

School Committee Meeting
September 11, 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
Diane Robin, Member
Brian T. Faulkner, Member
Georgette A. Jarret, Member
Jane C. Reggio, Member

Missing from meeting was Erin P. Vinacco, District Secretary.

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

Mr. Cameron and students from the Middle School spoke on the first few days of school. Motivational speaker, Travis Roy gave a great speech to the students. The opening assembly on the first day of school was very successful. They also had a cookout for students.

Mr. Dudek spoke on the beginning of school at the High School as well as the finish strong program. The focus is to look at student retention and graduation rates. He spoke on the success of the freshman orientation. This year 75 freshman and 45 parents attended. The focus was unity, excitement and getting freshman involved early on. All freshmen received t-shirts and a time capsule as well as a band for their wrist. Mr. Dudek wants all students to finish strong in 4 years. The freshmen created their goals and placed them in the time capsule. The Student Council put on a scavenger hunt. The one book one school initiative worked well at the high school as well as at the middle school. A recognition program has begun where both staff and students are recognized.

The School Committee members were impressed with what they are hearing.

Student Representatives have not been chosen yet. They are currently working on this.

Consent Agenda A

Motion: It was moved by Mr. Tringali, seconded by Mrs. Greenstein and voted 7 in favor, 1 abstain (Mr. Tringali) to approve the Minutes of the July 15th meeting.

Motion: It was moved by Mrs. Jarret, seconded by Mrs. Reggio and voted 7 in favor, 1 abstain (Mrs. Robin) to approve the Minutes of the August 14th meeting.

Motion: It was moved by Mrs. Jarret, seconded by Mrs. Reggio and unanimously voted to approve the Warrants.

Report of the Superintendent -

Superintendent Himmelberger stated that the opening went very well and there is a lot to be proud of here.

Student Enrollment – October 1st data. There are currently 1800 students enrolled. We have dropped by about 10 percent in the last 3 years. We are looking at exciting initiatives to add more A.P. classes.

A list of new teachers and staff have been added. In the last few years it has been a challenge for all. He is very excited that Dr. David Thomson is with us. We all need each other. We don't get anywhere if everyone is not doing their best.

Request from football booster organization - The question is raised if we have a booster organization for every sport. We need the parents who want to help and how do we encourage this and allow it to benefit as many people as possible. Mr. Dudek would like to know if the boosters are allowed to contact businesses and to advertise on the track for these businesses. They want to get banners. Football boosters want to generate money. They want a claim to this money. The question has been raised if they can place banners on the track and field fence? They need an athletic boosters club.

Mrs. Reggio feels that they should have a booster team for each sport so that if football is doing a lot of fundraising they should not need to raise money for teams other than their own.

Mr. Chaplin feels they need more detail and more consistency.

Mrs. Greenstein would like to see a plan presented to them.

Mr. Dudek stated that they would like to move forward and do some research.

Mr. Faulkner would like to know which groups have been fundraising. He does not want groups to compete against each other. Mr. Chaplin feels they need an infrastructure.

There are 13 students homeschooled and 37 are school choiced in to the district.

Handbook changes – unfinished business. Overall revision for everyone.

Mr. Faulkner and Mrs. Greenstein had questions that they addressed to Mr. Cameron and Mr. Dudek regarding consistency between the two handbooks in reference to using a breathalyzer. Mrs. Greenstein wanted it added in that parents will be notified if their child receives an in school detention.

Motion: It was moved by Mrs. Robin, seconded by Mrs. Reggio and unanimously voted to accept the handbooks of the Middle and High School with the change recommended by Mrs. Greenstein to notify parents .

NEASC accreditation update- They have been questioned to the validity of them. The High school has their visit next fall. Staff is working on preparation for the visit. The content and structure are currently under scrutiny.

Roof project updates –

There are currently 3 roof projects in various states of completion. The Complex is on the final punch list and just about complete. Some of the seams are not up to specification which could impact the warranty.

The Millville Elementary school had a late start based upon supply of materials. The parking at MES is an issue but is being worked out. October 25th was the tentative completion date but they are not sure if this will happen.

BMRHS roof is just about done with B wing being completed now which has provided only minor disruption to classrooms and finally the gymnasium. By October 3rd the entire project should be substantially complete.

Mrs. Greenstein wants to be sure that parents are kept aware of traffic pattern changes at MES.

NWSI water system for MES- This is an on-going issue and Mr. Himmelberger will be meeting with them tomorrow morning. In the engineers opinion the water is more drinkable.

There were no items for public forum-

School Committee Forum

Mrs. Reggio/ Mrs. Greenstein have a brochure ready and they will send it to Mark Juba and get it ready to go out.

Committee Forum

Mr. Tringali said welcome to Dr. Thomson and he is looking forward to homecoming weekend.

Mr. Faulkner – welcome and please stay for a long time.

Mrs. Reggio – attended opening day in the a.m.

Mrs. Robin - glad to hear we had a good opening.

Mrs. Greenstein – heard only positive feedback about the barbecue and presentations.

Mr. Chaplin – Questions who is responsible for the Complex playground? We need clarity around it. The slide is an eye sore right now. Mrs. Greenstein feels the parking around the side where the playground is located is full of potholes and needs repair.

Mrs. Jarret - said that they need additional supervision on the playground. Safety is very important now that both Kindergarten and first graders are on the playground together and they have had to let go some of the Kindergarten aides.

Motion: It was moved by Mrs. Greenstein, seconded by Mrs. Robin and unanimously voted to adjourn the School Committee meeting at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Monique F. Simard, Recording Secretary

Attest: 

Erin P. Vinacco, District Secretary