendent of schools to the Bi-County Collaborative again this year since for the day in and day out business the collaborative feels the superintendent should be the person to designate.

**Motion:** It was moved by Mrs. Robin, seconded by Mr. Faulkner and unanimously voted to approve the Bi-County bi-laws and Superintendent Himmelberger as the designee.

There are changes happening at the state level in regards to MCAS results and accountability status. Forty percent of Districts are opting to stay with MCAS. Until the Board of Education decides whether to adopt PARCC testing we will stay as an MCAS District. If PARCC testing comes into play there is a huge technology component of it.

The American Recovery and Re-investment Act had Race to the Top and gave districts a significant amount of money. MCAS is moving to PARCC because of what we teach and when we teach it. There is an emphasis on MCAS tests as they get into curriculum and to get where we want to be. Things are changing. We implemented Think Math three years ago and it takes a while to be able to teach that with integrity. Their major initiatives will be to look at how they are managing this especially at the younger grades. MCAS is no longer an accurate reflection of what students need to know. We have the perfect storm of the curriculum shifting with new programs and now we are looking at a test which is no longer the benchmark barometer for what students need to know.

PARCC standards and what they assess is much more clearly aligned with what they are now teaching. Tests will be timed and computer based with a lot of shifting now and over the next couple of years. At the end of the day we now know more than half of the Districts are opting for PARCC testing.

We are very close to the state average over the last 2 years in MCAS testing and we want to be much better than the state average. We want to stand for excellence whether you are a parent, student, teacher or administrator.

The average is just not okay for us to set the bar that low for our students and children. Jobs that were in existence 10 years ago are no longer in existence. You cannot make it any more with a high school diploma.

Mrs. Greenstein is familiar with the testing. She feels that they should look at the math program to be sure it is aligning correctly and feels that technology teachers are so important today.

Dr. Thomson stated that staff are looking at MCAS data and are working by grade level. They are looking at an area of need and the method to try to improve and how to measure this going forward. A consultant has been brought in to help us with how to do it better. They are looking by standard and by student.

Mr. Tringali would like to know where we are with the hardware and nuts and bolts of Technology. We seem to have enough at the High School but not at MES. They will need to do an assessment of all technology to see what they need and make a plan on how to get there.

That will be reflected in the budget this year and drop it into a five year plan. There is no way around it any more. DESE recognizes that Districts will need some support on the technology side of this. Mrs. Greenstein wants to see that 3 year plan for each school. Many things were cut out this year due to budget constraints. We then need to figure out where we can get the revenue.

Mr. Himmelberger wants to meet with the grant manager from DESE to be sure we are accessing the grants that we need.

Grade 10 is performing well and the HS is a level one school. Everyone is proud of this. The HS has been level one for the last 2 years. We are considered a level 2 district because the other schools are level two.

They need to take the data and get better assessment and better achievement.

When students realize all of a sudden that they need to pass the tests they step up.

We find out where we have work to do. We understand what is in front of us and now how do we improve. Mr. Himmelberger wants to stand for excellence, improvement and not being satisfied with where we are. If we use this as our guide this will move us forward. He wants to move everyone forward and challenge all even those who are doing well. Student growth is a part of the educator evaluation tool.

Mr. Chaplin feels the middle school must change. This has to be a turning point. This is a curriculum issue and not so much a student issue. This needs to be addressed and improved.

Dr. Thomson - the science tests in this state are unbelievably difficult because we stress math and English in this state and in our schools.

Common Core is critical thinking where PARCC is more aligned to this than MCAS.

A higher order of thinking is what it will take to solve problems.

They need to support all students and help them to improve. We know we have work to do and there is so much upside potential. They can use the best practices that will give our students the skills they need to be successful when they leave us.

The Secretary of Education made a quick visit to our District today. He gets right into the classroom and takes over. It was great to hear his comments on the dedicated instruction and of the students focused on him. He praised the cleanliness of the building.

Consistency over time will get us there.

A vendor was contacted to look into the playground at the Complex. They recommended changes to the playground. They will need to determine how to

get the funds to bring the playground to code. They would like to do this in early spring and have a fully functioning playground at the Complex. It is believed there will be a shared cost between both the Town and School District.

The MASC conference in Hyannis is a great event with great content for everyone. It gets better and better each year.

#### Bullying Policy Update

Superintendent Himmelberger enclosed an updated bullying law which tweaked the state template. This new 2013 law adopted by the state will address bullying for all not just for students. Sometimes adults fall down as well. If the School Committee agrees he will drop in the new language in the original document and highlight the changed areas.

#### Improvement plan for the District

Individual school improvement plans will be worked on in conjunction with the District goals. They will stress student achievement, educator evaluation system, measures with rubrics, and improve Special Education achievement on MCAS which holds Districts back because these sub groups don't get enough emphasis. They will review technology inventory to meet all requirements as well as looking at the High School infrastructure. Students and staff will be asked what they would like to see. They will be assessing the windows, doors, flooring and science labs.

We need to meet the minimum standards to remain competitive. The document will be refined and put it in a standard template.

Mrs. Robin would like to take the measurable goals, tasks and timelines and place it in the strategic plan.

The Committee would like the District Accountant Jim Egghert to attend a meeting. He has agreed to be here on November 13<sup>th</sup>.

There we no items for Public Forum

School Committee forum –

Mr. Tringali – he can't wait to see the district improvement plan – he would like to bring in students to showcase their accomplishments.

Mr. Faulkner – agrees with Mrs. Robin on the strategic plan piece-

Mrs. Reggio – congratulations to band on the new trailer wrap piece-

The brochure is printing and will be ready to go out within a day or two.

Mrs. Jarret - thanks to a successful bonfire and fundraising-

Mrs. Robin - new vibe and continue throughout the year-

Mrs. Greenstein – meet with teachers on the regional agreement next Thursday centered around strengths and weaknesses and how to use our facilities to achieve maximum student achievement-

Mr. Chaplin – agenda in our packet it now online – state panel on funding formula began upcoming public forums around when they meet – yearlong process for the community –Survey monkey - once questions are finalized they will send them to everyone before they go live –

The next meeting will be held in Millville on October 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Motion: It was moved by Mrs. Robin, seconded by Mrs. Reggio and unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Monique F. Simard  
Recording Secretary

ATTEST:

  
Erin P. Vinacco, District Secretary