

FY14 Budget Proposal
Open Hearing
March 13, 2013
7:00 p.m.
BMR High School Molony-Sullivan Auditorium

The Blackstone Millville Regional District School Committee met in the High School Auditorium commencing at 7:00 p.m. with the following members present:

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

Also in attendance was Kimberly B. Shaver-Hood, Superintendent of Schools and school administrators.

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

FY14 Budget Proposal

Mr. Buckley stated that on the 1st pass they were looking at a budget of \$24.9 million. On the 2nd pass they went for a budget of \$23.9 million. They have already cut 1 million dollars off of the budget. This means a shortfall of \$1,465,506 dollars.

This is not a level services budget. It will be higher than level funding due to the fact that the cost of salaries, insurance, utilities, etc. increase every year. In order to achieve a balanced budget certain actions will need to be taken.

The District has not asked for an additional contribution since 2009. The District has exhausted all methods at its disposal to mitigate the shortfall. The District budget is presently 1.5 percent over net school spending and the baseline state average is 15%. Working with the Towns they must raise this contribution over the next few years.

They are looking at the possibility of housing all elementary grades between the JFK Elementary School and the Millville Elementary School. They would like to utilize the A.F. Maloney Elementary School as an Alternative Learning Program that would be separate and free standing. Doing this could give the District a savings of \$300,000.

In order to do this the Regional Agreement must be changed. This is due to the fact that all students from a particular grade from Millville and Blackstone will all be housed in the same building. They are looking at class size parity and equal delivery of services. This would promote and improve management of facilities and staff, efficient deployment of resources and curriculum alignment.

They are short on time and need to change the Regional Agreement.
Even if they can't do it this year they will look at doing it in years to come.

Goals:

Improve and expand programs for children.
Providing students with 21st century skills.
Student Centered schools.
Raising expectations of students, staff, parents and community.

Vision:

Increase student achievement.
Academic rigor is essential.
Programs to meet needs and challenge all students.
Opportunities for all types of learners.
Career strategies.
Higher Learning.
Workforce training.

They have too many students opting to school choice out and not enough coming in. It is imperative that they find ways to keep the students here by working in unity and promoting services and programs.

Next week they will adopt a budget and apply the deficit in additional contributions by requesting the additional contributions from the towns of Blackstone and Millville. After certifying the budget they cannot raise the amount.

Question and Answers –

Buddy Bibeault – feels that raising the user fee by 100% is a little bit extreme and too much of a change. He asks if they can raise it by a smaller amount for FY14 and increase the amount in small increments each year after that.

Bill Chaplin – Asked about the assistant superintendent still being added to the budget. Mr. Buckley feels that the central office still needs help and it is practical to have an assistant superintendent to take on other responsibilities that Superintendent Shaver-Hood needs help with.

Ms. Shaver-Hood stated that the staff in the main office is much leaner now. They have cut positions over the years and now they need to bring in additional staff. A School District of our size usually has an assistant superintendent.

Kathy Stearman – Asked what would be the cost savings on changing the Regional Agreement?

Ms. Shaver-Hood stated that the savings would be a bit more than \$300,000. It would be best for our students and addresses class size issues. The savings and the benefits for children make this a viable option.

The Committee asks the community to share the information with their neighbors and colleagues. This has been a difficult budget process. In the current budget they have reduced 12 people. If they can't come to the budget number they will reduce by 18 educators and 10 support staff to get to the budget they need. They will not be able to order any supplies. They ask for everyone's help and consideration at this difficult time.

The next meeting is on Wednesday, March 20th to adopt the budget.

Motion: It was moved by Mr. Tringali, seconded by Mrs. Greenstein and unanimously voted to adjourn the Public Hearing at 7:45 p.m.

Motion: It was moved by Mrs. Robinson, seconded by Mrs. Greenstein and unanimously voted to adjourn the School Committee meeting at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Monique F. Simard
Recording Secretary

ATTEST: _____
Steven J. Tringali, District Secretary

