

Minutes of Meeting
April 10, 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. 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
Jane C. Reggio, Member (unable to vote at this meeting)

Superintendent, Dr. Perry Davis was also in attendance.

Motion: It was moved by Mr. Faulkner, seconded by Mrs. Robin and unanimously voted to nominate William F. Chaplin as Chairman of the Blackstone-Millville Regional School Committee. It was moved by Mrs. Robin, seconded by Mr. Faulkner to close nominations for Chairman with all in favor.

Motion: It was moved by Mrs. Robin, seconded by Mr. Faulkner and unanimously voted to nominate Steven J. Tringali as Vice Chairman of the Blackstone-Millville Regional School Committee. It was moved by Mrs. Robin, seconded by Mr. Faulkner to close nominations for Vice Chairman with all in favor.

Motion: It was moved by Mrs. Greenstein, seconded by Mr. Tringali and unanimously voted to nominate Erin P. Vinacco as Secretary of the Blackstone-Millville Regional School Committee. It was moved by Mrs. Robin, seconded by Mr. Faulkner to close nominations for Secretary with all in favor.

Motion: It was moved by Mr. Tringali, seconded by Mrs. Vinacco and unanimously voted to nominate Wendy L. Greenstein as Treasurer of the Blackstone-Millville Regional School Committee.

Motion: It was moved by Mr. Tringali, seconded by Mrs. Vinacco and unanimously voted to nominate Donna M. Scungio as Assistant Treasurer of the Blackstone-Millville Regional School Committee. It was moved by Mrs. Robin, seconded by Mrs. Vinacco to close nominations for Assistant District Treasurer with all in favor.

Per Dr. Davis the appointment of legal counsel has been placed on hold until the FY15 budget has been resolved.

Kevin McCourt, Middle School Student Council advisor spoke along with members of the student council. A middle level leadership conference was recently held with students from 12 area middle schools. They had workshops, speakers, etc.

Mr. Cameron shared information on a program underway at the Hartnett Middle school reading poetry at the public library and the other schools in the District. There were 312 middle school students who read.

Motion: It was moved by Mrs. Robin, seconded by Mrs. Greenstein and unanimously voted to approve Consent Agenda A which includes Use of Facilities and Field Trip Requests.

Motion: It was moved by Mrs. Robin, seconded by Mr. Faulkner, vote 6 approve and 1 nay (Mr. Tringali) to approve Consent Agenda B which includes a Home Schooling request.

Dr. Davis spoke regarding Nadine Carter, Extended Day program director. It was stated that the District would need to at least double the participation in the program in order to cover their costs. It makes more sense to only have an afternoon program and remove the morning program for next year. This would mean Mrs. Carter's job could possibly go to only half time.

They are looking at a current deficit of \$25,000 - \$30,000. If a stipend for this position was offered substantial money could be saved.

The numbers are not encouraging for next year. It's just not enough. The other option is to increase the cost but this makes the program less attractive. You cannot afford to put unfunded money into things. They currently do not have a line item for the program next year. There was no money in the budget for Mrs. Carter's position this year. They will need to make it up out of the general fund. Mrs. Vinacco and Mr. Tringali feel they need to give the program a full 12 months to see if it works. Mr. Chaplin does not want to cut teachers in order to fund this program. Parents need notice whether or not there will be a program next year.

If they want to continue it the expenses need to come down. Mrs. Greenstein feels you can increase the tuition and just have an afternoon program that is run by a stipend position. The program does not run during vacations and snow days which is a negative to the program. Mrs. Vinacco would like to try to make this work and she will volunteer to try to make it work along with Mr. Faulkner. A decision needs to be made by May 1st. Dr. Davis will ask Mrs. Carter to e-mail the two volunteers.

Morgan McCarthy – Student Council members are going to a spring conference. The prom will not take place at the Lakeview Pavilion since the facility burned but it will take place at Rafael's in Walpole. Bandid was held two weeks ago and raised over \$1,000 for senior scholarships. The NHS will hold student athlete week and will have a frisbee game with the proceeds going to the Jake Gallerani fund. There are 24 days remaining for seniors.

Motion: It was moved by Mrs. Robin, seconded by Mrs. Vinacco and unanimously voted to take \$13,703.09 from student activities fund account and place it back into the checking account.

Lunch price increase request –

The cost of food and labor is making it necessary to increase the price of school lunches. They currently get less from the Federal Government and buy more and more on the open market. Mrs. Sheridan, Cafeteria manager is doing a good job trying to mitigate the lunch price.

We are competitive in the cost of lunches compared to other schools. We are losing money now and we will lose even more next year. Labor, benefits and food cost plus the cost of repairs to machinery are all part of the cafeteria budget. Mrs. Vinacco wasn't sure if the increase in cost might deter some from buying lunch.

Motion: It was moved by Mrs. Robin, seconded by Mrs. Vinacco and unanimously voted to increase the cost of school lunches by 25 cents for type a student meals and 10 cents for milk at the elementary level.

There is a proposal to modify the head lice policy and follow the American Academy of Pediatrics policy on head lice.

A state regulated law was passed last year regarding the Concussion policy. We must be in compliance with this law and draft our own policy.

Mr. Dudek has put together a Steering Committee which has drafted the core values of the High School.

Motion: It was moved by Mrs. Robin, seconded by Mr. Faulkner and unanimously voted to adopt the Core Values drafted by the BMR High School Steering Committee.

FY15 possible reductions – 1.4 million dollars

The budget was approved and sent to the Towns.

Dr. Davis met Tuesday with Rich Crivello, Millville Finance Director to negotiate our needs.

We cannot offset the budget with E & D like last year.

Proposal by Dr. Davis to decrease the budget:

Dr. Davis met with the leadership team to review possible budget reductions to the FY15 Budget. They discussed possible reductions using the three tier model. These are not recommendations for reductions. They are presented to the School Committee to start conversation. The FY15 budget was developed trying to be efficient in all line items and major savings were already taken in the non-personnel line items.

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>
	Total	\$413,000

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>
	Total	\$25,000

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>
	Total	\$549,000
	Grand Total	\$987,000

A workshop will be scheduled to review the cuts. No one recommends these reductions. There is no answer from the finance committees. Blackstone could meet us in the middle but the wild card is Millville. It appears that Millville cannot afford to give the additional contribution. Millville town meeting is on May 12th.

Dr. Davis is going to all schools and having meetings to share this information.

This information will go on the website. Mrs. Vinacco feels they need to add class sizes on the website so that people could see the impact.

The town of Millville cannot spend money they do not have.

The Committee will meet on Tuesday and Dr. Davis can get paperwork to hand out to the people at Thursday's variety show in Millville.

The District receives grants and they are specific on what they can be used for.

The House budget was released and we have no additional funds in Chapter 70.

Superintendent Search Interviews

Interview of Allen Himmelberger –

Grade level buildings are the way to go – moved buildings and staff around to have a successful building. It is well received and discipline and behavior issues have dropped.

Mr. Himmelberger believes the teachers in his District feel supported and they have a real sense of camaraderie with open, honest, two way communication.

He shared his direct experience – business experience – statewide connections – worked on 9 budgets in Oxford – key goal to be sure to get as much information in front of folks- comfortable on school finance – listening and communication –

Curriculum – common core and MA frameworks –faces the same issues that we face here – quite familiar with new Math series –

Entry plan - understand what people's needs are – always available and accessible – know the community and the people and understand where the concerns are- needs to hear from municipal officials and core groups – will not waste time and spin wheels – build the base and get the input and feedback of the School Committee-

Facilities improvements – a study based on needs would be done for every building – will look into the joint facilities department with the Towns. Communication done in the spirit of community. All buildings are cataloged so they know their needs. Need to plan for when large items need replacement and all must be on the same page. It did not exist when he got there. District tried it on their own and it didn't fair so well so they tried to get the town involved.

Assistant Superintendent must be able to stand alone – communicate as effectively as he does to all groups – we all wear many hats and all of the administrative team must understand that they are all bringing value to the team. Make all decisions with the students at heart.

Budget cuts – student and classroom in the center – next teaching staff and then support staff, maintenance and grounds. Usually the outside gets cut first. You must preserve and protect the classroom and seek grants.

Closing statement- Mr. Himmelberger feels he is a good fit in the District which matches his skill set. He has the endurance and the passion. It would be an honor and privilege to serve the Communities and the District.

Interview of David L. Thomson, Ed.D.

He stated that he is a strategic learner. He will assess the people around him while looking at their strengths. He will look closely at curriculum and instruction.

He shared direct experiences during career and spoke on his entry plan. He has worked in a regional district for seven years with a diversified leadership style where all items must be justified.

Curriculum instruction is a passion of his – looked at data and see where weaknesses are – align curriculum to the standards – curriculum maps – people like change when they have an input on it – evolving as educators and learners – developed a learning community – works for improvement and perfection but does it in a laid back approachable manner- Look at data continuously – develop common assessments – His current District is very close to being a level 1 school district.

Facilities improvement – upgrade and improve – capital improvement plan – for Towns to know the needs – good maintenance reduces the need for many improvements –

Hire Assistant Superintendent – qualities – excellent judge of character – passion for children and doing right by kids – great work ethic and a team player who is honest and forthright –

Budget and how to balance – maintain the quality of the classroom – what is effective and where could we cut – preserve the programs in order to keep the kids – concerned with school choice –

Public education advocacy – main communicator about the District – value needs and successes – he would be out there in the community meeting with selectman, finance committee, parents and getting the message out –Entry plan – organize the needs of the district – problem solving and trust – develop programs to keep kids here –

Closing thoughts – He feels his profile and skill set are a good match to our District. He is open, receptive and a very good listener.

After Mr. Thomson left the library the School Committee deliberated over the two candidates:

Mrs. Robin – feels either candidate will be great –

Mr. Faulkner – the first candidate brought experience with our issues – the 2nd brought curriculum and classroom setting experience.

Mrs. Greenstein – feels the same as Mr. Faulkner

Mr. Tringali – does not feel they need to go beyond these two candidates–feels we need to make a decision between curriculum and budget –

Mrs. Vinacco – have everything we need in both of them – both fabulous candidates – take one of them quickly – invite them here – make phone calls –

Mrs. Reggio – do not cast another net - leans towards Mr. Thompson.

Mrs. Jarret – impressed with both candidates-

Mr. Chaplin – don't need to go out – choose one of these – Move quickly and do not do a site visit –We are in a budget disaster and we need a strong budget person – budget outweighs the curriculum – Mr. Himmelberger has navigated these dilemmas.

There may be too much of a learning curve for David Thompson.

They will need a majority vote to appoint.

Each member of the School Committee was asked to vote on the candidate of their choice. The votes were as follows:

Mr. Faulkner – Mr. Himmelberger

Mr. Tringali – Mr. Himmelberger

Mr. Chaplin – Mr. Himmelberger

Mrs. Vinacco – Mr. Thompson

Mrs. Greenstein – Mr. Thompson

Mrs. Robin – Mr. Himmelberger

Mrs. Jarret – Mr. Thompson

Mr. Himmelberger won the vote 4 to 3.

A roll call vote was taken a second time and all were in favor of Mr. Himmelberger.

Motion: It was moved by Mr. Tringali, seconded by Mr. Faulkner and unanimously voted to offer the position of Superintendent of Schools to Mr. Allen Himmelberger.

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

Respectfully Submitted,



Monique F. Simard
Recording Secretary

ATTEST:



Erin P. Vinacco, District Secretary