

Blackstone-Millville Regional District
Zoom School Committee Meeting
April 27, 2020
4:30 p.m

Introduction of Members:

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

Jack Keefe and Tammy Lemieux were absent from the meeting.

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

If anyone has questions please shoot them off into the public chat box and they will be answered at the end of this meeting.

Changes to the Regional Agreement.

The School Committee is asked to approve final recommendations for amendments to the Regional Agreement. They are financial amendments that are proposed by the Regional Agreement Committee. Information on it can be found on the website. The changes were around capital borrowing. They added part 1, 2, 3, 4 which is based more on state regulations.

Motion: It was moved by Mrs. Williams, seconded by Mrs. Vernon and unanimously voted to approve the financial amendment to the Regional Agreement.

There will be a Facebook live presentation to talk about the proposed amendments to the Regional Agreement on April 30th at 5:00 p.m.

Report of the Superintendent

There is a potential need for the use of Excess and Deficiency funds. They are not anticipating an impact on FY20 and not certain about FY21. This is due to the State shortfall due to COVID.

Report of the Assistant Superintendent

There will be possible shortfalls in revenues in FY21. They have been advised they should not see it for FY20 but they are still not so sure.

There have been State round table conversations in Massachusetts. There is a possible 4 billion dollar shortfall in revenue. This could mean a 10% decrease in revenues. Some Towns have not been able to set their tax rates. Mr. Ehrenworth drafted language for the motion. This could mean a possible \$400,000 shortfall for Blackstone-Millville. Avenues were discussed for the possible shortfall. Hopefully we won't need it but we need to have access to it. Moving forward we will need to make decisions whether or not there will be cuts to staff or programs.

Excess and Deficiency is now at \$754,000. With the following items to fund, E & D would be reduced to \$182,000:

Literacy and Curriculum \$167,000

Secure Vestibule at HS \$105,000

Use of funds for FY21 \$300,000

Mrs. Vinacco wants to be sure that we are only doing this as a precautionary measure and we did not expect revenue shortfalls this year.

Mrs. Reggio stated that we are doing it for the possibility of both FY20 and FY21.

As of June 30th E & D goes away. This is why we need to prepare for it now. This is the benefit of doing it before the shortfall. The money could be tied up until next Spring.

Mr. Ehrenworth stated that we are preparing and not panicking.

Dr. DeFalco stated that we are just trying to be proactive and would clearly come back to the Committee to strategize the avenue they would want to take. They would come back to the Committee to approve a plan if there is a shortfall.

Mrs. Reggio stated that nothing would be expected on the part of the Towns. It would not change their contribution.

Mr. Ehrenworth said the State is looking at the possibility of going on a 1/12th budget. If the funds get tied up it would help us to certify our budget without the need of a 1/12th budget. This is all being done as a preventative measure.

Motion: It was moved by Mrs. Williams, seconded by Mrs. Larkin and unanimously voted to approve the following:

Whereas the Covid19 Pandemic has cast a high level of uncertainty upon anticipated revenue sources in both FY '20 and FY '21, I hereby move to authorize the use of certified E&D funds to offset potential future losses of anticipated revenues including, but not limited to, Chapter 70

Funds or other state/federal reimbursements. For each fiscal year, The School Committee will authorize an amount of E&D funds to be used, by way of a simple majority vote. The total amount used in both FY '20 and FY '21 shall not exceed \$300K. Provided that the towns do not object to this use of E&D funds, it will have no impact on the district's final budget or the assessments to the member towns in either fiscal year.

The next School Committee meeting will be held on May 14th.

Blackstone Public Hearing - May 11th

Millville is postponing them and the Finance Committee Chair will keep the School Committee informed.

Motion: It was moved by Mrs. Larkin, seconded by Mrs. Vinacco and unanimously voted to adjourn the School Committee Meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

Monique F. Simard, Recording Secretary

ATTEST: _____
Tara L. Larkin, District Secretary

