

**Minutes of Meeting**  
**Frederick W. Hartnett Middle School**  
**Media Center**  
**March 12, 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. Reggio, Chairperson  
Erin P. Vinacco, Vice Chairperson  
Caryn D. Vernon, District Treasurer  
Jack R. Keefe, Member  
Sarah E. Williams, Member  
Wendy L. Greenstein, Member  
Tammy A. Lemieux, Member

Mrs. Larkin was absent from the meeting.

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

**Public Budget Hearing: Dr. DeFalco**

Budget Process to date:

Improving outcomes for students and bringing our two Towns together around our students.

Series of conversations, meetings and review sessions with those charged with planning and approving our budget.

Each department charged with ensuring their piece of the budget is aligned to our blueprint for improvement strategy.

Number of meetings and workshops that brought us to this point.

The budget workshops were held on Jan. 23, Jan. 30, Feb. 13, Feb 25 and March 3rd.

There were three major factors that played into budget:  
Rise in minimum local contributions

Minimal Chapter 70 increase  
Deceased charter school reimbursement (key factor)

Minimum local contribution:

Blackstone - 4.91% increase to \$6,919,849

Millville - 5.06% increase to \$2,288,515

These numbers are not controlled by the District but a formula used by the state of Massachusetts.

Chapter 70 has a minimal increase to \$30 per student - we are in a hold harmless pattern. District would never receive less money than they did the year before. With declining enrollment we are not really eligible to get more of the Chapter 70 funding than we are receiving. They are bound by law to give us something.

Charter School reimbursement - Full state aid funding would be \$316,577. We are only getting \$110,903. The State says we have a specific pot of money. Majority of our kids are in the 60% reimbursement bucket and only actually see about 25% of that money.

Our tuition has gone up in sending kids to charter schools. This year we will spend \$524,214 in sending kids to charter schools.

**We presented 2 budgets initially:**

Level service - increase of 2.50% - \$26,588,297 without implementation of new initiatives/staffing.

Phase 2 - 3.91% increase - \$26,955,297 - full implementation of Phase II Improvement Strategy.

**2021 working budget - \$26,405,152 - 1.79% increase - Reallocation of funding to support literacy initiative.**

Even though the community will see what we took out we still kept our current services in place.

Changes to Phase 2 to get to 21 Working Budget (-550,145)

Reduction of planning, teaching and learning coach (new)

Reduction of 1 high school teacher and 2 elementary specialists (new)

Reallocation of funds and calculation of retirement savings

Use of Excess and Deficiency (E & D) for non-repeating costs

**With the figure of \$26,405,152**

Administration - 4.6%

Instruction -3%  
Other Student Services - 6.2%  
Music - .5%  
Athletics - .9%  
In District Transportation - 5.8%  
Plant/Maintenance - 7%  
Out of District - 9.8%  
Benefits and Insurance - 14.7%  
Instructional Salaries - 47.5%

**Offsets and Revenue to Support the FY21 Working Budget**

Chapter 70 Aid - 11,037,139  
Transportation Reimbursement - 601,721  
Charter Reimbursement - 110,903  
School Choice Revenue - 275,652  
Grants - 650,548  
Circuit Breaker Reimbursement - 533,000  
Use of E & D for Materials - 167,000  
Program Revenue Athletics - 15,000  
Program Revenue Student Service Pre K - 85,500  
Revenue Rental of Classroom - 15,000  
Revenue Rental of Classroom - 32,000  
Program Revenue Medicaid - 82,000  
Revenue Athletic User Fees - 72,000  
Revenue Music User Fees - 17,000

**Total Offset - 13,694,463**

**What this means for the Towns**

Blackstone Assessment - Minimum - 6,919,849  
Exclusionary - 1,080,967  
Additional - 1,513,205  
Capital - 331,285

Total: **\$9,845,306**

Millville Assessment - Minimum - 2,288,515  
Exclusionary - 378,419  
Additional - 529,734  
Capital - 137,977

Total: **\$3,334,645**

Overall the percentage is as follows:

Blackstone	
Minimum Local Contribution:	+4.91%
Exclusionary	-5.72%
Additional	+6.76%
Capital	-6.24%
<b>Total:</b>	<b>+3.49%</b>

Millville	
Minimum Local Contribution:	+5.06
Exclusionary	-13.07
Additional	+1.66
Capital	-.18
<b>Total:</b>	<b>+1.36</b>

### **Hope to see in the FY22 Budget**

K-12 Comprehensive Math Curriculum & Resources  
1 Planning, teaching and learning coach (specialization of PreK and 3-5)  
1 High School teacher (ELA intervention program and fewer study halls)  
2.0 Elementary specialists (to increase STEAM offerings K-5)  
Facilities upgrades

### **The focus of the district is to:**

Reduce or eliminate chronic absenteeism  
Raise student growth percentiles at all levels  
Implement a comprehensive K-12 literacy curriculum  
Identify a comprehensive K-12 math curriculum  
Launch career pathways offerings at the high school and create pathways exploration at the middle school

Our next steps are to go to the Town of Millville Finance Sub Committee Meeting on 3/18  
Town of Blackstone Finance Sub Committee meeting on 3/24  
School Committee FY21 budget certification on 3/26

Graduation Rate - After work that High School staff has done and managing every student they increased the graduation rate and lowered the drop out rate.

The High School career development is on the move. They will be backing this into the Middle School. They wanted to get the High School set first and then back into the Middle School.

BMR is on the cutting edge of a lot of work.

They hope that everyone will support this budget.

There were no items for **Public Forum**

**Motion:** It was moved by Mrs. Greenstein, seconded by Mrs. Vinacco and unanimously voted to close the Public Hearing.

**Motion:** It was moved by Mrs. Greenstein, seconded by Mrs. Vernon and unanimously voted to Approve Consent Agenda A which includes Warrants, Field Trip Request and Minutes of Meeting of February 27, 2020.

### **Memorandum of Agreement**

Between the Blackstone-Millville Regional School Committee and Blackstone-Millville Regional School District Educators Association for a 3 year agreement retroactive to the start of the fiscal year.

**Motion:** It was moved by Mrs. Vinacco, seconded by Mr. Keefe and unanimously voted to approve the Memorandum of Agreement between the Blackstone-Millville Regional School Committee and Blackstone-Millville Regional School District Educators Association for a 3 year agreement retroactive to the start of the fiscal year.

The School year calendar for FY21 was presented to the School Committee with September 1, 2020 as the opening orientation day for staff and September 3rd the first day of school for students. The last day of school will be June 21st.

**Motion:** It was moved by Mrs. Greenstein, seconded by Mrs. Lemieux and unanimously voted to approve the Blackstone-Millville Regional School District calendar for FY21.

### **School Committee Scholarship**

The School Committee reviewed and discussed the Scholarship they grant to a graduating senior.

It was decided that they will fund the scholarship and allow the Scholarship Committee to decide who will be the recipient. It will be kept status quo this year and they will gain understanding behind changing it before they change the wording in the future.

**Motion:** It was moved Mrs. Greenstein, seconded by Mr. Keefe to fund the scholarship to a graduating senior this year and keep it status quo at this time and have the BMR scholarship committee choose who the recipient will be.

**Mid year evaluation evidence**

**Jason DeFalco EdD**

Goals that were approved.

The idea that goals lead to actions and actions lead to outcomes.

The committee was handed the Google survey which can be done online or by handwritten notes. They will compile results and give a formative assessment at the next meeting.

They will discuss the formative by the next meeting. Please return the form next week.

Standards of Focus:

Instructional Leadership

Management and Operations

Family and Community Engagement

Professional Culture

Dr. DeFalco has spent time in the classroom and has enjoyed getting to see how our teachers are working each day. The classroom climates are warm and welcoming.

He met with each grade level to talk about our blueprint. Keep an open dialogue. He appreciated the facetime with the teachers through this work.

There were times when his time in the classroom was interrupted. This has been a great experience for him.

Instruction - evidence done collaboratively that you don't always see at a multitude of levels. Wants to show his work and his commitment. Doing his best to build all capacities of the organization. His goal is to make sure that they are moving every level of the organization. Looked at school improvement plans and saw evidence of the follow ups. Work and data used to implement the work. Show pieces of evidence. Looking at Focus Schools materials and looking at them at a multitude of levels. Formal to informal teacher leadership. Some of the most rewarding was working with coaches on their PLC's.

Dr. DeFalco discussed the Professional Development and the feedback that he received on it. Seemed to have good positive feedback on Professional Development.

Showed a sample of his calendar and wanted to see how much time he spends in a week on improving instruction. Get a sense of how his time is being spent. He sends out forecast emails so everyone knows what they are focusing on. It's more of a framework to function in.

Weekly updates to the leadership team with a podcast. Explanation of leadership work done to improve instruction.

Community Outreach - wants everyone in the community to be a part of what is going on with the work. Tried multiple venues and he is all ears to try and communicate. We are trying hard to make sure the community feels we are open and transparent.

Gearing up for a community survey. He is asking the Committee to get the survey out.

The last District of One event is scheduled for May 28th.

Aligning his central office communication with the principals. Wants tighter and more seamless communication between central office and the schools.

Student learning goal - Principals teachers and coaches are diving deep into this to focus deeper into our core instruction.

### **Student Opportunity Act**

Discussion of the Blackstone-Millville Regional School District Student Opportunity Plan for School years 2021 - 2023.

**Commitment 1:** Focusing on Student Subgroups - which student subgroups will require focused support to ensure all students achieve at high levels in school and are successfully prepared for life?

**Commitment 2:** Using Evidence based programs to Close Gaps - What evidence based programs will your district adopt, deepen, or continue to best support the closure of achievement and opportunity gaps? What resources will you allocate to these programs?

**Commitment 3:** Monitoring Success with Outcome Metrics and Targets - What metrics will your district use to monitor success in reducing disparities in achievement among student subgroups?

**Commitment 4:** Engaging all Families - How will your district ensure that all families, particularly those representing the student subgroups most in need of support, have the opportunity to meaningfully engage with the district regarding their students' needs? Plan to submit to the Department of Education for compliance purposes.

**Motion:** It was moved by Mrs. Williams, seconded by Mrs. Vernon and unanimously voted to approve the Blackstone-Millville Regional School District Student Opportunity Plan for School years 2021 - 2023.

### **Associate Principal Position**

The school district will post for the position of Associate Principal at the Complex. The position will change slightly and is outlined as follows:

To assist the Principal in meeting the goals outlined in the School Improvement Plan and Blueprint for District Improvement.

To assist students with their ability to solve any academic, social or emotional challenges that may interfere with their overall progress.

The duties and responsibilities were outlined in the job description.

The salary range will be between \$90,000 - \$100,000.

The position will be a 12 month non-union position and not the traditional assistant principal position.

This is not new money. It is in the budget.

They are looking for a different model. The associate principal can help Millville as well with summer projects. It will be a joint effort and support.

**Motion:** It was moved by Mrs. Vinacco, seconded by Mrs. Vernon and unanimously voted to approve the posting of the Associate Principal position for the Complex as outlined by the Superintendent. The salary will be posted between \$90,000-\$100,000 for a 12 month non-union position.

Mrs. Greenstein did have one concern. She asked to have the experience necessary higher than three years.

Dr. DeFalco will make this change.

Mrs. Lemieux asked if it would be a disciplinarian position.

Dr. DeFalco stated that this position will be supporting the principal with discipline being a part of it.

### **Coronavirus update:**

They are taking the best precautions they can.

Need to prepare for what might be next. Multiple school systems have closed for up to 30 days.

Dr. DeFalco is not comfortable doing that yet.

Tomorrow they will have no school for students and structured planning day for staff.



### **Mr. Ehrenworth - Report of Business Office**

Mr. Ehrenworth discussed that the School Committee previously approved using E & D funds as long as they were certified for the Secure Vestibule at the High School and for Capital Planning RFP.

If the E & D is certified it will raise the budget amount by \$105,000 with \$60,000 going to the Secure Vestibule and \$45,000 going to Capital Planning.

If this is approved the next step is to communicate this with the Towns. The Towns will have a set number of days to choose whether or not to act on it.

This will in no way impact the assessment to the Towns for this year or next year.

**Motion:** It was moved by Mrs. Lemieux, seconded by Mrs. Greenstein and unanimously voted to use \$105,000 out of E & D funds for this fiscal year to cover the construction of the Secure Vestibule and Capital Planning, not to impact the assessment to the Towns for this year or next year.

Total Revenue - everything on the revenue report looks good - no issues and our revenue will look better than it was anticipated to look. FY19 supplemental payment in the amount of \$23,000. Supplemental increase in Circuit Breaker is \$2,600.

After this month we can look at how the numbers are tying out. They will look at retroactive payments for Unit A contracts to see if our targets are accurate

The personnel changes are in the member packets. They will not discuss them publicly.

### **Facilities**

They have been in touch with Blackstone and the Insurance Company and they need to put the project out to bid for the Complex roof. He has been speaking with the representatives and putting together the scope of work.

The High School Secure Vestibule is scheduled to be done during April break by New England School Services.

Capital Planning - DRA went to all buildings during the last break. They received all drawings from the custodians and are converting them into electronic format - which we will be able to

retain. They spoke with Dan Saltzman, our technology consultant to get an assessment of the IT Infrastructure. The project is moving along.

**School Committee**

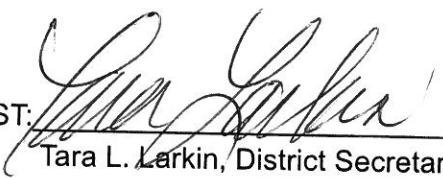
Mrs. Reggio attended the Blackstone Board of Selectmen meeting on Tuesday and there was a large contingent of folks who spoke on a school committee topic. She wanted to remind the community that we have a school committee forum and that would be a great place to talk about it. It is important to seek out the correct information in terms of process.

**Motion:** It was moved by Mrs. Greenstein, seconded by Mrs. Lemieux and unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Monique F. Simard  
Recording Secretary

ATTEST:   
Tara L. Larkin, District Secretary