

Blackstone-Millville Regional District School Committee
Minutes of Meeting
January 17, 2013

The Blackstone Millville Regional District School Committee met in the Library/Media Center of the Frederick W. Hartnett Middle School commencing at 7:00 p.m. with the following members present:

John J. Eldridge, Chairman
Diane C. Robin, Vice Chairperson
Brian T. Faulkner, Assistant District Treasurer
Steven J. Tringali, District Secretary
Michael J. Buckley, Member
Erin P. Vinacco, Member
Wendy L. Greenstein, Member

Catherine A. Robinson, District Treasurer was absent from the meeting.

Also in attendance was Kimberly B. Shaver-Hood, Superintendent of Schools and Student Representatives, Anna Franciosa and Zachary St. Amant.

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States was recited.

Motion: It was moved by Mr. Buckley, seconded by Mrs. Greenstein and unanimously voted to approve the Consent Agenda which includes Warrants, Use of Facilities, Field Trip Requests and Minutes of Meeting of January 3, 2013.

There were no items for **Public Forum**

The Student Representatives gave their report. They spoke on the Winter Activities including Indoor Track, Basketball, Cheerleading and Winter Percussion. Indoor Track is off to a great start. The Winter Percussion show is half done and cheerleaders have set up a competition squad. Jazz bands are practicing and the boys basketball and hockey teams are doing well. Tyler Symes has started playing on the hockey team again is doing very well.

Attorney Harold D. Gould, Jr. spoke on the MSBA roof project. There is a need for action by the School Committee to incur the debt for the High School, JFK and AFM schools. They will put a multi-ply roof at the JFK/AFM Complex (JFK – 2,716,777 and AFM – 1,680,034) and a PVC synthetic roof at the High School (3,866,801).

These are the proposed budget figures but the actual cost will not be known until the bids come in. 57.4% will come to the District in the form of grants from the MSBA.

The six motions are as follows:

Motion: It was moved by Mrs. Robin, seconded by Mrs. Vinacco and unanimously voted that the Regional School District hereby appropriate the amount of \$2,716,777.00 for the purpose of paying the costs of replacing the roof and its appurtenant components at the John F. Kennedy Elementary School located at 200 Lincoln Street, Blackstone, MA including the payment of all costs incidental and related thereto (the “Project”), which proposed repair project would materially extend the useful life of the school and preserve an asset that otherwise is capable of supporting the required educational program, and for which the District may be eligible for a school construction grant from the Massachusetts School Building Authority (“MSBA”), said amount to be expended at the direction of the District School Committee. To meet this appropriation the District is authorized to borrow said amount under and pursuant to Chapter 71, Section 16(d) of the General Laws and the District Agreement, as amended, or pursuant to any other enabling authority. The District acknowledges that the MSBA’s grant program is a non-entitlement, discretionary program based on need, as determined by the MSBA, and any costs the District incurs in excess of any grant approved by and received from the MSBA shall be the sole responsibility of the District; provided further that any grant that the District may receive from the MSBA shall not exceed the lesser of (1) fifty seven and seventy four one-hundred percent (57.74%) of eligible, approved Project costs, as determined by the MSBA, or (2) the total maximum grant amount determined by MSBA and that the amount of borrowing authorized pursuant to this vote shall be reduced by any grant amount set forth in the Project Funding Agreement that may be executed between the District and the MSBA.

Motion: It was further moved by Mrs. Robin, seconded by Mrs. Greenstein and unanimously voted that, within seven (7) days from the date on which this vote is adopted, the Secretary be and hereby is instructed to notify the Board of Selectmen of each of the member towns of this District as to the amount and general purposes of the debt herein authorized as required by the District Agreement, as amended, and by Chapter 71, Section 16(d) of the General Laws.

Motion: It was moved by Mr. Tringali, seconded by Mrs. Vinacco and unanimously voted that the Regional School District hereby appropriate the amount of \$1,680,034.00 for the purpose of paying the costs of replacing the roof and its appurtenant components at the Augustine F. Maloney Elementary School located at 200 Lincoln Street, Blackstone, MA including the payment of all costs incidental and related thereto (the “Project”), which proposed repair project would materially extend the useful life of the school and preserve an asset that otherwise is capable of supporting the required educational program, and for which the District may be eligible for a school construction grant from the Massachusetts School Building Authority (“MSBA”), said amount to be expended at the direction of the District School Committee. To meet this appropriation the District is authorized to borrow said amount under and pursuant to Chapter 71, Section 16(d) of the General Laws and the District Agreement, as amended, or pursuant to any other enabling authority. The District acknowledges that the MSBA’s grant program is a non-entitlement, discretionary program based on need, as determined

by the MSBA, and any costs the District incurs in excess of any grant approved by and received from the MSBA shall be the sole responsibility of the District; provided further that any grant that the District may receive from the MSBA shall not exceed the lesser of (1) fifty seven and seventy four one-hundred percent (57.74%) of eligible, approved Project costs, as determined by the MSBA, or (2) the total maximum grant amount determined by MSBA and that the amount of borrowing authorized pursuant to this vote shall be reduced by any grant amount set forth in the Project Funding Agreement that may be executed between the District and the MSBA.

Motion: It was further moved by Mr. Tringali, seconded by Mrs. Greenstein and unanimously voted that, within seven (7) days from the date on which this vote is adopted, the Secretary be and hereby is instructed to notify the Board of Selectmen of each of the member towns of this District as to the amount and general purposes of the debt herein authorized as required by the District Agreement, as amended, and by Chapter 71, Section 16(d) of the General Laws.

Motion: It was moved by Mr. Buckley, seconded by Mr. Tringali and unanimously voted that the Regional School District hereby appropriate the amount of \$3,866,801.00 for the purpose of paying the costs of replacing the roof and its appurtenant components at the Blackstone-Millville Regional High School located at 175 Lincoln Street, Blackstone, MA including the payment of all costs incidental and related thereto (the "Project"), which proposed repair project would materially extend the useful life of the school and preserve an asset that otherwise is capable of supporting the required educational program, and for which the District may be eligible for a school construction grant from the Massachusetts School Building Authority ("MSBA"), said amount to be expended at the direction of the District School Committee. To meet this appropriation the District is authorized to borrow said amount under and pursuant to Chapter 71, Section 16(d) of the General Laws and the District Agreement, as amended, or pursuant to any other enabling authority. The District acknowledges that the MSBA's grant program is a non-entitlement, discretionary program based on need, as determined by the MSBA, and any costs the District incurs in excess of any grant approved by and received from the MSBA shall be the sole responsibility of the District; provided further that any grant that the District may receive from the MSBA shall not exceed the lesser of (1) fifty seven and seventy four one-hundred percent (57.74%) of eligible, approved Project costs, as determined by the MSBA, or (2) the total maximum grant amount determined by MSBA and that the amount of borrowing authorized pursuant to this vote shall be reduced by any grant amount set forth in the Project Funding Agreement that may be executed between the District and the MSBA.

Motion: It was further moved by Mr. Buckley, seconded by Mrs. Robin and unanimously voted to further move that, within seven (7) days from the date on which this vote is adopted, the Secretary be and hereby is instructed to notify the Board of Selectmen of each of the member towns of this District as to the amount and general purposes of the debt herein authorized as required by the District Agreement, as amended, and by Chapter 71, Section 16(d) of the General Laws.

A letter will be sent to the Blackstone and Millville selectman informing them of the purpose of the borrowing. Attorney Gould has packets for each member with the letters being sent to the Towns and warrant articles. All documentation will be delivered on Tuesday.

Middle School Students

Samantha Butler and Tyler Mullaly, STEM students from the Middle School gave a presentation and have created a shark tank parody. In November they attended the STEM lego competition. They produced a pill dispenser that will tell the person when they need to take their pills and dispense them. Robotics are part of the challenge. They did quite well considering they only received their robot in September and had to make the presentation in November. They are looking for additional funding for their projects.

Mrs. Robertson from the Visual Arts Dept. gave a presentation with her students. She feels the students do a great job with the resources they have.

Student Matt Doiron is taking a Foundations in Art class which includes block prints, a scratch board and watercolors. He presented his projects and spoke on how much he enjoys the class.

Student, Derek Heldenbergh is building a college portfolio in art class. He presented different pictures that he drew that were very detailed and well done.

The Graphic Arts Dept. classes are taught by Mr. Juba. Three students from his class made a presentation. The students include, Allie Gonzaga, Matt Doiron and Lindsey Dowling.

Mr. Juba stated that Graphics 1 is an introduction where students start to feel comfortable with printers. In Graphics 2 students start working in teams and develop a client/boss relationship. In Graphics 3 students print items for the District which includes the school newspaper. In this class students design t-shirts, calendars and pamphlets. They do not get templates. They start with a blank piece of paper and design on their own. Many go into graphic design in college. This year they designed 30 teddy bears and gave them to Toys for Tots.

Mr. James Cook

James Cook, a resident of Blackstone with three children at the elementary school spoke on his offer to install an electronic security system free of charge at the elementary school. Unfortunately, the School Committee has not responded to his offer. He would like to upgrade the surveillance technology at the schools. When he contacted a school committee member he was dismissed by that person. He is quite surprised at the lack of interest. He stated that he would walk the site, design a new surveillance system and put in cameras outside.

It was stated by Chairman Eldridge that Superintendent Shaver-Hood is working with the chief of police in Blackstone and Millville. They are first and foremost concerned with the safety of the students. The Committee wanted to hear what Mr. Cook had to say this evening and Chairman Eldridge will take what he has presented tonight under advisement.

Chief Atstupenus has been in contact with Superintendent Shaver-Hood and has talked about several issues that need to be addressed in town. The Chief would like to speak with Mr. Cook about what he has to offer.

The Superintendent is thankful to both chiefs of police. They have been very visible. She hopes that the parents understand that they are making changes for the good of all students and their safety.

Sub-Committee Reports

The **Strategic Planning Committee** had a meeting two nights ago where they discussed core goals. In about a month and a half they should have something for the Committee to review. It is a living document that is constantly evolving.

Policy – there were no items for policy.

Regional Agreement – they held their 2nd meeting tonight. They will be brainstorming ideas and hope to get out a survey and move forward from there.

Legislature – Mr. Buckley spoke on the State of State address and outlined major changes to Education Reform and the tax structure. The discussion was on universal access to all levels for high quality education. There will be \$70 million dollars to middle schools in high need areas. Our school district could possibly receive funds for underperforming. There will be an increase in Chapter 70 funds which would keep all districts at foundation levels. There would be a guaranteed increase of 25 dollars per pupil and 250 million dollars for more access to community colleges.

Facilities – have not met yet.

Communications – there is an update for u-tube and they are working on more playing time in Blackstone. The equipment is in for live meetings and to broadcast to the internet as well. Mrs. Robin feels the communication at the schools is getting our message out that we are here to be part of the community. They are using twitter accounts for athletics and the School Committee as well.

Report of the Superintendent

Superintendent Shaver-Hood showed a video for professional development of the fun, exciting and educational events of the first semester at Blackstone-Millville Regional.

Mrs. Sheridan, cafeteria manager asked to increase the cafeteria substitute worker pay to 10 dollars per hour from 8 dollars per hour which would be paid from cafeteria funds.

Motion: It was moved by Mrs. Robin, seconded by Mr. Faulkner and unanimously voted to increase the rate of pay for cafeteria substitute workers to 10 dollars per hour.

Motion: It was moved by Mrs. Robin, seconded by Mr. Buckley and unanimously voted to move a cafeteria display unit from the Middle School to the High School.

Motion: It was moved by Mrs. Robin, seconded by Mrs. Greenstein and unanimously voted to transfer \$2,000 from Supplies General Repair 0105005340422054380 to the Generator account 0105005325412047080.

Motion: It was moved by Mrs. Robin, seconded by Mr. Buckley and unanimously voted to transfer \$15,600 from the Football Donation Account to account 0105505401351053180 (supplies Athletic High School account) for expenses incurred for football equipment and supplies.

Mr. Dudek and Mr. Johnson spoke on the possibility of have a varsity football team for the FY14 school year.

Originally, Mr. Johnson wanted to have the J.V. Football team for two years and wanted to evaluate the program at that time. After many discussions and much thought they believe it is best for the district program and the students to move to a varsity program next year. Sutton/Douglas will also be a first year varsity program. There is a new football alignment this year and it will be a smooth transition. If they don't take advantage of it this year they will not be able to get it until FY16. If they move now they can be placed in the lowest division possible (division 6) where they believe the District can be competitive. They can now begin a Thanksgiving Day football tradition and have weekend games. They would only have a varsity team and no longer carry a junior varsity team.

Mrs. Vinacco is worried about the freshman and sophomores going to varsity teams and playing against much bigger kids. She feels it may be a good idea to have a junior varsity team for three years.

Mr. Buckley is concerned about a viable program. He is looking to what the 8th graders look like since they are losing 15 seniors this year. He feels they may not be evenly matched with the division 6 schools and is concerned that they don't have a feeder or junior varsity program. He feels they might be putting the cart before the horse a bit. He supports the program but doesn't want to field a team if they have too many rookies in the varsity program.

Mr. Dudek feels that whichever way they go they will need to look for a feeder program.

Mr. Buckley feels they need to know the numbers and get more information to be able to support the varsity program.

Mrs. Greenstein is looking for the survey from the 8th graders and also a feeder program from the boosters. She needs more information to make a decision.

Mr. Eldridge remembers Mr. Costa saying he wanted to create a feeder program. This is needed. He would like to know why the football booster group are not at the meeting.

Mr. Tringali feels that being in Division 6 is key here and he feels they can do it. Mr. Tringali wonders if they could have flag football here in the spring to get a bit of a feeder program going.

A decision will need to be made soon since they begin scheduling at the end of January.

Mr. Buckley feels they should be able to get into a varsity program when they want to.

Mr. Faulkner felt there was inconsistency and going to a varsity model will give them some consistency. He also doesn't want to lose kids who are not interested in playing junior varsity.

Superintendent Shaver-Hood stated that they have a place holder and they need to make a decision at the end of the month.

Mr. Eldridge wants to see a lot of enthusiasm going forward and get the interested people and Booster club here.

There were no items for Public Forum.

Committee Forum

Mr. Tringali – loves meeting with kids presenting things and seeing the videos.

Mrs. Vinacco – no items to report.

Mr. Faulkner – no items to report.

Mrs. Greenstein – no items to report.

Mr. Buckley – Congratulations to Tyler Symes returning to the ice.

Mrs. Robin – evaluation training – looking for dates in February for MASB to come in and give an overall review of the superintendent evaluation piece – Tuesday, January 26th @ 6:00 pm. The High School is hosting a community blood drive on Feb. 15th. It will be a community event and blood will be collected from noon to 5 pm in the gym.

Mr. Eldridge – no items to report.

Motion: It was moved by Mr. Robin, seconded by Mrs. Greenstein to enter into Executive Session at 9:40 p.m. for the purpose of discussing negotiations with the Educators Association and to come out of executive session for the purpose of adjournment only. The motion was followed by a roll call vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Monique F. Simard
Recording Secretary

ATTEST: _____
Steven J. Tringali, District Secretary