

## **Blackstone-Millville Regional District School Committee**

### **Minutes of Meeting September 12, 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 7:45 p.m.)  
Erin P. Vinacco, District Secretary  
Michael J. Buckley, Member  
Diane C. Robin, Member  
Brian T. Faulkner, Member

Absent from meeting were Cathy Robinson, Assistant District Treasurer, Morgan McCarthy and Thomas Gallagher, Student Representatives.

Also in attendance was Perry P. Davis, Ed.D, Interim Superintendent of Schools.

Dr. Davis asked if it would be acceptable if the Use of Facility and Field trip request forms were no longer brought to the school committee meeting. It was decided that forms would be brought only if they require an expense to be incurred by the School District or if a group is looking for a waiver. It is also necessary to be sure the activities are listed on the District master calendar.

**Motion:** It was moved by Mr. Tringali, seconded by Mrs. Robin and unanimously voted to approve Consent Agenda A which includes Warrants, Use of School Facility requests, Field Trip requests and Minutes of Meeting of August 22, 2013. Forms will be brought to the attention of the School Committee only if they require an expense to be incurred by the School District or if a group is looking for a waiver.

Included in the above will be field trip requests by the Life Skills classroom at the BMR High School. These students take weekly trips and have jobs in the community. It is too much paperwork to list each one individually. Dr. Davis would like to give them approval for these trips for the entire school year provided his office is told where these students are. We have a van and a driver and he feels the trip is part of the school program and not a field trip.

**Motion:** It was moved by Mrs. Robin, seconded by Mr. Tringali (6 in favor, 1 opposed – Mr. Buckley) to accept Consent Agenda B – Home Schooling requests for Mr. and Mrs. Turcotte, Mr. and Mrs. Lopes, Mr. and Mrs. McKenna, Ms. McCourt, Mr. and Mrs. McGonagle, Mr. and Mrs. Zilonas and Ms. Waclawik.

There were no items for Public Forum.

**Appointments** – an update was given on personnel that exited and those that are new staff for this year.

They are trying to finalize the hiring of the school nurse at the High School and the long term sub position at the Complex has recently been filled.

Status of the Assistant Superintendent search – Dr. Davis is doing outreach to retired Superintendents but has not been successful to date. He has received resumes from some people who knew he was out looking. He does not have a candidate to bring forward at this time. He is currently looking for a person with a curriculum background to see if anyone is interested in that position.

### **Subcommittee Reports**

**Strategic Planning** – they have the draft and they will move forward with the future implementation of it- Mr. Faulkner asks the Committee to bring forward any questions they might have.

**Regional Agreement** – a meeting was held with Dr. Davis and Attorney Gould and copies of the Regional Agreement were distributed. They will get together as a Committee to see in which direction they want to head with this. The agreement will be scanned and sent to all School Committee members.

**Public Relations**- we are live today- discuss the budget for the video projects this year – money set aside in the cable contributions – we need to look at the account balances in the community and how we can best use the funds to offer classes to kids who have this interest. Account is driven by the fees we pay in our cable bill each month. This is the reason they recruited Jesse Dufault who has experience in community television.

**Budget** –they are working hard on how to be transparent with the budget – the budget season is rapidly approaching – there will be more to come in the future-

**Facilities** – The Facility committee received an evaluation on the condition of each building from Paul Haughey. There are a number of areas that need immediate attention. If we are to spend more than \$20,000 on a repair it needs to go to the Town for the funding. Anything under this is absorbed in the school district funds.

### **Report of the Superintendent**

The following activities are in process for the bidding of the roof project:

Wednesday, August 28, 2013 – Bidders walk through at the schools

Friday, September 6, 2013 – File sub bids opened

Friday, September 13, 2013 – General roof bids opened

Two addendums were issued to all bidders-

They may need to call a School Committee meeting prior to the September 26<sup>th</sup> scheduled meeting to award the contract. More information will be available after the general bids are opened on September 13, 2013.

Bids came in for the complex roof and they will need a meeting to accept the low bid on the roof project. Dr. Davis will email the Committee members to let them know the range of bids.

They are waiting for the House to vote on the special bill that was filed for the High School roofing project. The State Representative is advocating for the bill. Dr. Davis is confident the bill will be taken up and voted. He appreciates the work done by Representative Kuros and has been in touch with Senator Moore's office where the bill will go through the senate.

The Millville Elementary School roof replacement project was invited by MSBA to join the Accelerated Repair Program. The District filed the required documents with MSBA by the September 4<sup>th</sup> deadline.

Dr. Davis, Mrs. Vinacco and principal, Mrs. Desai attended a meeting on August 26<sup>th</sup> and learned about the testing of the drinking water in Millville. There was no consensus as to why the problem occurred. We cannot use the water for drinking or preparing food. All students will have access to bottled water while testing is ongoing. Dr. Davis will report the cost of the bottled water in October after we get some more data on our usage. The parents were notified by one call and a posting on the school website. They do not believe it has anything to do with the tank. Several testings will need to be completed before they will allow drinking again.

Coordinated program review – received final document – they need to respond to items regarding special education and english language learners –action plan will be sent to DESE.

Tellstone Bus Company added an additional bus route in the District. They will be able to even out all bus routes with the addition. A few routes and stops were changed due to traffic conditions. They found it was more expensive to add a loop route than to add a bus. They gave us the best possible solution.

**Motion:** It was moved by Mr. Buckley, seconded by Mrs. Robin and unanimously voted to accept the additional bus route and expense (approximately \$16,000) of adding this route.

Dr. Davis stated there are two exterior doors in the lower C wing at the BMR High School that were not locking properly. These doors have been replaced at \$4900 which will include new hardware.

Dr. Davis attended a school safety meeting with the police and fire chiefs to discuss the multi hazardous emergency safety plan. The level of cooperation is great from both towns. They want to be engaged and involved.

Dr. Davis gave a school choice update. A number of inquiries have been received. We have received a few more than we thought we were going to get. A reason this may be happening is that our class sizes are smaller than some of the surrounding communities.

NEASC - The High School is scheduled for a visiting committee in October. It is important for the School Committee to understand they will be getting ready for a NEASC visit and to form committees to prepare the report. When next years budget is being built he will need to bring any deficiencies in staffing to the Committees attention. He is speaking specifically about the library. You can be placed on a lower level of accreditation because of any deficiencies reported.

A notice was received from DESE on school accountability levels. The School District was placed on level two. They are looking at this information to see where we need to focus our energies.

NESDEC will do a data analysis on student enrollment in the District and give us feedback and projections.

The District has been carrying a negative balance in Fund 14 – Asbestos Removal Capital Project has a deficit balance of \$23,500 as a result of expenses incurred for the asbestos removal at the High School and JFK School. These costs were accounted for in this fund and represent extraordinary maintenance which was reported as such in Department of Revenue annual filings. The School Committee needs to vote to close this deficit to the general fund as a reduction to fund balance (E&D) in Fiscal 2014. He advised the Committee to vote to close this.

**Motion:** It was moved by Mrs. Robin, seconded by Mr. Buckley and unanimously voted to close the deficit balance of \$23,500 in Fund 14 – Asbestos Removal to the general fund, as a reduction to fund balance (E&D) in fiscal year 2014.

**Motion:** It was moved by Mr. Buckley, seconded by Mrs. Greenstein and unanimously voted to establish a Revolving Account under MGL, Chapter 71, Section 71E for expenses incurred in making school property available for community use and to use the custodial fees collected to pay for the custodial coverage of the school rental.

Dr. Davis stated that 47 students are currently enrolled in the after school program. They have received several additional inquiries on the program. Eventually a financial analysis will be done on this to see if it is worthwhile to keep the program. They will give it three months to see if it is going to work. They are depending on Nadine Carter to move this program forward. Mr. Buckley feels they should put it on the cable stations.

Dr. Davis sent a letter to DESE expressing concerns over the Benjamin Franklin Charter Public School which was discussed at the last meeting. The charter school will be relocating at the end of the school year. Dr. Davis objects to the approval process that goes through DESE.

There were no items for **Public forum** –

**Committee Forum** –

Mr. Tringali – sports and activities user fees – fill out a free and reduced lunch form for problems paying user fees- don't avoid program because of cost-

Mr. Buckley good start to the school year-

Mr. Faulkner – Rita Berthelette has passed away – The Berthelette's gave the Town access for the Millville Elementary School.

Mrs. Robin -welcome back

Mrs. Greenstein- welcome back

Mrs. Vinacco –good to see happy kids

Mr. Chaplin – on website all meetings are open to the public – hope to see more people here-

Dr. Davis met with our accountant Jim Egghert. Mr. Egghert does not feel it is good practice to bring the checks for the accounts payable warrant to the School Committee meetings to be signed. He feels the Committee may want to consider have the checks electronically signed in the Business Office.

**Motion:** It was moved by Mrs. Vinacco, seconded by Mr. Tringali to allow the business office to print electronically signed checks for the accounts payable warrant.

**Motion:** It was moved by Mr. Buckley, seconded by Mrs. Greenstein and unanimously voted to enter into Executive Session at 8:30 p.m. for Contract Negotiations and to come out of Executive Session only for the purpose of adjournment.

Respectfully submitted,

Monique F. Simard  
Recording Secretary

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
Erin P. Vinacco, District Secretary