

Blackstone-Millville Regional District School Committee
Minutes of Meeting
Certification of FY14 Budget
March 20, 2013

The Blackstone Millville Regional District School Committee met in the library of the Frederick W. Hartnett Middle School 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

Chairman Eldridge was absent from the meeting.

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

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

Motion: It was moved by Mr. Faulkner, seconded by Mr. Tringali and unanimously voted to approve Consent Agenda A which includes Warrants, Use of School Facilities, Field Trip Requests and Minutes of Meeting of March 13, 2013.

There were no items for Public Forum.

Superintendent Shaver-Hood stated that at this time there will be eleven professional cuts and three support staff cuts. They will have no choice but to reduce supplies and materials to zero. They will not have any new programs or new resources for students. Some programs will need to be decreased.

They are looking at a 10% increase in health coverage if they stay with MIAA and a 4% increase if they go with Fallon Health.

She is asking for a wage, lane and step freeze from teachers and support staff for FY14.

If they must reduce staff this will mean class sizes of up to 30 students.

If there are any jobs to be posted they will be for retirements and many will not be replaced.

They are asking for additional contributions from the towns of Blackstone and Millville. If they do not receive the contributions from the towns they will add from 10-15 additional support staff cuts and up to 20 teacher cuts to the above numbers.

They have looked at the possibility of Regionalization of the schools but it will probably not happen for FY14. They need a positive vote from the Towns to do this.

It was stated that they may need to start charging utility fees to the communities for the Use of School Facilities.

They are considering stopping custodial overtime pay for building checks.

Certification of the FY14 Budget

Motion: It was moved by Mr. Tringali, seconded by Mrs. Vinacco and unanimously voted to adopt a gross operating budget for the year 2013-2014 in the amount of \$22,112,250.

Motion: It was moved by Mrs. Vinacco, seconded by Mr. Faulkner and unanimously voted to apply the following reimbursements to reduce said gross operating budget for the 2013-2014 year:

- Chapter 70 \$10,637,769
- Regional Transportation \$ 279,609
- School Choice Offset (\$ 244,507)

Above reimbursements total \$10,672,871. The total net operating budget for 2013-2014 is \$11,439,379.

Motion: It was moved by Mr. Faulkner, seconded by Mrs. Robinson and unanimously voted to assess the amount of \$7,464,632 to the Town of Blackstone to be applied to the operating budget for the 2013-2014 year which includes \$6,091,255 for the minimum contribution, \$1,145,577 in exclusionary costs and \$227,800 in additional contributions.

Motion: It was moved by Mrs. Robinson, seconded by Mrs. Greenstein and unanimously voted to assess the amount of \$2,380,747 to the Town of Millville to be applied to the operating budget for the 2013-2014 year which includes \$1,823,597 for the minimum contribution, \$464,737 in exclusionary costs and \$92,414 in additional contributions.

Motion: It was moved by Mrs. Greenstein, seconded by Mr. Buckley and unanimously voted to apply the following amounts to the gross operating budget for the year 2013-2014:

- Medicaid \$ 60,000
- Pre-School Tuition \$ 50,000
- Athletic Event Receipts \$ 8,000
- Miscellaneous Revenue \$ 35,000
- Interest \$ 4,000
- E&D \$ 325,000
- Circuit Breaker \$ 300,000
- User Fees \$ 65,000
- Grant Funds \$ 747,000
- \$1,594,000

Motion: It was moved by Mr. Tringali, seconded by Mr. Buckley and unanimously voted to adopt a capital and interest budget in the amount of \$322,523 to be assessed solely to the Town of Blackstone which includes \$173,871 for the FWH Middle School, \$110,895 for the BMR High School sewer connection and \$37,757 for the roof projects.

Motion: It was moved by Mrs. Vinacco, seconded by Mr. Faulkner and unanimously voted to adopt a capital and interest budget in the amount of \$121,419 to be assessed solely to the Town of Millville which includes \$70,536 for the FWH Middle School, \$44,988 for the High School sewer connection and \$5,895 for the roof projects.

Report of the Superintendent

They have looked at area user fees and found that BMR is on the low side. The Superintendent would like to raise user fees to \$200 for Athletics and to \$140 for Music fees. Football will charge \$325 per year. There will be a family cap of \$600 per year.

Motion: It was moved by Mrs. Greenstein, seconded by Mrs. Vinacco and unanimously voted to raise user fees to \$200 for Athletics, \$140 for Music and \$325 for Football with a family cap of \$600 per year.

Mrs. Robinson stated that they may be able to do fundraising for the user fees. They will explore various fundraising activities and make it fair for all.

They are looking at a number of snow make up days. They will attend school until June 28.

A survey was taken by staff and parents to see if they can make up any days during April vacation. It was determined that they will not be able to staff the buildings during the vacation since too many teachers will not be available to work.

The District is looking for permission from the Towns to establish a stabilization fund. They need to do this to have funds available if something needs to be replaced or work needs to be done in one of the schools.

Motion: It was moved by Mr. Faulkner, seconded by Mr. Tringali and unanimously voted to establish a stabilization fund for the BMR School District.

Mr. Buckley spoke on removing the attendance requirement for School Committee members. Mrs. Vinacco believes that the requirement of attending 60% of the meetings should remain in place. It was decided to keep the attendance requirement as is for now.

Superintendent Shaver-Hood does not recommend locking the School District into a 25 year plan for solar energy with the Boys and Girls Club. They are locked into a good electrical rate for a few years and they will not see a savings with the solar energy for quite a few years. They will continue to look into other programs such as gas. They will let the Boys and Girls Club know that the District will not pursue the solar energy project at this time.

Subcommittee Reports

Strategic planning will reconvene in the next 2 weeks.

Policy – no items this evening.

Regional Agreement – received 195 responses to a survey on the website.

School choice – 57percent said yes and 42 percent no to let students go between towns to go to school.

Legislative – no items this evening.

Facilities – no items this evening.

Communications – meetings are live.

Public Forum – Kathy Stearman asked how many staff members would be cut Districtwide. The answer is 11 at this time.

Esther Cote – had a question on budget numbers.

If they don't get additional contributions from the towns the 11 cuts will increase.

The Educators Association had an informational meeting tonight. They will need more information to take a vote on the wage freeze.

Mr. Tringali thanks the 2 towns for the contributions they will make to the roof projects. Thanks to the Budget committee for their creativity and stamina. It was a long project and not over yet.

Mr. Faulkner – congratulations to the boys basketball team.

Mrs. Greenstein – Thanks the budget committee as well.

Motion: It was moved by Mr. Tringali, seconded by Mrs. Greenstein and unanimously voted to adjourn the School Committee meeting at 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Monique F. Simard

ATTEST:



Steven J. Tringali, District Secretary