

Blackstone-Millville Regional District School Committee
Minutes of Meeting
May 9, 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
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.

Motion: It was moved by Mrs. Robin, seconded by Mrs. Greenstein and unanimously voted to approve Consent Agenda A which includes Warrants, Use of School Facilities, Field Trips and Minutes of Meeting of April 25, 2013.

Grade 5 students from Millville Elementary School read their concrete poems to the School Committee members.

Mrs. Faulkner and her grade 5 class gave a math presentation. They asked all staff in the school district to trace their feet on a piece of paper and send them to Mrs. Faulkner at the Millville Elementary School. They were looking for the person with the foot that was exactly 12 inches long. They found that music teacher, Mr. Shafer had this size foot. They gave Mr. Shafer a special certificate for this.

The A.F. Maloney school will not be closing this year so the 5th grade class will not be moved.

Public Forum - There were no items for public forum.

Student Representative, Anna Franciosa stated that the National Honor Society and Student Council participated in 2 separate walks and raised a considerable amount of money. The all district band concert took place this week. The National Honor Society will hold inductions this week.

Elementary teachers presented the benefits of using the Foundations reading program and having teacher aides in the classrooms helping students. It was brought up that this year they have seen fewer referrals. The students use blending and decoding as well as sight word reading. There are many components that go into reading.

If a student did not attend preschool they may not be as advanced in their reading skills as other students who did attend preschool. If they were not exposed to a language rich environment they may need supportive reading. The students are blending and decoding. Sight word reading is used. Some students are in need of supportive reading.

Mrs. Greenstein asked how the para-professionals play a role in teaching students to read. They help the students by repeating and reviewing vocabulary with them. Not all students learn to read at the same pace.

Mr. Faulkner had a few questions on the use and training on Foundations. Mrs. Doyle stated that she has been formally trained in Wilson Reading and Foundations is a component of Wilson. They use puppets, etc. to get the students to understand.

Mr. Buckley asked for ways they can reach out into the community to the 4 year olds to try to improve their reading skills before they get to kindergarten. He would like to see them expand their pre-k outreach to reach the children and their parents.

Attorney Harold Gould gave an update on the roof replacement projects. He has the project funding agreement. Tuesday of this week a copy was returned to them that establishes the obligations between the MSBA and the school district. This is a major component on being able to move forward with the projects. Bond council gave the green light as well. This enables the District to borrow money on a promissory note.

Mr. Gould met with a representative from Unibank to review the process to borrow the money. The request for bids to various banks will go out tomorrow. Any interested banks will submit their bids by Wednesday, May 15th. Funds will be delivered on May 29th. The note will be for one year only and will cover the money for JFK and AFM. Once the funds are received they can sign agreements with the project manager and the architect.

The HS project is on hold because of the issue with Millville that was explained at the last meeting. This will be corrected by remedial legislation directly with the Governor's office. If the Millville Selectmen did not take this route they would have needed a special town meeting. To get around this they decided to file it with the Governor's office. Everything was delivered to Helen Coffin, Executive Secretary on Tuesday.

They are going to take the note from May 29, 2013 to May 29, 2014 of next year. Interest rates are between .75 to .90 for the 1st year.

The information on when they will start and finish the project is too vague. More specific data is needed. Attorney Gould will give the Committee more information as he gets it.

In dealing with the dust issue the best advice is to cover items and remove anything that is breakable. Quite a bit of dust is produced with this kind of roof work.

On June 21st of last year the Committee took \$75,000 from Excess and Deficiency for the feasibility study and \$60,000 from both AFM and JFK.

Accountant, Jim Eggert asked that they set up a capital account for these funds rather than an account from Excess and Deficiency. Up to now they have spent \$109,000 to date. They are tracking the projects individually.

Attorney Gould has 5 motions to pass out and they need to take a separate vote on each one this evening.

MOTION No. 1

It was moved by Mr. Buckley, seconded by Mr. Robin and unanimously voted that the vote of the Committee taken at its meeting of June 21, 2012 appropriating \$75,000 from the District's Excess and Deficiency Fund for the roof replacement Project at the Blackstone-Millville Regional High School and the vote taken by the Committee at its meeting on October 25, 2012 transferring said sum to Account No. 01.05.505.340.7200.451.8.0 be, and the same are, hereby rescinded effective as of April 26, 2013.

MOTION No. 2

It was moved by Mrs. Greenstein, seconded by Mr. Robinson and unanimously voted that the vote of the Committee taken at its meeting of June 21, 2012 appropriating \$60,000 from the District's Excess and Deficiency Fund for the roof replacement Project at the John F. Kennedy Elementary School and the vote taken by the Committee at its meeting on October 25, 2012 transferring said sum to Account No. 01.05.008.340.7200.451.8.0 be, and the same are, hereby rescinded effective April 26, 2013.

MOTION No. 3

It was moved by Mrs. Robinson, seconded by Mrs. Robin and unanimously voted that the vote of the Committee taken at its meeting of June 21, 2012 appropriating \$60,000 from the District's Excess and Deficiency Fund for the roof replacement Project at the Augustine F. Maloney Elementary School and the vote taken by the Committee at its meeting on October 25, 2012 transferring said sum to Account No. 01.05.015.340.7200.451.8.0 be, and the same are, hereby rescinded effective as of April 26, 2013.

MOTION No. 4

It was moved by Mr. Tringali, seconded by Mr. Buckley and unanimously voted that the District set up a Capital Project Account

for the roof replacement Project at the Blackstone-Millville Regional High School, the roof replacement Project at the John F. Kennedy Elementary School and the roof replacement Project at the Augustine F. Maloney Elementary School (collectively the “Projects”) and that there be expended from the District’s General Funds such sums as may be necessary or required to pay for all costs related to the Projects in anticipation of the issuance of a Bond Anticipation Note for one (1) year for such expenditures to be followed by permanent financing for such expenditures.

MOTION NO. 5

It was moved by Mrs. Robin, seconded by Mrs. Vinacco and unanimously voted that the foregoing Motion be deemed to be effective as of April 26, 2013.

Subcommittees will be reorganized and the changes will be made public at the next meeting.

Report of the Superintendent

The MSBA visited Millville today. They selected Millville for a site visit at 9:00 a.m. They looked at the roof issues at the school.

FY13 Budget – The Superintendent would like to hold a budget meeting on Thursday, May 16th if that will be convenient for the Committee. At that time they will complete their meetings for the FY13 budget.

Mr. Buckley asked to hold on voting on the School Committee meeting dates until the next scheduled meeting.

Mr. Buckley does not want to ask for an additional contribution from the Towns for the FY14 budget as originally planned.

Motion: It was moved by Mr. Buckley seconded by Mr. Faulkner to zero out the additional contributions to both Towns.

Open for discussion:

Mrs. Vinacco agrees with part of what Mr. Buckley is presenting. If you compare our spending to the state average we are already failing our kids. The number we are looking for from our Towns is not anywhere near what it could have been. If we don't start we are never going to catch up. We need to give the voters the chance to make the decision for their kids.

Mr. Chaplin – feels that not asking for the money is a trust builder and that we are going to need the money in FY15, 16, and 17.

At this point they are looking at reducing 3 professional staff and 14 support staff with the additional contribution.

Greenstein wants to focus on the goal for our district and she is concerned and wants to ask for additional contributions in order to succeed and improve the academic performance of the kids. She feels we need to make a change and get people to come back to our district.

Mr. Chaplin agrees with her but he thinks they need to build trust back with the finance committees in both towns and have an ongoing dialogue for 12 months.

Mr. Tringali agrees with Mrs. Vinacco. If we take this vote out of the hands of the voting members we are taking away their right to vote. This needs to go to the town floor. If they vote it down then we need to deal with it.

The additional contribution would mean a 3% increase to Blackstone and 9% to Millville.

There are many unknowns. Mr. Faulkner feels that to be fair we need to give the parents the opportunity to decide if they want the additional contribution or not. He feels that we may have a gap.

Mrs. Vinacco asked “what are we going to cut” if we take the additional contributions out of the budget.

Mr. Buckley thinks we should increase our Excess and Deficiency contribution. We presently have a \$250,000 gap. He wants to tighten the FY13 numbers and not spend anything we don't need to and look long and hard at materials and pre purchase of consumables, workbooks, etc. He wants to show the communities that we have made every effort to tighten this budget and we need your support and commitment to help us maintain this. He feels it will take hard work and he would like to see Donna Scungio more involved in the budget process.

Role call vote. Yes to the amendment to eliminate the additional contribution and lower it to zero. No if they want to keep things the way they are and continue with the request for additional contribution from the towns of Blackstone and Millville.

Robinson – no
Greenstein – no
Tringali – no
Robin – yes
Vinacco - no
Faulkner – no
Buckley – yes
Chaplin – yes

The amendment to the original vote to remove the request for the additional contributions from the two towns was not passed.

There were no items for Public Forum –

Committee Forum

Mrs. Robin thanked the 5th graders for coming out.

Mrs. Vinacco – stated that we have been awarded a small grant from Unibank for the Millville playground. They have their first fundraiser Sunday May 19th at Uno Pizza in Bellingham. A portion of the proceeds will be donated to the MESPA playground foundation.

Mrs. Robinson- great to see the 5th grade class

Mr. Buckley – stated that the school choice winner was Mendon/Upton. Many schools have taken it upon themselves to go out and recruit to potential children. Dudley/Charlton wants to see the law changed for regional school budgets. Not a wonderful idea. Millville selectman wanted to cap the minimum contribution.

Mr. Tringali – this past Sunday was the run for Corey's Crusade where there were 200 runners and 300 walkers which raised over 50,000 and awarded two \$500 scholarships.

Mr. Chaplin stated that as a Committee they want to continue to hear from the community.

Motion: It was moved by Mrs. Robin, seconded by Mrs. Greenstein and unanimously voted to adjourn the School Committee meeting at 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Monique F. Simard
Recording Secretary

ATTEST: _____
Erin P. Vinacco, District Secretary