

## **Blackstone-Millville Regional District School Committee**

### **Minutes of Meeting**

**January 23, 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  
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 Mrs. Robin, seconded by Mrs. Robinson and unanimously voted to accept Consent Agenda A which includes Warrants, Use of School Facilities, Field Trip Requests and Minutes of Meeting of January 9, 2014.

Student Representatives were not present

### **Report of the Superintendent**

Mr. Dudek and Mr. Cameron gave their FY15 budget presentations.

They gave a power point presentation with an overview of the budget on the future of the High School and the Middle School.

Dr. Davis does not develop wish list budgets. He builds a budget based on what the students need.

The principals gave an overview of what they see in programs and personnel moving forward.

They have more to budget than just the line items.

Dr. Davis started by giving information on what they are committed to and what the Core values are as follows:

- \*Academic Standards and Expectations
- \*Leadership
- \*Teaching and Professional Development
- \*Climate and Learning Environment
- \*Family and Community
- \*Collaboration and Communication

The House 2 budget was released and the preliminary cherry sheets in terms of numbers was given out.

**Mr. Dudek** – Mission- High School core values and learning expectations – They are in the middle of a NEASC self-study. They want to redefine who we are and look at where we are and where we will go as a school. They want to align to the strategic plan. The overall mission and vision of the High School is relationships, rigor and relevance in the lives of students.

Student learning needs – build meaningful and supportive relationships with staff and students.

Rigor – strengthen the A.P. program – dual enrollment programs – variety of disciplines - Relevance to the current society we live in and a realization that all students can learn.

Personal Finance math course is a new course but relevant to today's needs.

Mr. Dudek strives to bring relevance to the students high school career.

Retirements and replacements – Mrs. Tessier and Mr. Bibeault are retiring.

Director of guidance and music are needed.

They are looking to get full time positions for Library/Media specialist and more time added to the Athletic Director position.

Library/Media Specialist – more student resources are needed and it is very difficult for students when they do not have a go to person. This person can assist with google doc enhancements- writing skills, internet resources –

These areas are not adequately supported- permanent subs will help in the library from time to time when they are available but it is not enough.

**Mr. Cameron** – Mr. Cameron believes a Library/Media specialist would better enhance the teachers to be research literate to be able to help their students.

They currently have a virtual Middle School and computer lab at the middle school.

However, they owe it to the teachers to promote a skill set and to keep current with technology.

This person would promote and support teachers with all the technology that they have and would be more of an information specialist. Electronic and digital is what is taking place today. We do not need so much of a hard copy print library. It is an essential skill for students today to know how to access a database and properly put together presentations.

Learning Information Center – Not a library but a good source for resources and a place for them to become good digital citizens.

How do we ensure that it will be used by all teachers and students? They do not want the kids to miss out if it is not mandatory for a teacher to use it. They would like the specialist to spend less time in the library but more time in the classrooms helping the students and teachers. They are starting at nothing and it will not happen overnight. It

will take time to implement the plan and enhance and bring in a skill set that the teachers can rely on.

Mr. Dudek started a discussion on the current Athletic Director position. This person has more and more responsibility added to his job description. They are committed to professionalism in this department. He currently is responsible for concussions, sportsmanship, hazing and bullying. He needs additional time to supervise, mentor and help coaches. He is overcommitted cannot mentor and supervise all coaches. Our Athletic Director teaches 4 classes which is overwhelming.

The A.D. could help at the Middle School to help his coaches stay current. When they The A.D. could sit in on the workshops and make himself available to the coaches to enhance the Middle School programs.

They are looking at lessening the teaching load for the Athletic Director by allowing Mr. Silva to teach 2 classes per day instead of 4. Mr. Silva is enthusiastic and committed but stretched too thin.

The Collective Bargaining agreement will need to be looked at.

Mr. Buckley feels this is a tough pill to swallow when they are now trying to balance educational programs in our District.

Most A.D.'s are teaching 2 or 3 classes and not 4 as in our school district. We have 28 teams which is quite a lot.

Many coaches are not faculty members and they need guidance. Someone needs to be available to deal with all aspects of this.

Mr. Buckley wonders if the Assistant Principal could take on the role of Athletic Director.

Mr. Faulkner feels that they need to prioritize where the fields need help. This A.D. could take on this responsibility.

They would hire a .4 Physical Education teacher and offer this person a .6 permanent substitute position.

Advanced Placement support program – they currently have all single A.P. classes. They would like the teachers to get together and collaborate. They are looking into the possibility of Saturday sessions. Relatively low cost to the District at about \$5,000 max. They would do this with other school districts.

Technology – wants to extend off of the probes they currently use and expand on it.

Textbooks in French, Science and Math are needed.

Students are using Naviance which is a great addition in the guidance area. This is a powerful interactive tool that opens the avenues of communication between home and

school. It is a secure website that supports academic and career planning. It helps students and parents make better decisions about career paths and college opportunities.

Mr. Cameron wants to preserve the integrity of the Middle School philosophy. He wants to preserve the teaming concept.

He is committed to STEM as well as a push on literacy and the need to network with the elementary school on this.

The Middle School is in need of textbooks for the Spanish program.

The Middle School is committed to 21<sup>st</sup> century learning and a teaming based philosophy. The PTO currently funds all after school programs. They are looking for a District commitment on some of the clubs that are currently funded by the PTO. He wants the 7<sup>th</sup> graders to visit the High School to see how great it can be.

Dr. Davis stated that they need to replace the cafeteria floor in Millville.

Mr. Joe Roposa stated that on the morning of the Board of Selectman's meeting the water engineer firm will be visiting MES at 10:00 a.m.

The Millville Board of Selectman voted to hold a special town meeting on Monday, February 24<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm at the Millville Elementary School and to include on the Warrant the article regarding the roof debt exactly as provided by the School Committee.

Dr. Davis spoke with Dr. Kennedy from NESDEC on the enrollment data and the reporting of births in the Towns. There is a problem with the data if the birth of a child is at an out of state hospital because the reporting requirements are not under the control of Mass. Dept. of Public Health. He advises that using the actual census data from the Town Clerk can be a more accurate number of births. We need to do our kindergarten outreach to determine the number of children that will enroll in kindergarten next September. We should have an enrollment number by the end of February.

Dr. Davis gave an update on our custodial overtime for snow and ice storms as of January 3, 2014 as follows:

Dec. 9, 2013 - \$167.76

December 15 – 17, 2013 - \$3076.50

January 2 – 3, 2014 - \$618.21

They have a \$10,000 budget for snow removal.

Petroleum bid by Petroleum Traders– current price 3.12 for oil. This fixed price is down by 10 cents.

Draft calendar – Dr. Davis proposed the school calendar for the 2014-2015 school year.

Dr. Davis gave information on the water damage at the Hartnett Middle School. He gave a summary from our insurance carrier to cover the water damage claim at the Hartnett

Middle School. The total claim is \$24,421.72 with the District responsible for the deductible of \$2500 for a net claim of \$21,921.72.

Dr. Davis gave information on the cafeteria revolving account. A breakdown was given as follows: Insurance Benefits – Cost - \$62,234

Cafeteria Monitors - \$23,640

Grand Total - \$85,874.

In preparing the FY15 budget the cost of the cafeteria monitors will be moved to the operating budget. Those positions will be placed in the teacher aide line item for each school.

**Motion:** It was moved by Mr. Buckley, seconded by Mrs. Robin and unanimously voted to give Mrs. Sheridan, Cafeteria Manager a 1.5% raise retroactive to July 1, 2013 for her 45% salary by the BMR School District.

Superintendent Sub Committee – canceled first meeting due to storm.

Strategic Planning – no items to report

Regional Agreement – no items to report

Public Relations – spoke on the building walk through to be held.

Budget – met last week and had a good discussion in terms of the initial numbers – they are thinking of having a meeting in Millville – Chapter 70 preliminary numbers are out – Governor Patrick is allowing \$25 additional per pupil across all Districts – enrollment is down by 35 – required contribution by both Towns has increased by about \$100,000 (\$70,000 to Millville and \$30,000 to Blackstone) – level funding does not mean you will get the same amount of money you received this year.

Facilities – no items to report

A budget meeting will be held on Thursday, January 30<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 at the Hartnett Middle School.

At the School Committee meeting on February 13<sup>th</sup> a presentation will be given by the Special Education and Technology Departments.


**Motion:** It was moved by Mrs. Robin, seconded by Mrs. Greenstein and unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting at 9:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Monique F. Simard  
Recording Secretary

ATTEST:



Erin P. Vinacco, District Secretary