

**Minutes of Meeting**  
**April 15, 2014**  
**Frederick Hartnett Middle School**

The Blackstone Millville Regional District School Committee met in the library of the Frederick W. Hartnett Middle School at 6:00 p.m.

The Executive Session meeting was called to order at 6:08 p.m. The members voted to enter into Executive Session pertaining to superintendent contract and collective bargaining and to go to Open Session at 6:30 p.m.

Roll Call vote:

Mr. Tringali – yes

Mrs. Jarret – yes

Mrs. Greenstein – yes

Mrs. Vinacco – yes

Mr. Chaplin – yes

Mrs. Reggio – yes

Absent from meeting were: Mrs. Robin and Mr. Faulkner.

Superintendent, Dr. Perry Davis was also in attendance.

The Regular School Committee meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m.

**Report of the Superintendent**

Dr. Davis stated there are 16 buses between the BMRHS and Hartnett Middle School, 10 buses at the Complex and 4 at MES. They cannot reduce the buses in the School District. This has been explored but student safety does come first. The streets are narrow and dangerous. They are trying to keep all bus routes under one hour. The busing company has been accommodating with any issues in the past. It is a matter of balance and accounts rather than assignment.

Three teachers will be retiring this year and there is a potential for 3 additional next year.

It was stated that without teams at the Middle School they would go back to a junior high school model and students are not given the opportunity to build a learning community.

Dr. Davis stated that they presented a budget to the Blackstone Finance Committee. It was suggested that the two Towns get together to see if they can meet us half way. It was a productive meeting where good questions were presented.

They will be eliminating one Special Education team chair position next year.

Dr. Davis does not know how to plan because the Committee hasn't decided where they are going to cut positions.

If they are looking for half of the money from the Towns they need to put together two scenarios either cutting 1.4 million or \$720,000.

Millville has no money so they will need to do an override. Every household will need to give this money. The School Committee does not bring this up to the citizens of the Town but the Board of Selectman would do this.

Unemployment is pay as you go. When you lay people off they will make claims and you need to juggle the unemployment.

State law says that teachers without professional status are the first to lose their jobs when cuts are made.

It is late in the game to suggest a retirement incentive option.

They need to make public the cuts that will happen.

If you are forced to cut 8 more teachers you would need to start at the middle school and not have a middle school model but go back to a junior high school model and possibly cut 3 or 4 teachers here.

The leadership team does not recommend this, it is the necessity of not having any money.

The high school would have limited offerings above the core subjects.

Mr. Chaplin suggests that they have one consistent message. Eight teachers or the equivalent would get them to the extra \$400,000 plus the reduction sheet.

Mr. Tringali feels they need to tell the whole story with the complete cuts and how devastating they could be.

Mrs. Greenstein will draft the handout. The message is they understand how devastating this is but they don't have the money. The bottom line is what is best for the children of the District with the funds they do have.

If anyone gets individual emails the response should funnel through Mr. Chaplin.

The only body that can act on the budget is the Committee. It is important when people are lobbying to know that it is not an individual person's decision.

This is an exercise for this year but they will be in the same exact place next year.

There are many towns around us that are looking for overrides.

Mr. Chaplin will be going to the State house to lobby to advocate for changes to fully fund circuit breaker and regional transportation.

Another \$400,000 in reductions would have the greatest impact on the middle and high school.

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 29<sup>th</sup> @ 6:30 here at the Middle School. The focus will be budget and executive session. Executive Session will be held from 6:00 to 6:30.

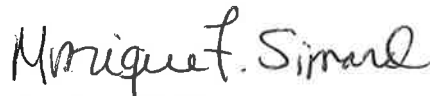
Dr. Davis will get the information out through e-mail and Mrs. Greenstein will draft a letter to be handed out at the MES Variety Show.

The District and Millville do not have the additional contribution money. They are not sitting on it. They just do not have it.


They would like to make it clear that it was not the District decision to put the new roof in Millville. The Town themselves decided it was time to do this.

**Motion:** It was moved by Mrs. Greenstein, seconded by Mr. Tringali and unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Monique F. Simard  
Recording Secretary

ATTEST:   
Erin P. Vinacco, District Secretary