

Virtual School Committee Meeting

June 11, 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
Jack R. Keefe, Member
Sarah E. Williams, Member
Wendy L. Greenstein, Member
Tammy A. Lemieux, Member

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

Motion: It was moved by Mrs. Lemieux, seconded by Mr. Keefe and unanimously voted to approve Consent Agenda A which includes Warrants and Minutes of May 28, 2020.

Retiree Recognition

Dr. DeFalco is so glad to see so many of our staff here. He wants to recognize and honor some very important people.

Ann Spont - 16 years with the District - Kindergarten teacher - the book she chose is Brave

Priscilla O'Neil - Administrative Assistant MES- started in 1996

Jean Nerbonne - Cafe employee at the BMRSD - 24 years in District.

Ann Maloney - Special Education Paraprofessional for 21 years - she chose the book the Wild Robot

Lisa Demers - Foreign Language for 25 years at BMRHS - the book she chose is The Little Prince. Read in her French classes every year.

Marcia Cunningham - Speech/Language Pathologist MES- the book she chose is Before You Sleep - started in 1987-

Michele Blanchard - Health Teacher Middle School - started in 1988-

Betty Adamz - English Teacher Middle School - started in 1986-

Each of the retirees who were present spoke on their career in the District.
The Administrators spoke on the dedication of the retirees.

Review and Approve School Committee Calendar

The District Posting on the Website is our official school committee posting.

Motion: It was moved by Mrs. Lemieux, seconded by Mrs. Larkin and unanimously voted to approve the FY21 school committee calendar as received in their packets.

Mrs. Lemieux asked if we are looking to change the school calendar again.

Dr. DeFalco did not bring it forward since it may get changed again. The Governor announced Sept. 14 as a state holiday and now it may not be a state holiday.

Report of Superintendent

Donna Stone - Portrait of a Graduate Team - what does it mean to be a graduate of BMR? Focus is developing the whole child. What are the attributes that we value most and we want every graduate from our system to possess.

It has been over a year since the last time she came to the school committee meeting.

She will walk through a presentation she put together.

She created a team with Dr. DeFalco which included **students:**
Jake Purinton, Cassandra Demotte, Hannah Mullaly and Jacob Chaplin

Administration:

Jenny Chan Remka, Tonya Curt Hoard and Mike Dudek

Teachers:

Carol Conti, Hillary Roberge and Jeff Curran

Community support School Committee members:

Caryn Vernon, Erin Vinacco

Portrait of a graduate serves as a North Star for school system transformation.
Why do Districts need this? You do it to prepare today's BMR students for tomorrow's world.
The idea of having a plan for all BMR graduates and having a backward design.

How does the community develop a Portrait of a Graduate to drive school change?
They had a recipe to follow and as they engaged in the work they knew the path they needed to follow to make it successful.

The team met and worked tirelessly to develop this.

The Process: Setting the Stage - deep discussions on how the world and society are changing.

The changing workforce needs- How can we redesign educational experiences to prepare our students for the 21st century.

Establishing Status

Needs Assessment

comprehensive school visits by the committee.

See all schools and an assortment of classrooms.

Small teams traveled together for walkthroughs.

Looked for site level conditions.

Painting the Portrait:

Draft of competencies including:

21st century skills

Mindsets

Literacies

Leadership skills essential:

Communication, Collaboration, Civic Responsibilities, Creativity and Critical Thinking

Visual Presentation

They put their artistic talents to work. They needed to make a visual representation. They used paper, crayons, markers and the computer.

How do you take the portrait to practice?

Start in the schools. The team should determine when students work on these skills. Not isolated just to the High School.

They want to incorporate these Portrait of a Graduate competencies into instruction at all grade levels.

In the words of Dr. DeFalco, "Learning by Doing!"

They looked at the applied learning opportunities that students engaged in this year.

They also looked at traditional instruction as well. They looked at curriculum, sequence, assessment, student experience and goals.

Move toward inclusion of more authentic assessments - real world problem based work.

All teachers created projects that students worked on .

Survey to review glows and grows from implementing Authentic Assessments-

Spring 2020 PD with all HS teachers with the exception of the English department.

Focused on establishing a Portfolio System for mid-term and final assessments as a way to address the grows from survey and highlight the glows.

Dr. DeFalco - the next steps

We started with the end result but we know we need to back it up even further to our elementary and middle school students. How do we approach this work at a very different level? How do we use this as a springboard to accelerate the preparedness of our students? How do we engage our students in deep and meaningful work around reading and writing?

Mr. Dudek

They are discussing how to move forward at the High School. They want to engage their learners and showcase what they know. What are the expected outcomes for students? Align the expectations to the assessments they want to be able to do.

Dr. DeFalco stated that critical thinking is what we need to concentrate on. Some students struggle with this. It speaks to the need of having a more meaningful way of having kids show what they know.

Mrs. Lemieux - thank you for encompassing the big picture. She would like to add some community service learning piece to this. Keep an eye on the traditional test taking. It is still happening at the higher levels.

Mrs. Reggio - Glad to see Mr. Dudek speak on the alignment of how it fits with core values.

Dr. DeFalco stated they want to expand upon the instructional leadership team. They are in the infancy of conversations at the lower level. One important piece is how do we share this with our community? The hope is that if you look at our purpose statement is set out to do just that. The community involvement is a major piece that they work on. They want the community to wrap their arms around it.

Covid 19 Mandates

Mrs. Larkin -Massachusetts Regional Schools posted and speak on funding the mandates of Covid-19. They want school committees to vote on it to send it out. It speaks on what needs to

happen to re-open this fall. Ability to pay for the enormous additional expenses associated with opening. She wants to know if this is something the Committee wants to sign and send in? They would need a formal motion on this.

Motion: It was moved by Mrs. Lemieux, seconded by Mrs. Vinacco and unanimously voted to approve a resolution to the State regarding funding for Covid-19 supplies.

Discussion:

Mrs. Lemieux - has been reading that one of the people who started the ball rolling is someone she has chatted with at a conference. The hope is that if we all get together and send it to our representatives there will be a better resolution to getting financial support.

Dr. DeFalco - brief update with our work of Covid -19 and summer support work.

He sent out a video to the community last week on inclusivity.

In our school system racism, bigotry and hate has no place.

A group of staff and students got together to put together an organization called Chargers for Change and to partner with the anti-defamation league.

Courtney Allen is spearheading this. This is a very important issue to them.

The leadership team will be reading White Fragility which causes significant reflection.

Mrs. Reggio - In her world she does not support racism. Education is the key to changing all of the society's ills of today.

Mrs. Lemieux is torn in the messages they are receiving. She does support the police and we are judging all of them as a group just as we are trying to stand up for a different group being judged. She supports reform but not judging another group due to a bad apple. She does not support the line of rhetoric asking to defund police.

Mrs. Vinacco heard talk of taking police out of schools to spend it on education. She does not agree with this. She feels the statement would be All means All.

Dr. DeFalco stated the work we are doing with the high school is not connected to the national rhetoric right now. They are talking about bias and microaggressions. He is not in favor of removing the SRO's from the school. We work closely with Blackstone and Millville police departments.

Summer Support

They are In the midst of putting together a robust tutoring program at all levels aimed at students that need a little bit more. They will spend 5 weeks this summer working with small groups of students remotely. They have a few hundred students that could benefit from this.

Making sure kids feel ready for the next grade. Mary Vaughn, the instructional coach has done great work. They have 100 students already at the Complex.

On the secondary level Jeff Curran has been working on the key skills and concepts of those students who needed it, but didn't get it.

There is a bit of a difference between elementary and secondary. At the higher level it is very specific.

They will begin recruiting the staff once the student lists are done.

They are applying for enrichment camp grants.

Special Education

Working on the summer program based on guidance from the Dept. of Education.

Special Education services will look different this summer. Possibility of in person services and see if it is feasible. Health and safety precautions need to be taken.

Jill Pilla Gallerani discussed developing protocols and interventions. There is a lot of work needed to bring students back.

Remote learning is moving forward to start on July 6th to those who have ESY as part of their education plans. They will write new remote learning plans. They need a balance of service and instruction. They are looking at skills that show a lot of regression. Looking also at students who may benefit from the additional services such as writing, reading, math or social and emotional.

Dr. DeFalco - Return and Recovery -

The team has met twice and happy to have Mrs. Reggio and Mrs. Williams representing the School Committee.

They are starting to get focused now.

Four areas they are reorganizing:

Teaching and Learning

Physical and Remote Environment

Business and Operations

Social Emotional Behavioral Learning Support

He sent out a 3 part survey to families last week. It should be posted on facebook with the links. They do not panic, they just prepare. Provide options for the community with the direction they want the administration to go.

They are not intending to go back to the Towns to give additional funding for a shortfall.

Mr. Ehrenworth

Report of the Business Office

Reorganization of Human Resources position. Trying to focus the responsibilities to benefits, administration and compliance. Looking to engage a company that would serve as a consultation for H.R. services and support for investigations. The cost is quite minimal. We should be able to move things forward combining this with an H.R. Specialist. We should see a savings in this area.

Dr. DeFalco feels we need to focus on compliance issues around OSHA.

Mr. Ehrenworth looked into six companies and narrowed it down to this company. There is no specific contract. Work from month to month. They will pay \$13,500 if we stay with them for the entire year. There are no hidden fees. This does not include on site visitations. They will pay \$1060 monthly and another \$65 per month for the online onboarding packet.

This does not require a vote. We are focusing on the job specifications that are already there.

Mr. Ehrenworth reviewed the revenue report. Both Blackstone and Millville assessments are fully paid. We are right where we expected to be.

We were anticipating the medicaid program would see a \$75,000 loss but now we are looking at only \$500 under where we thought we would be.

Expenditures - These numbers are still preliminary. Many will change significantly.

Transportation services - he was anticipating savings and you will see that.

Heating and utilities and maintenance of grounds will see a savings.

Benefits - there is a savings here.

Facilities Update -

Move forward with the roofing contract with Blackstone.

Secure Vestibule - items have been received and the project expected to be completed by late July.

Capital Planning RFP - going well. Waiting for survey results to come in.

Boiler Project - MES moving along-

School Committee Forum

Mrs. Reggio - thank Mike Dudek, Keith Ducharme, advisors to the senior class and Dr. DeFalco and Mr. Ehrenworth for the send off celebration that far exceeded anyone's expectations. She wishes the seniors well.

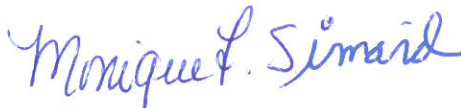
Mrs. Williams - Happy to hear the leadership team will read White Fragility. She plans on reading it and invites committee members to read it. Would still like to come up with a statement from the School Committee.

Mrs. Vinacco - Millville Town meeting on June 22nd to be held outside in the Millville ball field. Hoping Millville will be as successful as Blackstone. Shout out to Jack Keefe on making Nichols College Dean's list and others who made the Dean's list. Shout out to Wendy Greenstein saying good-bye. She will not be seeking re-election. Thank you for all of your time. She will miss her guidance, input and opinions on everything we have needed and more.

Mrs. Lemieux - loved the parade. So many people along the route. Great time and thank you to everyone who put it together. Students and parents were pleased. Thank you to teachers, staff and administration for persevering through and stepping up to the plate.

Motion: It was moved by Mrs. Larkin, seconded by Mrs. Vernon to adjourn the meeting and enter into Executive Session at at 7:10 p.m. and not to return to the regular meeting. This was followed by a roll call vote.

Respectfully submitted,



Monique F. Simard
Recording Secretary

ATTEST: 
Tara L. Larkin, District Secretary