

Blackstone-Millville Regional District School Committee

Minutes of Meeting February 27, 2014

The Blackstone Millville Regional District School Committee met in the library of the Frederick W. Hartnett Middle School at 5:00 p.m. with the following members present:

William F. Chaplin, Jr., Chairperson
Steven J. Tringali, Vice Chairperson
Wendy L. Greenstein, District Treasurer
Catherine A. Robinson, Assistant District Treasurer.
Erin P. Vinacco, District Secretary
Michael J. Buckley, Member
Diane C. Robin, Member
Brian T. Faulkner, 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.

Public Forum – there were no items for public forum.

Motion: It was moved by Mr. Faulkner, seconded by Mrs. Robin and unanimously voted to accept Consent Agenda A which includes Warrants, Use of School Facilities, Field Trip Requests, Minutes of Meeting of February 13, 2014 and transfer of funds from money market to checking for student activities account.

Interviews of 2 candidates in the Superintendent search will be held at 6:30 this evening.

Student Representative Morgan McCarthy – winter percussion had a home show on Sunday – The MASC Hyannis conference will be held soon for Student Council members. Mr. BMR rehearsals are starting – winter sports have ended – spring sports meeting will be held in the next couple of weeks – tryouts start at the end of March- National Honor Society had the Empty Bowl dinner and raised over \$1000 for this – the senior class trip will be held overnight in New York.

In the absence of Thomas Gallagher Morgan gave a band update. Recognition of High school Band – did very well – NESBA championships were a great ending to the marching band season – Mr. Bibeault brought his band jacket in to show the Committee. Sunday is the BMR craft fair - Winter percussion and Winter guard will be performing – they are working toward the show for next year – Mr. Shafer will be taking over for Mr. Bibeault at the High School upon his retirement from the District.

Report of the Superintendent – The FY15 budget was reviewed by Dr. Davis. It is a work in progress and is currently \$850,113 more than last year's budget.

The FY15 budget has the following major drivers:

New Personnel

Special Education Programs

Funding instructional supply accounts at each school

Continuing the Literacy Professional Development

FY15 Reductions:

Health insurance, anticipate level program premiums

Special Education transportation

FY15 is using funds to offset staffing expenses:

Special Education Grant payment for staff

Title I Grant payment for staff

Special Education Preschool tuition paying for staff

Special Education Circuit Breaker fund payments for out of district tuition

They are expecting increases in FY15 local aid as followings:

Chapter 70 Aid - \$10,684,594 – increase of \$46,975

Regional Transportation - \$433,478 – increase of \$99,357

Charter School Tuition - \$1106 – increase of \$213

School Choice Receiving - \$140,000 – increase of \$10,210

School Lunch - \$12,038 – increase of \$415

Estimated charges:

School Choice – minus \$445,755

Charter School Tuition – minus \$10,449

We are losing over \$300,000 in aid for students leaving to school choice elsewhere.

Mr. Buckley wonders if there will be any movement of Chapter 70 money. Every student you lose to a charter school is money you will lose in chapter 70 funding.

They are trying to do a more in depth analysis of students who have chosen to school choice out. Our school choice numbers do not include those going out to BVT. We know where they went but we don't know why they decided to leave the School District.

They will hold the budget hearing and vote on the budget. Dr. Davis continues to work with the principals and Dr. Haughey to refine this budget. Dr. Davis spoke to Mr. Tellstone to see if they can save money on busing. They would have trouble decreasing the number of buses they are using as decisions have to be made around safety.

Dr. Davis and Mr. Buckley will be reviewing the Assessments to the two towns. They are focusing on understanding the budget information compared to the calculation of the assessment.

Even at level fund the expenses are going up.

Dr. Davis spoke on a few key areas:

The minimum contribution in Millville will increase.

Excess and Deficiency Account – we should not take any additional funds out of this account. We have a savings in health insurance which could go into E & D.

Medicaid funds – federal health program – We as a District are a qualified vendor to get reimbursement for children on IEP's. Medicaid should go back to the Special Education Dept. and should not be treated like a revenue.

At the construction meeting on Wednesday, February 19th they discussed several issues concerning the snow on the roof of the JFK and AFM schools. Currently the contractor has not installed the roof safety system for our custodians to safely access the roof to remove snow and ice. The contractor is providing labor to remove the snow and ice. They will be placing snow rails at several locations to prevent the snow from sliding off at the doorways. There is a proposal to install these snow rails that is currently under review. The approximate cost will be \$60,000. The harnessing system has already been funded but has not yet been installed. The roof is structurally fine and holding up quite well. The vent pipe was hit and is being repaired. The only people allowed on the roof are people from Greenwood Industries. There are some leaks and Greenwood is going to fix these. This cost is still part of the contract.

Circuit Breaker funds offset the education account. They should take the funds in and hold onto them. They should not be considered revenue. The Circuit Breaker reimbursement is to offset special education.

Once you certify your budget you cannot go higher but you can go lower. The District is trying to be conservative but transparent.

A number of towns are trying to get more state aid for small towns. The tax base is not so broad in these towns and not every town is equal.

Mr. Buckley says thank you for the figures and a record setting date to have firm numbers and applauds the staff for this. He feels they have a much more direct and open understanding for what they are doing. Donna Scungio is very helpful in crunching the numbers. The office staff is pulling together.

Sub -committee reports

There are 2 interviews being held this evening in the Superintendent's search.

Mrs. Robin thanks Mr. Cameron and staff here for helping out during their interview process.

Strategic planning – has a non- draft copy for Dr. Davis-

Public relations – Open house will be held at both Elementary Schools-

Public forum – There were no items for Public Forum.

Committee Forum

Mr. Tringali stated that the winter percussion show was great.

Mr. Buckley – Welcomes all to stop by for the 1st live interview for the Superintendent position this evening.

Mrs. Greenstein – Thinks the sign at JFK/AFM is great.

They will not adjourn the meeting but take a recess and resume interviews at 6:30.

Motion: It was moved by Mrs. Robin, seconded by Mr. Buckley and unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting at 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Monique F. Simard
Recording Secretary

ATTEST:


Erin P. Vinacco, District Secretary