

**Minutes of Meeting
Frederick W. Hartnett Middle School
Media Center
February 13, 2020
6:00 p.m.**

The Blackstone-Millville Regional District School Committee met in the media center of the Hartnett Middle School at 6:00 p.m. with the following members present:

Jane C. Regio, Chairperson
Erin P. Vinacco, Vice Chairperson
Tara L. Larkin, District Secretary
Caryn D. Vernon, District Treasurer
Wendy L. Greenstein, Member
Sarah E. Williams, Member

Tammy A. Lemieux and Jack R. Keefe were absent from the meeting.

Also in attendance was Superintendent, Jason DeFalco, EdD. and Assistant Superintendent, Matthew J. Ehrenworth.

Report of the Student Representatives - Jacob Chaplin

Jacob gave the Sports report. On March 3rd they will hold the Empty Bowl dinner from 5-7 p.m. at the BMRHS cafeteria. All proceeds will go to the local food pantry. STUCO is preparing for the 3 day state conference to be held in Cape Cod. The Polar Plunge raised \$1250. There will be a bake sale on February 23rd at Park N Shop.

BMRHS Earns College Board AP Computer Science Female Diversity Award

The scholars were present with Mr. Dudek. BMRHS was recognized by email a month ago from College Board for this prestigious award. Ms. Hunt is the AP computer science teacher. This is the Female Diversity award in AP computer science. BMR was one of 639 schools recognized.

Women are more apt to pursue computer science if they are given the opportunity in HS. Ms. Hunt took a week long computer science program during the summer. Having a female teacher eases the gap in the traditional classroom.

Dr. DeFalco stated our graduation rate has increased from last year to this year and our drop out rate has been reduced.

There were no items for Public Forum -

Motion: It was moved by Mrs. Greenstein, seconded by Mrs. Vernon and unanimously voted to approve the Warrants, Field Trips and Minutes of November 1, 2019 and January 9, 2020.

Vote to approve Early Retirement Incentive

1. The District will pay \$7,500 to employees who submit their intention to retire by March 13, 2020.
2. The \$7,500 will be taxed and is not pensionable and will be paid by July 31, 2020.
3. Members would not be eligible for the sick leave incentive.
4. Members who declared future retirement are eligible.
5. Employees must be eligible to retire from MTRS.

Motion: It was moved by Mrs. Williams, seconded by Mrs. Greenstein and unanimously voted to approve the Early Retirement Incentive to Unit A members if they retire effective June 30, 2020.

Early Retirement gives the District the opportunity to bring in a new employee at a lower rate of pay.

Scope of Services - Capital Plan Review of Facilities

Study of Existing Facilities - They provided a mapping of Blackstone and Millville- they will assess the facilities and assess quality of mechanical and electrical, fit and finish, quality of material and expected level of life left within the product.

Facilities Assessment Study - Facilities, District input from staff, faculty, students and community at large- how things have changed, cost understanding, community outreach, programmatic needs and stakeholder input -

They put together a schedule timeline on how long it will take to get from one point to another. Met with head custodians and all had the school plans available. They look at accessibility, building code and facility issues.

They will look at repurposing space. Turn the District into a 21st century learning space.

Refine with facilities quality index. How functional is building and what would it take in cost to bring it to its best. Put money where you get the most return.

Look at all mechanical and electrical systems - give replacement costs. A sample Capital needs assessment was presented. They will give us sustainable high performance design and real world energy savings. If you upgrade see what the savings and payback could be.

Reporting - stakeholder engagement - Understanding the things about the various facilities that you do not want to change. What areas serve as roadblock to education.

Interaction, communication and consensus building, community partnering, encourage different layers of conversation- Reach more people and get better information.

MSBA grant process experience. They are very familiar with the program and requirements, goals and guidelines. They gave a listing of communities they served with MSBA.

Schools are one of the biggest investments that are made.

Mrs. Vinnaco is interested in what they will recommend for the Common Areas.

They showed a diagram with MSBA guideline versus enrollment for the school. They can map it over time.

School Committee - Regional Agreement - Mrs. Williams and Dr. DeFalco

RAAC - Regional Agreement Amendment Committee
Overview of Recommended changes to the Agreement

A Regional Agreement describes the governance of the regional school district
A Regional Agreement describes the legal and financial connections with the member towns

Amendments are necessary for the following reasons:

- *Education Reform Act of 1993 - changing laws
- *Dept. of Elem. and Secondary Education - changing school regulations
- *Opportunity to match current interests and practices within the District

The Regional School Committee or citizen petition starts the process.
The Regional School Committee appoints a Regional Agreement Amendment Committee including:

- *Regional School Committee
- *Board of Selectmen
- *Finance Committee
- *Citizens at large

Regional Agreement is our governing document - legal and financial connection with member towns. It hasn't been amended since 2014. Laws and the district have changed. Need to match current practices with our current interests.

What is the Process to Amend a Regional Agreement:

- *Regional School Committee votes to send amended Regional Agreement to voters
- *Boards of Selectmen put on warrant for Annual or Special Town Meeting
- *Voters in both member towns must support changes by majority vote
- *Commissioner of DESE has final approval

Recommended changes-

- *Grade range add Pre-K to grades District covers update to laws and current practice.
- *School Committee Appointments - add School Committee members will be appointed if there is a vacancy.
- *Date when elections are to be held - the School Committee can hold its own election if one Town changes its election date.
- *The School Committee vote majority of those present.
- *Post graduate student - allows charging tuition for students wishing to acquire additional skills.
- *Student Placement - School Committee may reassign grades to different schools with $\frac{2}{3}$ vote and more than 6 months notice.
 - GOAL: To allow for fair and equitable educational opportunities for all students in the district.
 - Note: Language only that outlines a process for putting it to regional agreement they can discuss what the changes would look like. They cannot do it right now since they don't have the language in the agreement to allow them to do this.
 - In order to begin developing a plan to potentially reorganize district grade configurations, the language around student placement must be amended.
 - A process for changing grade level school assignments does not exist in the current Agreement.
 - The new language creates a process that requires a public hearing prior to a School Committee vote.
 - It requires at least six members of the Committee vote in favor of the reorganization.
 - It also sets a deadline for the vote in order to ensure adequate time to transition to the new structure, should it be approved.
 - Administration conducts a thorough study and analysis of the student placement issue, using an inclusive process.
 - Administration creates a draft plan to address the student placement issue.
 - The plan is presented to the School Committee.
 - The School Committee holds a public forum for the community to speak to the recommended changes outlined by administration.
 - An affirmative vote of $\frac{2}{3}$ of the School Committee must take place at least by January 1 in order for that change to be implemented in the following school year.

Emergency placement of students - temporary relocation of students if the building is made unusable for less than 2 weeks.

School leased buildings - clarifies current practice of Towns' insurance responsibilities.

Budget assessments and debt - clarifying language -

Added language if a member town decides to withdraw - the obligations.

Regional Agreement review every 5 years - the Committee has to bring it up and put it on the agenda every five years. Also, can be requested sooner than the 5 years

They want to put together a more comprehensive district plan.
The consultants have been great and everyone is committed to this.

Process

Produce new agreement - drafted
Approval of DESE preliminary - sent
Send it to town Councils - sent

What is next -

Vote of Regional School Committee to approve and move forward to towns
Put on BOS agendas in both towns
Communicate and get feedback with citizens of towns
Vote amended Agreement by both member Towns (at Annual or Special Town meeting, decided by BOS)
Receive final approval from DESE

Approval of Restorative Time Supervisor -

Conversations with Unit A to eliminate Central Detention. An outline was proposed with Unit A.

Motion: It was moved by Mrs. Greenstein, seconded by Mrs. Vinacco and unanimously voted to approve the Restorative Time Supervisor for the Frederick Hartnett Middle School and BMR High School for the remainder of the 2019 - 2020 school year for \$2500 per school.

It will be renegotiated next year. The MOA is a trial for the remainder of the 2019-20 school year.

Mrs. Vinacco wants to be sure that if it is staying for next year or being replaced by something else be sure that it is ready for the new school year.

FY21 Budget -

Technology - additional resources they will need

Ed Tech - look at data around Instructional Technology for providing teaching and learning opportunities for students.

Usage and Impact - Ascend Math - Students with Special Needs - The student progress was given and showed the gain in scores by using Ascend Math.

Millville Elementary School - Level 2 had a gain in score of 19.2%, Level 3 had a gain in score of 19.3%, Level 4 had a gain in score of 8.9%.

JFK - Level 2 had a gain in score of 21.6%

AFM - Level 2 had a gain in score of 14.5%
Level 3 had a gain in score of 24.9%
Level 4 had a gain in score of 19.5%

HMS - Level 3 had a gain in score of 44.2%
Level 4 had a gain in score of 20.4%
Level 7 had a gain in score of 37.1%

BMRHS - Level 3 had a gain in score of 38.2%
Level 4 had a gain in score of 10.9%
Level 5 had a gain in score of 9.2%
Level 7 had a gain in score of 37.2%
Level 9-12 had a gain in score of 23.3%

IXL Math and ELA

JFK - 1601 skills mastered, 1912 skills proficient, 3340 skills practiced

MES - 2750 skills mastered, 3139 skills proficient, 4339 skills practiced

AFM - 2920 skills mastered, 3686 skills proficient, 5963 skills practiced

HMS - 3982 skills mastered, 5602 skills proficient, 12,0003 skills practiced

BMRHS - 334 skills mastered, 912 skills proficient, 1297 skills practiced

myON Literacy

Books Finished:

Pre K - 2

Kindergarten - 0

1st grade - 944

2nd grade - 1428

3rd grade - 1559

4th grade - 1300

5th grade - 450

6th grade - 0

9th grade - 0

You no longer have to be in wi-fi to get the books. The goal is to get the kids passionate about reading. They don't know what their peers are reading. They don't need to feel uncomfortable about the level they are reading at.

Technology Budget Review- Matthew Ehrenworth

Dan our Consultant was going to be here on Tuesday but because they changed the date he could not make it today.

Most of what we have this year is going to be the same next year.

The new items they are looking for are:

Edpuzzle Pro (MS) - \$1140

Vmath program - Intervention Grade 6 teacher- \$229

Vmath program - Intervention Gr 6 student - \$999.80

Server Replacement Project (1 server and software) -\$10,000

Lease FY21 1 of 4 (Elem 3-5 Chromebooks) - \$20,000

The difference between FY20 and FY21 is a \$32,438.80 increase.

Elementary Devices

Currently FY20 - Grade 2 - Tablets and all other grades - 232 chromebooks on carts

FY21 - Kindergarten 4 Chromebooks/Class - 24 devices needed

Grades 1 & 2 - 120 tablets and 1 cart/2 classes

Grades 3-5 - Chromebooks (1-1) 121 needed

They currently have 232 devices and need to purchase 310.

Now that they are rolling out the devices Mrs. Greenstein wants P.D. on google classroom.

Dan's philosophy on technology - not to have all the bells and whistles - it's to have people not even think about it and things are working flawlessly.

Total Revenue

Going well - no snags - expecting additional revenue from FY19- it may be a few thousand dollars. Supplemental for regional transportation reimbursement may be additional money coming in.

Expenditure Review

Unbudgeted OPEB Audit and Audit Costs
Principals Salary Adjustments
Faculty Changes

Facilities Update

JFK/AFM Boilers and Windows: Punch list walkthrough was conducted on 2/7/20. All work expected to be completed during February break.

JFK/AFM Complex Roof - Insurance Company has provided a claim amount. The district and town are working to arrange for the repairs. Bringing manufacturing back for warranty after February break.

Millville Elementary Boiler update: Designer and OPM sent 90% design plans to MSBA's commissioning agent for review and comment This was sent on 2/4/20.

BMR High School Secure Vestibule: Vestibule designs are complete and approved by the town inspector. Project is being shopped out. We are hoping to have it completed during April break.

Sewage Pumping Station at Early Village

The new pump was installed and is operational. There were some electrical issues that were also addressed.

Capital Planning RFP:

Drummey Rosane Anderson Inc. was awarded the project. Mr. Ehrenworth met with them to discuss next steps on 2/6/20. They will be presenting an overview of their proposed work to the School Committee on 2/13/20. They are scheduled to begin looking at drawings/plans and will be visiting all of the buildings during February break.