

**Blackstone-Millville Regional District School Committee**  
**Minutes of Meeting**  
**Open Meeting - Executive Session**  
**April 29, 2014**

The Blackstone-Millville Regional District School Committee met in the library of the Frederick W. Hartnett Middle School at 6:05 p.m. with the following members present:

William F. Chaplin, Jr. Chairperson  
Steven J. Tringali, Vice-Chairperson  
Wendy L. Greenstein, District Treasurer  
Erin P. Vinacco, District Secretary  
Brian T. Faulkner, Member  
Diane C. Robin, Member  
Jane C. Reggio, Member

Absent:

Georgette A. Jarret, Member

Also in attendance was Perry P. Davis, Ed.D, Interim Superintendent of Schools

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States was recited

Executive Session: To review the contract for the new superintendent and matters pertaining to collective bargaining

Mr. Chaplin made the motion to enter into executive session for the purpose of reviewing the contract for the new superintendent and matters pertaining to collective bargaining,

Seconded by Diane Robin.

Roll Call Vote

William Chaplin	Yes
Steven Tringali	Yes
Brian Faulkner	Yes
Wendy Greenstein	Yes
Erin Vinacco	Yes
Jane Reggio	Yes
Georgette Jarret	Absent

Executive Session

Mr. Chaplin presented the contract between Mr. Allen Himmelberger and the Blackstone-Millville Regional School District. There were a few questions about the changes to salary and benefits. Mr. Chaplin told the members that the contract needed to be approved in open session.

Mr. Chaplin reviewed the letter from the presidents of the three associations concerning the adoption of MGL, 32B; Section 9D to extend the payment of health insurance benefits to the surviving spouse of a retired employee of the District. He outlined the issue based on the memo from Attorney Harold D. Gould to explain the legal and contract issues. There is no evidence that the Blackstone-Millville Regional District Committee voted to adopt Section 9D of Chapter 32B.

There was discussion on how to proceed with this letter from the three associations. It was decided to notify the three association presidents to take up this matter in the next contract negotiations with Unit A and Unit C.

The current Unit C language is in Article XVI, Section E. The current Unit A language is in Article XXI, Section E. In both contracts there is no reference to the surviving spouse only the retiree.

Dr. Davis will send a letter to the presidents of the three associations

Dr. Davis reviewed to requests for extended leave for teachers under Article XIX, Section B of the contract with the Unit A, Educators Association.

Return to open session at 6:30 pm.

A motion was made by Diane Robin, and seconded by Wendy Greenstein to return to open session

Roll Call Vote

William Chaplin	Yes
Steven Tringali	Yes
Brian Faulkner	Yes
Wendy Greenstein	Yes
Erin Vinacco	Yes
Jane Reggio	Yes
Georgette Jarret	Absent

Respectfully Submitted,

Perry P. Davis, Ed.D  
Interim Superintendent of Schools

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Brian T. Faulkner, Member  
Diane C. Robin, Member  
Jane C. Reggio, Member  
Georgette A. Jarret, Member

Also in attendance was Perry P. Davis, Ed.D, Interim Superintendent of Schools.

**Motion:** It was moved by Mrs. Robin, seconded by Mr. Tringali and unanimously voted to approve Consent Agenda A which includes Warrants and Minutes of Meeting of April 10 and April 15, 2014.

**Motion:** It was moved by Mrs. Vinacco, seconded by Mrs. Reggio to adopt the contract for Mr. Allen W. Himmelberger.

Roll Call Vote-

William F. Chaplin - Yes  
Steven J. Tringali - Yes  
Wendy L. Greenstein - Yes  
Erin P. Vinacco - Yes  
Brian T. Faulkner - Yes  
Diane C. Robin - Yes  
Jane C. Reggio - Yes  
Georgette A. Jarret - Yes

**Report of the Superintendent**

Dr. Davis reviewed the FY15 budget.

Mr. Chaplin, Mr. Tringali and Mrs. Vinacco met with the Millville Selectmen to request a 2.5 override be placed on the table. According to Mr. Tringali, Millville would not support any additional contribution to the school district and they would not listen to the request for the override.

It was mentioned that BVT asked for an additional contribution and it was eagerly given. However, they would not entertain any requests from the School District.

They now have the list of reductions up to 1.4 million dollars.

The administration prepared the list of reductions, however, no one including the School Committee recommends any of these reductions.

The assessment to both Towns is up over 18% and this is directly related to the revenue shortfall (we do not have E and D funds to put into the budget in the amount of 1 million dollars).

The following are the reductions on the table at this time:  
 Impact on personnel – new positions and non-teaching positions-

HS – Librarian		\$45,000
.4 Physical Education		\$18,000
.6 Adjustment Counselor		\$30,000
MS .4 Adjustment Counselor		\$20,000
MES Kindergarten Aides		\$40,000
Complex Kindergarten Aides reduce 2.5		\$50,000
Special Ed 1 Team Chair		\$60,000
2 Aides		\$40,000
District 1 School Nurse (floating)		\$40,000
1 Custodian (floating)		\$30,000
\$40,000 supplies/equipment all schools		<u>\$40,000</u>
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$413,000</b>

**Impact on Program**

Athletics	\$10,000 reduce requested budgets	\$10,000
Prof. Dev.	\$10,000 reduction	\$10,000
Academic	\$5,000 shared AP enrichment	<u>\$5,000</u>
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$25,000</b>

**Impact on Student Learning – Class size, classroom teachers and aides**

HS	.5 food nutrition teacher – elective program	\$25,000
	.2 Spanish/French teacher – 1.0 becomes .8	\$9,000
MS	2 Special Education Aides	\$40,000
	2 teachers (ELA and Reading)	\$100,000
MES	1.0 grade 1	\$50,000
	1.0 grade 3	\$50,000
Complex	.5 adjustment counselor	\$25,000
	1.0 grade 3	\$50,000
	1.0 grade 4	\$50,000
	1.0 grade 5	\$50,000
	1.0 grade 2	\$50,000
	1.0 grade 1	<u>\$50,000</u>
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$549,000</b>

**Grand Total \$987,000**

**Additional Reductions**

District Assistant Superintendent of Schools	\$120,000
High School – 1.0 FTE Math (loss of electives and larger classes	\$50,000
1.0 FTE Social Studies (loss of electives and larger	
Class sizes	\$50,000
.4 FTE Spanish (larger classes)	\$20,000
Department Head stipends	\$16,000

Middle School – 3.0 FTE positions (Impact on teaming and larger classes)	\$150,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$406,000</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$1,393,000</b>

Dr. Davis gave information on key areas:

The School Committee does not agree with cutting the floating nurse and floating custodian.

Hopedale contacted us to see if BMR would coop with them for football. By doing this we could collect athletic fees for some Hopedale students.

By state law the teachers without teacher status are the most vulnerable to lose their positions. He wants to give letters to these teachers by early May so they know where they stand.

The major impact is in class size – Since they are reducing the aides in the Kindergarten classes he doesn't advise more than 20 students in a Kindergarten class.

If there are no department heads these teachers will teach 5 classes and not 4.

We are responsible for paying unemployment claims. When we get a claim we must pay it. The plan is that the funds saved in health insurance would go to pay the unemployment claims.

This is not a recommendation but this is the difficult task they were asked to look at.

JFK/AFM 4 sections 1-5 the class sizes will be dramatically increased.

MES – Kindergarten aides will be reduced in 2 sections. Dramatic increases again.

Under current Regional Agreement children cannot cross boundaries except those in special education involuntarily. If they volunteer their child this is possible.

Class enrollment is subject to move in's and migrations.

School choice is the other variable – we would be forced to limit incoming school choice students due to high count in the classrooms.

Dr. Davis wants to know how he should proceed to notify parents, faculty and staff.

This is a very serious fiscal crisis for the District.

The High School and Middle School principals need to build schedules by June so they need to know the staff they will have.

Jane Reggio – feels the focus of this is really educational – questions what is more important to us – feels that it doesn't touch some of the extra things – more a focus on direct teacher support – feels that support staff and extracurricular should be touched more.

Mr. Chaplin – Last year he was in her position when 90% of the fat was cut out of the budget. He struggles with the fact that if both Towns want to give them minimum contributions then the school will be a minimum contribution school.

Mr. Chaplin feels that if they cut out extracurricular offerings his children will not stay here.

We are already losing \$300,000 to school choice. If you cut out athletics and band this number will grow. They have to achieve and grow in all areas. They need to provide the ability to grow academically and to participate in activities.

The Blackstone-Millville Music Organization is made up of parents who do fundraising and collect large amounts of money to fund many band activities and items.

Spanish will not be an option at the Middle School next year.

Free Cash – 5% can be carried – during the year the regionalized school needs to have an Excess and Deficiency account. This account is not a slush fund for the School Committee. They must operate under certain parameters. We currently have 2.5% in E and D.

Dr. Davis found that the athletic budget was uneven – some programs were not funded properly – you need a plan so students will not opt to school choice out- Most towns are dealing with this – we are all in the same boat – difficult financial climate don't create an environment where parents will want to move their students out.

Mr. Tringali – feels that Mr. Himmelberger is strong in business and now we are talking about cutting the Assistant Superintendent of schools who will be needed for curriculum and grant writing.

The townspeople will be the ones to vote for this. They make the decisions. They need to get people to come out and vote.

Mrs. Vinacco – can they offer service hours to National Honor society students to babysit at the town meeting?

Dr. Davis stated that Town meeting is the time that parents can voice their opinion. Shame on you if you complain and do not show up to vote at town meeting. They can step it up, sit at the town meeting and vote. It's too late to complain about class size in September.

Mr. Faulkner added please be sure not to leave after the vote. Until the warrant is closed it is still open.

Dr. Paul Haughey – ambiguity around reductions – please clearly and simply explain Mass General Law – when there is a regional district of 2 communities – if one town votes the assessment down and one votes it up then the School Committee can through the law get a town meeting and have one final vote – it has never been done before in our communities – the historic mindset has been that if Millville doesn't do it then Blackstone will not but this is not necessarily the case – there would be a super meeting – both towns would come together and vote all in one place – it would be a Blackstone and Millville super meeting. The moderator is selected by the Regional School District – one man one vote – simple majority of those present to vote – under the control of the Regional School District and not under the control of the selectmen and finance committees – there are time constraints in this – it could push this out into July.

Kathy Stearman – If the townspeople want to go to town meeting and give more funding they need to tell the town where the money will come from.

They are now asking for 1 million dollars from Blackstone and \$400,000 from Millville. This is the high number but it can be brought down if need be.

Dr. Davis stated that Mr. Crivello has been present at a minimum of 20 meetings this year to advise them. We understand that Millville has a fiscal financial burden. We are painfully aware of the limitations in both communities.

Dr. Davis also wants to thank Joe Roposa from Millville who has been at many meetings as well as the representatives from Blackstone.

Mr. Chaplin spent the day at the State House today. Regional transportation needs to be fully funded. We are mandated to have a seat on the bus for each student. They only fund about 50% of this. It is not this way in Bellingham. We are required by law. We would like to have circuit breaker fully funded. We get from 60 to 80%. There are many unfunded mandates that teachers are told to do which take away from time on learning.

This can't fall on the property tax payers year after year.

We have a fiscal dilemma. We can't charge a transportation fee or cut back on the buses. We are regulated from everywhere.

There is an english language learner law. We get no additional funding for the teachers who need special training in this area.

Special education mandates are constantly challenging. There is not enough reimbursement and aide.

Through School Choice districts lose large sums of Chapter 70 aide.

Nancy Angelini – wants to help – what happens next year if the Town of Millville gives the override. Asks those that are alumni to come forward and help. Concerned about teachers keeping up with mandates – how can the Superintendent keep up with mandates without help. People need to hear what the School Committee plans to do so this fiscal crisis does not continue to happen year after year.

Mr. Chaplin – We need a five year plan and forge a partnership to figure out what the steps are. We can't say that we won't ask for more money next year. School Choice can be a revenue. We have no definite answers.

Mrs. Greenstein feels we are working hard to get things under control.

Dr. Davis stated that we have a systemic revenue problem. If the town of Millville uses the funds they have to give to us now they will be in the same boat next year. It is a shared responsibility for both towns. When you are chasing excellence people will want to move here. We need long term planning so that our property values increase and homes are being built.

Upcoming meeting - Thursday May 8<sup>th</sup>.

Data teams will be coming in to make a presentation next week.

School Committee forum –

Mr. Tringali- hopes more parents will turn out for the town meeting in Millville this year-

Mr Faulkner- thank you to all people who turned out for the Millville Variety Show-

Money goes back to funding MESPA and class trips.

Mrs. Reggio – MESPA show coming up-

Mrs. Jarret – contact your representatives – what can we do to advocate as a citizen?

Mrs. Greenstein – spread the word and thank you for coming out –

Mrs. Vinacco – thank you also for taking the time to come to the meeting -

The prom was relocated and it looks like it was a great night-

Mr. Chaplin - As citizens you can let your legislators know that you want them to fully fund regional transportation and circuit breaker-

**Motion:** It was moved by Mrs. Greenstein, seconded by Mrs. Robin and unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting at 8:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Monique F. Simard  
Recording Secretary

ATTEST:



Erin P. Vinacco, District Secretary