

# BLACKSTONE-MILLVILLE REGIONAL DISTRICT SCHOOL COMMITTEE

04/03/14

## Amendments to School Committee Meeting, March 19, 2014

It is proposed that the Blackstone-Millville Regional District School Committee vote on the following amendments:

### Amendment #1

**Motion:** It was moved by Mr. Tringali, seconded by Mrs. Robin to assess the amount of **\$7,368,976** to the Town of Blackstone to be applied to the operating budget for the 2014-2015 year which includes \$6,313,167 for the minimum contribution, \$1,055,809 in exclusionary costs and \$1,051,014 in additional contributions

**Amended:** It was moved by Mr. Tringali, seconded by Mrs. Robin to assess the amount of **\$8,419,990** to the Town of Blackstone to be applied to the operating budget for the 2014-2015 year which includes \$6,313,167 for the minimum contribution, \$1,055,809 in exclusionary costs and \$1,051,014 in additional contributions.

### Amendment #2

**Motion:** It was moved by Mr. Buckley, seconded by Mrs. Robin to assess the amount of **\$2,288,361** to the Town of Millville to be applied to the operating budget for the 2014-2015 year which includes \$1,870,811 for the minimum contribution, \$417,550 in exclusionary costs and \$415,654 in additional contributions.

**Amended:** It was moved by Mr. Buckley, seconded by Mrs. Robin to assess the amount of **\$2,704,015** to the Town of Millville to be applied to the operating budget for the 2014-2015 year which includes \$1,870,811 for the minimum contribution, \$417,550 in exclusionary costs and \$415,654 in additional contributions.

### Action Requested

Vote to amend

## Blackstone-Millville Regional District School Committee

### Amended Minutes of Meeting

March 19, 2014

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, Jr., Chairperson  
Steven J. Tringali, Vice Chairperson  
Erin P. Vinacco, District Secretary  
Michael J. Buckley, Member  
Diane C. Robin, Member  
Brian T. Faulkner, Member

Missing from the meeting were Mrs. Robinson and Mrs. Greenstein.

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.

**Motion:** It was moved by Mrs. Robin, seconded by Mr. Tringali and unanimously voted to approve Consent Agenda A which includes Warrants and Field Trip Requests.

#### **Student Reports –**

Morgan McCarthy – Honor Roll breakfast last week, spring sport try outs this week –  
Band aid tomorrow at 6 pm – 6 or 7 bands will be performing –  
Thomas Gallagher – STUCO conference in Hyannis – Mr. BMR was held last week –  
Thomas Gallagher was voted Mr. BMR. Senior Class trip will be an overnight trip in which 90 students have signed up. Winter Percussion has its last show coming up – 40 more days left for seniors.

There were no items for Public Forum.

School Committee FY15 proposed budget approval –  
Discussion on the proposed budget – approval of it and discussion of the assessment on the back page –

By state law you cannot exceed the number you approve tonight – it will be the highest level of budget you can reach this evening –

**Motion:** It was moved by Mrs. Robin, seconded by Mrs. Vinacco to adopt a gross operating budget for the 2014-2015 in the amount of \$ 22,090,979.

**Motion:** It was moved by Mrs. Vinacco, seconded by Mr. Buckley to apply the following reimbursements to reduce said gross operating budget for the 2014-2015 year:

- Chapter 70 \$10,684,594
- Regional Transportation \$ 433,478
- School Choice/Charter Offset (\$ 315,098)

Above reimbursements total \$10,802,974. The total net operating budget for 2014-2015 is \$11,288,005

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**Amended:** It was moved by Mr. Tringali, seconded by Mrs. Robin to assess the amount of **\$8,419,990** to the Town of Blackstone to be applied to the operating budget for the 2014-2015 year which includes \$6,313,167 for the minimum contribution, \$1,055,809 in exclusionary costs and \$1,051,014 in additional contributions.

**Motion:** It was moved by Mr. Buckley, seconded by Mrs. Robin to assess the amount of **2,288,361** to the Town of Millville to be applied to the operating budget for the 2014-2015 year which includes \$1,870,811 for the minimum contribution, \$417,550 in exclusionary costs and \$415,654 in additional contributions.

**Amended:** It was moved by Mr. Buckley, seconded by Mrs. Robin to assess the amount of **\$ 2,704,015** to the Town of Millville to be applied to the operating budget for the 2014-2015 year which includes \$1,870,811 for the minimum contribution, \$417,550 in exclusionary costs and \$415,654 in additional contributions.

**Motion:** It was moved by Mr. Faulkner, seconded by Mrs. Robin to apply the following amounts to the gross operating budget for the year 2014-2015:

- Medicaid \$ 60,000
- Interest \$ 4,000
- User Fees/Music/Athletic \$ 65,000
- Rental of Classrooms \$ 35,000
- \$ 164,000

**Motion:** It was moved by Mrs. Robin, seconded by Mrs. Vinacco to adopt a capital and interest budget in the amount of 330,196 to be assessed solely to the Town of Blackstone which includes \$170,412 for the FWH Middle School, \$108,706 for the BMR High School sewer connection and 51,078 for the roof projects.

**Motion:** It was moved by Mrs. Vinacco, seconded by Mrs. Robin to adopt a capital and interest budget in the amount of \$120,689 to be assessed solely to the Town of Millville which includes \$67,394 for the FWH Middle School, \$42,991 for the High School sewer connection and \$10,304 for the roof projects.

It was moved by Mr. Buckley, seconded by Mrs. Robin and unanimously voted to have the Superintendent of Schools submit the budget to the towns of Blackstone and Millville.

Superintendent Candidates site visits – Thursday Sutton Public Schools – Margo was described as a hard worker and spoke on the balance that they have. She deals with Special Education and Curriculum. She has been a strong advocate for the children with a strong work ethic. She is very visible in the schools.

Friday they went to Wellesley High School – They met with principals in the District – Special Ed Director and people that Andy Keough mentored – he has a unique way of connecting with students – very collaborative and step by step – he doesn't give the answer but he has a nice gift of getting everyone to come up with the answers – a lot of collaboration and talking about things – much more inclusive culture – what was good for all students- he is a problem solver who values everyone – tremendous amount of respect and admiration was shown for him – parents feel that he is fair- he can make the decisions needed to be made- lives and breathes the core values – standout as far as budget discussions- built a fabulous culture in Wellesley-

The next step are the visits here in our School District.

How will the Committee make a decision- they will deliberate that night and make an offer – it is a majority vote – they still need to talk as a Committee – majority will rule but then they will need to make a unanimous vote – in the best interest of the District- An offer would be presented to your candidate of choice subject to negotiations– They are in agreement to have it on one night – do their visits one on Monday and one on Tuesday and the 2 candidates interviewed on one evening – On Tuesday they will have one interview at 6:30 and one at 7:30.

Report of the Superintendent

Dr. Davis spoke on the next steps in the budget process – talked about the budget which was built around the learning needs of the students – we do not have revenue to offset the

budget – the budget is up over 3% - we don't know what the towns will say once they receive the numbers – they need to have the bold discussion – they must have their process in terms of reduction strategies and where the money will come from – significant amount of money that needs to be talked about – in building the budget effort went into squeezing out money – they were successful in the health insurance area – significant savings –

Dr. Davis has looked at utilities and transportation where he found that building and maintenance accounts were under funded.

We do not have unexpended funds this year.

The budget was out of balance last year by \$300,000 due to Circuit Breaker.

They may need to take money from E and D to balance the FY14 budget.

They need to have open discussions on the budget for years to come.

Based on current information they want to have the least impact on student learning. They will look at the other areas first. A 1.4 million dollar reduction will certainly impact student learning. Personnel will be looked at in reductions. They need to look at programs as well. There are certain areas that you can take the funds out of and other areas that you just can't.

If you do not keep up the District you will have more and more students school choiced out.

They need a way to generate more revenue.

Dr. Davis cautions the Committee that they must have a clear process in discussing the implications – scenarios are presented to the Committee and then they vote on where to make the cuts –

Mr. Buckley - we don't want to lose any more students to other Districts – they need to do what is right for the kids - they want to be able to count on people to support their efforts.

The scenarios will reflect the thinking of the district team – once they get the data on the students and their comings and goings they can then make more careful decisions on cuts- there are too many unknown variables –

We really do need to schedule a meeting with the Finance Committees from both Towns to put everything on the table and share with them. We need to open our door. They have received all information on the meetings that we have had so far.

Dr. Davis feels that the public may need to talk about the possibility of an override.

The school plays a large part in the value of your home.

If the schools go down the tax evaluations go down and it becomes harder to sell your home.

They want to present very clear facts on what is going on and allow the Towns and the people to make their decisions.

There has been a dependence on a revenue E and D which eventually became exhausted and it is exhausted now.

**Public Forum –**

Esther Cote – timeline – broad question – when would staff be notified if they make reductions – It is difficult to give a timeline other than to say what is scheduled for town meetings.

He will keep everyone informed as things move forward. He has done this and will continue to do this.

He does not control the decision. This will be done at Town meeting.

June 15<sup>th</sup> is the deadline for letting staff know that their position could be eliminated.

He will try to let them know that they may be impacted. Dr. Davis would give memos to faculty and staff as things progress. We do not have the luxury of having positions that are not directly in the classrooms.

The Committee wanted a marketing plan by Mrs. Carter for her Extended Day program and how that program will become self-supporting.

Upcoming meetings – schedule a meeting for next Tuesday night for the Superintendent search interviews to continue-

April 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting will be with the Finance Committee and Selectman.

Mr. Buckley – thank you to Sutton and Wellesley who met with Mr. Buckley and Mr. Chaplin – appreciation for them to share part of their day with them-

Mr. Chaplin stated that budget presentation material is on the website.

**Motion:** It was moved by Mrs. Robin, seconded by Mr. Tringali and unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Monique F. Simard  
Recording Secretary

ATTEST:



Erin P. Vinacco, District Secretary