

**Minutes of Meeting**  
**May 22, 2014**  
**Frederick Hartnett Middle School**

The Blackstone Millville Regional District School Committee met in the library of the Frederick W. Hartnett Middle School at 6:30 p.m. with the following members present:

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

Missing from meeting: Jane C. Reggio, Member.

Superintendent, Dr. Perry Davis was also in attendance.

**Report of Student Representatives –**

Morgan McCarthy – gave information on senior week, class trip, senior banquet, awards night and graduation.

Thomas Gallagher – Boys baseball made districts – tomorrow will be their senior game-

Thomas Gallagher and Morgan McCarthy will both be attending Hartford University in the fall.

The Committee thanked both representatives for doing a great job this year and presented them with a gift.

**Data Team teachers-**

Keith McNamara, Lynn Scott, Lisa Trottier and Christina Ranieri were the data team leaders this year which was funded out of the Race to the Top grant. Other teachers from the schools volunteer to meet with them to review MCAS scores and review samples. Data helps us to learn about what we are doing in schools, to review curriculum and to learn how to assess teaching. Data informed instruction is so important today.

A power point presentation was made.

The Elementary team led off with Lisa Trottier and Christina Ranieri. They are trying to figure out the strengths and weaknesses and go from there. In Math they combined data from previous MCAS scores. They reviewed their strengths including algebraic symbols, probability, number sense and operations. Their weaknesses are fractions and decimals in math.

The strengths are in english language, explicit info, and context clues. The weaknesses are in identifying theme, making inferences and using non-fiction text.

Wilson foundations, shared units and modeled lessons are used to improve instruction, focus on consistency and focus on common core thinking.

At the kindergarten level the students are identifying letters and reading words.

They were given a preview of a lesson with the consultant, follow up piece with reflection, questions and feedback. This has led to a complete shift which will be shared with grade level teachers and specialists.

Lynn Scott – Middle School – The school council and faculty are doing a year long study on Carol Dweck's growth mindset and Angela Duckworth's grit test. Mrs. Scott demonstrated the results of their study.

Keith McNamara – High School – kids are most motivated at the High School level for MCAS. We undervalue the students when we ask them to challenge themselves. We want them to take the higher AP classes but sometimes they are afraid to because they may not get honor roll. They are trying to do something about this. The teachers are there to make things better. The data is not driving us but informing us. The grades have improved this year over last year.

Mr. Tringali feels that they should track one group of students from freshman through junior year.

Dr. Davis reviewed the information gathered by the Data Team Leaders.

Members of the Committee commented on the progress of the data teams.

Leslie Towle is a data analyst in the central office. She helps and speaks with the teachers. They ask her questions and she can go back and get them an answer. It is helpful for the teachers to assess through the historical data that she gathers.

**Public Forum** – there were no items for this

Dr. Davis gave budget reductions that were taken in order to meet the recertified budget. Dr. Davis recapped how they came to the number that they did. They were driven mainly by class size. The dollar amount listed has been taken out of the budget. They will wait until after the Blackstone town meeting on Tuesday. The Committee may want to consider scheduling a meeting next Wednesday in case they need it. The meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 28<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. here at the Middle School.

The Senate released its budget and has added more money in regional transportation. The figure went from \$450,925 to \$567,022 which means \$117,000 additional funds for our District. This is only the senate's budget and it is not carved in stone. Dr. Davis cautions the Committee with trying to be too aggressive with this number and he feels it will more realistically be a number in the middle. They probably will not know until mid to late June at best.

When you reduce staff through non-renewals they become eligible on July 1st to file for unemployment. This could be a substantial increase in claims. All municipalities are on a pay as you go plan. The savings in not paying their health insurance should be put into the unemployment line item to cover their unemployment claims.

If they are retained at a part time level some support staff could still collect benefits from unemployment.

Enrollment numbers – There are 79 confirmed kindergarten students in Blackstone and 29 in Millville. This is a fluid number at this point.

They are adding an additional Special Education teacher at Millville to teach students on the spectrum.

Blackstone is sticking to their recommendation of no additional contribution to the schools. It is believed that the Finance Committee has agreed with this.

The transfer from stabilization requires a 2/3 vote at the Blackstone Town meeting.

Mr. Chaplin thanks everyone for showing up in Millville.

**Motion:** It was moved by Mrs. Vinacco, seconded by Mrs. Greenstein and unanimously voted to accept Consent Agenda A which includes Warrants, Use of School Facilities, Field Trip requests and Minutes of Meeting of May 8, 2014.

The JFK/AFM roof projects are coming to a close. Dr. Davis is currently reviewing the last change order to complete the work and the punch list. The Bond Anticipation Note for the project was received and the low bidder is Easter Bank at a rate of .05%. The goal is to go to a bond in November of 2014.

The Millville roof project is in the final design stages and will be reviewed by MSBA. Dr. Davis expects the roof project will go out to bid in August with a start date in September. The Bond Anticipation note was received and the low bidder is Eastern Bank at a rate of .05%.

The District will open bids for the general contractor for the High School Roof Project on Tuesday, May 20, 2014. The three file sub bids were opened on May 6, 2014 with the low bidders below our cost estimate. Dr. Davis recommends using Rockwell at \$1,835,900.

**Motion:** It was moved by Mr. Faulkner, seconded by Mr. Tringali and unanimously voted to accept the High School Roof bid by Rockwell in the amount of \$1,835,900.

The goal would be to get the contract done as early as possible and give the green light for Rockwell to mobilize prior to the last day of school. July 1st is the push date to get them started. They plan to start on the academic wing and move around and have the

auditorium as the last place. They are in a good place to get the roof completed prior to the opening of school.

The School District needs to vote to appoint Allen Himmelberger to the Board of Directors of the Bi-County Collaborative.

**Motion:** It was moved by Mr. Tringali, seconded by Mrs. Greenstein and unanimously voted to appoint Allen Himmelberger, Superintendent of the Blackstone-Millville Regional School District, to the Bi-County Collaborative Board of Directors for the 2014-2015 school year.

**Motion:** It was moved by Mr. Faulkner, seconded by Mrs. Vinacco and unanimously voted to transfer \$14,773.38 to student activities checking from student activities savings.

Mr. Himmelberger will be meeting with Dr. Davis and the leadership team from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. on Tuesday, May 27<sup>th</sup>.

Donna Scungio cannot use all of her vacation days. Dr. Davis needs her in the District to close the books. She is estimating 5 to 10 buy back vacation days.

We are currently waiting for financial statements from our auditor. Dr. Davis has asked Dan Haynes to come in and speak with the Committee on June 26<sup>th</sup>.

Mrs. Vinacco wants our staff to meet Mr. Himmelberger.

The early retirement incentive has been extended to all staff this year. Those who have already put in retirement paperwork are not eligible for the incentive.

Public Forum – no items

### **School Committee forum**

Mr. Tringali thanked all those who attended the town meeting – the additional moneys were not approved – many people spoke on the schools behalf.

Mr. Faulkner – great to see the people of Millville come out and create some awareness.

Mrs. Greenstein – seen positive feedback on social media – thanks those parents who are sharing the information and doing their part – sees a connection between Blackstone and Millville –

Mrs. Vinacco – amazing turnout – thanked all babysitting teachers – they want people to come in pairs- come in your pj's and watch a movie – congratulates the NHS inductees – congrats to seniors – be careful but have fun-

Mr. Chaplin – recognize the Wall of Fame honorees – Brad Monroe, Lucien Benoit, Becky Hoyle, Mr. Neri and Mike Buckley – great job by Keith Ducharme hosting it- again reminder of the meeting on Tuesday at 7:00 in the HS auditorium – it is not a done deal – you still have a voice – make decisions around the educational future of our students – it will be about the voters – please show up – we are article #3 – we did not submit the article 6 – it will be passed over – this was last year – they can't take it out but will pass over it –

Mrs. Toni Harvey voiced comments and concerns. She questioned why she did not see anyone from the School Committee at the FINCOM Open Hearing.

Mr. Chaplin stated that he was late because he was at the Millville town meeting. Mr. Devlin tried to hold the article but the Fincom refused. The Fincom knew about this and it was no surprise to them.

Mr. Chaplin stated that they have begged the Towns to come in and solve this budget problem but no one has shown up.

**Motion:** It was moved by Mrs. Greenstein, seconded by Mr. Faulkner and unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting at 8:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Monique F. Simard  
Recording Secretary

ATTEST:

  
Erin P. Vinacco, District Secretary