

Blackstone-Millville Regional District School Committee

Minutes of Meeting November 14, 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
Erin P. Vinacco, District Secretary
Michael J. Buckley, Member
Diane C. Robin, Member
Brian T. Faulkner, Member

Missing from meeting was Catherine A. Robinson, Assistant District Treasurer.

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

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

Motion: It was moved by Mr. Buckley, seconded by Mrs. Greenstein and unanimously voted to approve Consent Agenda A which includes Warrants, Use of School Facilities, Field Trip Requests and Minutes of Meeting of October 24, 2013.

Public Forum – there was no one present for Public Forum.

Superintendent Davis gave an overview of the on-going roofing project at the JFK/AFM Complex. The A-wing has been done. Mrs. Brown is coordinating the movement of teachers and students during the roof construction in each wing.

The roofers are responsible for the cleanup. They are not doing a very good job of the cleanup which is the one complaint with the roof project.

They have corrected the construction process in which they do the clean up which will help a bit. The custodial staff does help the teachers. Multiple conversations with the o.p.m. and the foreman for Greenwood Industries have resulted in a heavy vacuum cleaner being brought in.

They will work on Saturday to hit the common areas as long as the weather cooperates. They have a December 17th deadline. No construction project is without some nuance to it.

The adhesive gives off an odor but all odors are non-toxic. The custodians have been putting in extra fans and leaving windows open in the evening.

The bond anticipation note was sold to Eastern Bank. We should have the funds in our account by November 14th. Attorney Gould will issue contracts to the O.P.M. and the designer. We should get a draft project plan in a few weeks.

Dr. Davis spoke with Mr. Sullivan at the MSBA and he said they received our written request to extend the roof project through 2014. He said he did not see a problem with this request.

Re-roofing at MES will probably be next fall.

Report on special revenues –

Dr. Davis reviewed the status of all of the special revenue funds that are available as of June 30, 2013. In column two is the amount that was included as an offset to the FY14 budget. In column 3 is the balance as of July 1, 2013. Some of the items show a negative amount, because we have not yet received revenue for that item. In most cases we will get some revenue for these items and they should balance out with the column two number.

The good news is that special education circuit breaker funds can be applied to the current deficit. Other special revenue funds can be applied to the FY14 budget. The bad news is that once these special revenue funds are used in FY14 there will be no balances to close the general fund on June 30, 2014. This will result in no increase in our E & D funds.

In the contracts with the union associations the School District is responsible to pay health reimbursement to staff members. Staff members turn in out of pocket assessments and submit to the School District for reimbursement. After all claims were paid the remaining balance was \$78,765.10. This money is available to address the shortfall in our current budget.

Dr. Davis spoke on the DESE initiatives. These are initiatives that must be done. A pilot program was submitted to DESE by Dr. Davis. This is becoming a greater concern moving forward.

Dr. Davis spoke with a retired principal that he knows. She would be available on Jan. 1st. She will come in to meet with him and would work on a per diem project basis.

We were selected for the Park Test in Math at the High School only. The impact on the District would be for about 25 students. They will receive more information very soon.

The next item is an announcement. The band was very successful this year. They were named New England Scholastic Band Association Division 5 Champions for 2013. This is an honor for all the band members and reflects their many hours of practice to achieve this championship.

Motion: It was moved by Mr. Buckley, seconded by Mrs. Robin and unanimously voted to approve the purchase of the championship jackets for the members of the 2013 marching band in recognition of their hard work and dedication to excellence.

Dr. Davis needs a critical waiver. He is currently allowed to work 960 hours. He was hired to work only 4 days a week but has been working 5 days. Mr. Chaplin is trying to get this critical waiver at this time. It is a process and they should hear about it soon.

There was an issue raised by the Millville Board of Selectman about maintenance in the Millville cafeteria.

Dr. Davis went over to the Millville Elementary School and the custodian did get a quote to replace or repair the floor there last year. It is in multiple locations on the floor. Dr. Davis feels it is time to replace this floor. Last year the cost would have been \$23,500. The Town is responsible for items over \$20,000. Mrs. Coffin was offered the right to go out and get another quote. The company contacted will not guarantee the fixing of the floor but would guarantee the replacement of the floor. He has not heard back from Millville to date.

Open bargaining with support staff will begin. Dr. Davis met with the co-presidents and wants to do a collaborative bargaining training. Mrs. Robin will offer some time to do this. They would like to start as soon as possible. Mr. Tringali will offer his services as well.

The Town of Blackstone is applying for a Green Community grant. They are requesting information on electricity and fuel from the School District.

Northern Energy Services did an audit on the Hartnett Middle School. The grant proposal was accepted. National Grid is prepared to offer us partial payment for the corrective items at the Hartnett Middle School and we could save approximately \$19,000. The total cost estimate is \$73,000 and they would fund about half of this. He would like to pursue this with Northern Energy Services. Much of the work would be in the ceiling where the vents are and roof sealing. They would not want to do this work when the building is occupied.

Millville Elementary School Parents Organization sought permission for a playground. Kathy Stearman cannot continue to work on this project. They were not able to get the town land to do this. The Town asked that they cover the cost of maintenance as well. They were not able to get the funds. They realized that the financial burden was above what they could do for fundraising. It would cost approx. \$200,000 and \$20,000 as an endowment fund to be given to the town for the upkeep of this playground which would include insurance.

Public Forum – No one was present for Public Forum.

Committee Forum –

Mrs. Robin – The Superintendent's search committee is on-going. The public and stakeholders are welcome to complete a survey. The Screening Committee is also requested to go through the applicants and move four candidates forward.

Strategic Planning – There were no items to report.

Regional Agreement – They are looking for the enrollment population and data from Dr. Davis.

Public Relations – They are working on the Superintendent's search. They are having joint meetings with the communities to maintain avenues of communication with both towns.

Budget Adhoc Committee search – Anyone interested can send an email.

Facilities – There were no items for Facilities.

Student Representative Thomas Gallagher arrived and discussed the sports teams, band competitions and Thanksgiving Day football game to be held.

Committee Forum

Mr. Tringali – Please attend the Millville town meeting. Zachary Taylor competed in the State Championships for the Cross Country Team. Team came in 6th overall.

Mr. Buckley –MESPA champs congratulations –

It concerns Mr. Buckley that the Commonwealth puts forward unfunded school district mandates which takes away from learning. Please talk to Senator Moore about this. Until the Commonwealth comes up with the money to fund some of these initiatives we should be able to decline. The MASC needs to be lobbying for the schools.

Mr. Faulkner – If you decline some of these initiatives, would our chapter 70 reimbursement be affected? Most people in this business are fed up with it.

Mrs. Greenstein – congratulations on the band championship -
Initiatives are consuming teachers' time – thank you to the Complex for making the roof
projects as easy as possible on the students – thank you to Dr. Davis for working so
hard.

Mrs. Vinacco- Williamsburg Christmas with Mrs. Smith will be held on December 5th.
Tickets go on sale soon. This is a MESPA fundraiser.

Mr. Chaplin – spoke on the MASC conference. Evaluations and common core take time
and money that you are not given. They are exploring Chapter 70 money and how is
gets distributed.

The BMR band country craft fair is tomorrow night in the High School cafeteria.

Motion: It was moved by Mr. Buckley, seconded by Mrs. Robin and unanimously
voted to enter into Executive Session at 8:15 p.m. to discuss legal matters 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