

Blackstone-Millville Regional District School Committee
Minutes of Meeting
April 25, 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:

William F. Chaplin, Jr., Chairperson
Steven J. Tringali, Vice Chairperson
Wendy L. Greenstein, District Treasurer – arrived at 9:00 p.m.
Catherine A. Robinson, Asst. District Treasurer
Erin P. Vinacco, District Secretary
Michael J. Buckley, Member
Diane C. Robin, Member
Brian T. Faulkner, Member

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

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

Chairman Chaplin requested a change be made to the minutes of April 4th to reflect that Mrs. Cote had a request regarding the Negotiation Meeting and not the Strategic Planning Meeting.

Motion: It was moved by Mrs. Robin, seconded by Mrs. Vinacco and unanimously voted to approve Consent Agenda A with the above change made to Minutes of 4/4/13.

Student Representatives Anna Franciosa and Zachary St. Amant were both present at the meeting. They spoke on winter percussion, baseball, softball, tennis and track. They also mentioned that everyone had a great time at the senior prom this year.

Russ Arnold, advisor to the class of 2013 and Kevin Gautreau are requesting the approval of the Senior Class trip to High Meadow Resort in Connecticut. Seniors will enjoy pools, lakes, activities and an all you can eat buffet. Horseback riding will be provided for an extra fee of \$25. The cost will be \$41 per person and \$10 for the cost of the bus. The senior class treasury will pay for this.

Motion: It was moved by Mr. Buckley, seconded by Mrs. Robin and unanimously voted to approve the 2013 Senior Class Trip to High Meadow Resort in CT on Monday, June 3, 2013.

Mr. Arnold stated that the Senior Banquet will be at the Coachmen's Lodge on June 5th with Awards night on June 6th.

Mr. Cameron, Principal, Mr. McCourt, Middle School Student Council Advisor and a group of the Student Council students gave a presentation. Mr. McCourt spoke on the March 29th state conference at Murdock Middle School in Winchendon, MA. The Hartnett Middle School received the Gold Council of Excellence. The student council has participated in school spirit

weeks, the sponsoring of dances, food baskets, teacher luncheons and recycling to name a few of the activities.

Mr. McCourt was named the MASC Advisor of the Year.

Mr. Bibault spoke on marching band and winter percussion. Mr. Bibault stated that the winter percussion won the championship this season. He presented the marching band schedule for FY14.

Motion: It was moved by Mr. Tringali, seconded by Mrs. Robin and unanimously voted to approve the FY14 marching band schedule.

The Committee was entertained by the winning winter percussion performance in the HMS gymnasium.

Public Forum

Justine Jacome - thanked the School Committee for their hard work. She questioned the cuts to the elementary level. She is confused about the space utilization.

Chairman Chaplin stated that all of the moves are in the discussion stages at this point. They are working on how to attain maximum student achievement.

Mr. Buckley stated that as part of the Regional Agreement they cannot randomly move students from Blackstone to Millville. The Towns need to vote on this before it can be done. They are just trying to utilize all free space and be as efficient as possible. They are looking at an extended daycare at the A.F.M. school. Given the state of the economy they need to look into all possibilities including an Adult Learning and Alternative Learning program. There is a possibility of 24 position cuts throughout the District.

Carrie Rogers – has questions on the before and after school program at the AFM school. She was told that the School District will not just dive into this. This program would be revenue generating and District controlled. Any adult programs would be after school hours most likely in the evening.

Esther Cote – looking for clarification and questioning the dynamics of the schools. She was told that both cafeterias would be used as well as the auditorium and art room. The rest of the building at AFM would not be needed. Mrs. Cote stated that everyone wants to be a part of the discussions to widen the circle of dialogue. She has raised a question over class sizes.

Christine Miller – questions class sizes. She asked if placing the 5th graders at HMS would be an option. Superintendent Shaver-Hood stated that this has been discussed. This is a possibility and would not pose an extra busing cost.

Mrs. Rousselle, Mrs. Greer, Mrs. Dailey and Mrs. Najarian believe that the better move for the students would be to place the 5th graders at the HMS versus sending them to MES for one year.

They also had questions on the roofing project and the fact that their rooms had to be packed by Friday, June 28th when this is the last day of school.

Tammy Lemieux – has a busing concern. She is asking the Committee to consider the long bus routes. She feels that students should not be moved around too many times.

Mr. Buckley stated that there may be DESE ramifications by not using the AFM school. He is looking for feedback from DESE on this before they make any decisions.

Peter Olson – He has many questions for DESE on using the AFM school for something other than a normal school for the students of Blackstone.

Cecelia Doyle – she would like to know how this is impacting the other schools. Superintendent Shaver-Hood stated that they are looking at the efficiency levels at each building. There may be cuts at the other schools. All schools will absorb the cuts.

At this time there is still much uncertainty from the State of MA. The Towns of Blackstone and Millville will need to vote on the additional contributions. These votes will be taken in Millville on May 13th and in Blackstone on May 27th. All of this will impact the decision making process.

Harold Gould spoke on the roof projects. He stated that there is a glitch in respect to the Millville vote. The Millville vote was conditioned on debt exclusion. There was an error made in the processing of the High School roof bill and they are trying to get this rectified quickly. The warrant did not contain anything regarding the debt exclusion question. Attorney Gould stated there were no glitches with the Blackstone vote.

They are trying to find out the most expeditious way to get this done. Mr. Buckley is concerned. He feels there is no excuse for this type of error by the Town of Millville. To be thrown out on a technicality is unacceptable.

There is a possibility of rescinding the action taken at the previous town meeting and ask the Town of Millville to do it without a debt exclusion. This may be tough to fit in the budget as it would cost them approximately \$5,895. By doing this they could do a debt exclusion for the following year.

Motion: It was moved by Mr. Tringali, seconded by Mr. Faulkner and unanimously voted to call a special town meeting in Millville to rescind the vote from March 11th and approve incurring of debt without a debt exclusion.

Motion #1

Motion: It was moved by Mr. Faulkner, seconded by Mr. Buckley and unanimously voted that William F. Chaplin, Jr. Chairman of the District School Committee, be and is hereby authorized and empowered to execute and deliver the Project Funding Agreement (the “Agreement”), and any amendments thereto, for the A.F. Maloney Elementary School, Blackstone-Millville Regional High School, and John F. Kennedy Elementary School Projects

(collectively, the “Project”) between the Blackstone-Millville Regional School District and the Massachusetts School Building Authority on behalf of the Blackstone-Millville Regional School District and to bind the Blackstone-Millville Regional School District to its terms and conditions.

Motion #2:

Motion: It was moved by Mr. Buckley, seconded by Mrs. Robin and unanimously voted that William F. Chaplin, Jr. Chairman of the District School Committee, be and is hereby granted the full legal authority under the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and all applicable local charters, ordinances and by-laws to make final, binding decisions with respect to the Project described in the Project Funding Agreement, and any amendments thereto, on behalf of the Blackstone-Millville Regional School District.

Motion #1

Motion: It was moved by Mr. Buckley, seconded by Mrs. Greenstein and unanimously voted that the vote taken by the Committee at its meeting of March 20, 2013 adopting a gross operating budget for the year 2013-2014 in the amount of \$22,112,250 be and is hereby amended by deleting therefrom the figure of \$22,112,250 and substituting in place thereof the figure of \$21,365,250.

Motion #2

Motion: It was moved by Mrs. Greenstein, seconded by Mrs. Robin and unanimously voted that the vote taken by the Committee at its meeting on March 20, 2013 adopting a net operating budget for the year 2013-14 in the amount of \$11,439,379 be and is hereby amended by deleting therefrom the figure \$11,439,379 and substituting in place thereof the figure of \$10,692,379.

Motion #3

Motion: It was moved by Mrs. Robinson, seconded by Mrs. Robin and unanimously voted that the vote taken by the Committee at its meeting of March 20, 2013 allocating the sum of \$1,145,577 in exclusionary costs and the sum of \$227,800 in additional contributions to the Town of Blackstone’s assessment in the amount of \$7,464,632 for the operating budget for the 2013-2014 year be and is hereby amended by deleting therefrom the figure \$1,145,577 in exclusionary costs and the figure of \$227,800 in additional contributions and substituting in place thereof the sum of \$1,138,122 in exclusionary costs and the sum of \$235,255 in additional contributions.

Motion #4

Motion: It was moved by Mr. Tringli, seconded by Mrs. Robinson and unanimously voted that the vote taken by the Committee at its meeting on March 20, 2013 allocating the sum of \$464,737 in exclusionary costs and the sum of \$92,414 in additional contributions to the Town of Millville’s assessment in the amount of \$2,380,747 for the operating budget for the 2013-2014

year be and is hereby amended by deleting therefrom the figure \$464,737 in exclusionary costs and the figure of \$92,414 in additional contributions and substituting in place thereof the sum of \$461,712 in exclusionary costs and the sum of \$95,438 in additional contributions.

Motion #5

Motion: It was moved by Mrs. Robin, seconded by Mr. Buckley and unanimously voted that the vote taken by the Committee at its meeting on March 20, 2013 applying various amounts totaling \$1,594,000 to the gross operating budget for the year 2013-2014 be and is hereby amended by deleting therefrom Grant Funds in the amount of \$747,000 and reducing the total figure of \$1,594,000 to \$847,000.

Sub-Committee Reports

Strategic Planning – Mr. Faulkner stated a brief meeting was held and they are wrapping up policy.

Regional Agreement – hold off on meeting until the decision is made for next year.

Legislative – Chapter 70 funds have not changed.

Facilities – no items.

Communications – no items.

Superintendent Shaver-Hood asked the Committee to consider changing the date requirement for entrance into Kindergarten.

Motion: It was moved by Mrs. Vinacco, seconded by Mrs. Greenstein to change the existing policy on the entrance date for Kindergarten.

There was discussion by the Committee on the best possible date.

Motion: It was moved by Mrs. Robinson, seconded by Mrs. Greenstein to amend the birthday cut-off date for entrance into Kindergarten to September 1. The vote passed with 5 members in favor and 3 members opposed.

Motion: It was moved by Mr. Buckley, seconded by Mrs. Robin and unanimously voted to approve the job description for the extended day program director.

Superintendent Shaver-Hood gave the members proposed school committee meeting dates for FY14. She asked that they review them and plan to vote at the next meeting.

Public Forum

Justine Jacome questioned the user fee amounts. It was stated that they will be as follows:

Athletics - \$200

Music - \$140

Football - \$325

Tammy Lemieux hopes there will not be any cuts at the High School. She believes in rigor and in not cutting classes but consolidating them.

Committee Forum

Mrs. Robin requests a student services update at an upcoming meeting by Dr. Haughey.

Mrs. Vinacco requests that someone from Robotics give an update at a meeting.

Mr. Faulkner stated that the Millville Variety Show will be held this Friday and Saturday at the Millville Elementary School.

The Blackstone Selectman's room was named after John Eldridge.

Mrs. Greenstein invites the Curriculum Director to come to a meeting on May 9th.

Mr. Buckley stated that new fiber optic cable is being installed at the High School and Middle School.

Mr. Tringali stated that the Kevin Gignac race will be held on April 28th and the Corey Gaudet race will be held on May 5th.

Mr. Chaplin has a vision for the District. He remembers how great the school district was when he moved to this town to raise his children and would like to strive to see this again in the future.

Motion: It was moved by Mr. Buckley, seconded by Mrs. Robinson and unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting at 10:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Monique F. Simard
Recording Secretary

ATTEST: _____
Erin P. Vinacco, District Secretary

