

**BLACKSTONE-MILLVILLE REGIONAL
DISTRICT SCHOOL COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MEETING**

December 15, 2011

The Blackstone-Millville Regional District School Committee met in the Media Center of the Frederick W. Hartnett Middle School commencing at 7:00 p.m. with the following members present:

Charles K. Singleton, Chairman
John J. Eldridge, Vice Chairman
Steven J. Tringali, District Secretary
Catherine A. Robinson, District Treasurer
Diane C. Robin, Assistant District Treasurer
Brian T. Faulkner, Member
Michael J. Buckley, Member

Member Lisa Oliveira was absent from meeting.

Also in attendance at the meeting was Kimberly B. Shaver-Hood, Superintendent of Schools.

Student Representative Alicia Pickering gave her report. She gave information on hoop night and indoor track. Alicia stated that the hockey team won their first game and the cheerleaders will start competition in February.

Student Representative Derek Tata gave information on student council, spirit week, national honor society and SADD hosting penny wars.

Motion: It was moved by Mr. Eldridge, seconded by Mrs. Robinson and **unanimously voted** to postpone the ratification of the teacher's contract until the contract has been signed.

Motion: It was moved by Mr. Buckley, seconded by Mr. Eldridge and **unanimously voted** to approve Consent Agenda A which includes Warrants, Use of Facilities, Field Trip Requests and Approval of Minutes of Meeting of November 17, 2011.

Report of the Superintendent

Cafeteria manager Jeanne Sheridan has raised the bar as far as school lunch quality. She has a plan for staff development. She is requesting approval of this program.

Motion: It was moved by Mrs. Robin, seconded by Mr. Tringali and **unanimously voted** to approve the program requested by Mrs. Sheridan for refining procedures to

consistently improve the school lunch program by working with head cooks to develop their knowledge, skills and attitudes.

Motion: It was moved by Mr. Buckley, seconded by Mr. Faulkner and **unanimously voted** to approve a new volunteer coach for basketball and a new volunteer coach for cheerleading provided they have received a CORI check.

Motion: It was moved by Mr. Eldridge, seconded by Mr. Tringali and **unanimously voted** to send old math textbooks to the Blackstone recycling center as surplus.

The Superintendent would like to implement an I-pad program for students. There are three possible options for this program as follows:

1. purchase pads straight out
2. apple lease
3. apple equity

The School District is considering the lease option. This program keeps the I-pads under warranty and builds equity throughout the lease agreement.

A group of teachers will be sent to the Burlington School District to get feedback on the program. Mr. Buckley and Mrs. Robin volunteered to join the teachers in Burlington and join the sub-committee already started.

There would be a usage fee charge to students. The students will need to take responsibility for them.

Mr. Buckley is wondering if the infrastructure in the building will support these tablets and if increased bandwidth is needed at the high school.

Mr. Faulkner doesn't feel the I-pads promote interaction in the classroom.

Mr. Eldridge wants to see the justification for this and feels there is a need to explain this program to the community and the cost associated with it.

Mrs. Robin feels the teachers must be on board with this and to have an educational use for this product before they move forward.

The cost would be approximately \$85,000 per year for leasing the machines.

Superintendent Shaver-Hood stated that there are four bids for the fencing around the generator at the High School. She is recommending the black galvanized fencing that matches the fence around the sewer pump. The funding will be out of the remnants of the sewer money.

Motion: It was moved by Mr. Eldridge, seconded by Mr. Tringali and **unanimously voted** (with the exception of Mrs. Robinson who stepped out of the room

at the time the vote was taken) to approve the black galvanized fencing around the generator for a cost of \$1920.

Motion: It was moved by Mr. Buckley, seconded by Mr. Eldridge and **unanimously voted** to approve the repair of the sidewalk at the Millville Elementary School by Thomas Levitre for a cost of \$4,650.

Motion: It was moved by Mr. Eldridge, seconded by Mrs. Robinson and **unanimously voted** to approve the roof repair at the Millville Elementary School by New England Chimney Sweep at a cost of \$10,500.

It was stated that Chris McNamara last years J.V. baseball coach donated time and materials to upgrade the quality of the baseball field at BMR. Mr. McNamara will be doing the work himself. They would like to send a thank you letter from the School Committee to thank him for the work he has done.

Motion: It was moved by Mr. Buckley, seconded by Mr. Tringali and **unanimously voted** to authorize Chris McNamara to upgrade and repair the BMR baseball field and for the Superintendent to issue of a letter of thanks to Mr. McNamara.

Chairman Singleton stated that there was a vote taken by the board of trustees of the Blackstone library to stop Millville residents from taking out resources from the Blackstone library once the Millville library is decertified. It is a concern of the School Committee's since students who attend the Middle and High School and reside in Millville will not have a town library to use.

Motion: It was moved by Mr. Eldridge, seconded by Mr. Faulkner and **unanimously voted** to allow Superintendent Shaver-Hood to draft a letter to the board of trustees of the Blackstone library to reconsider their recent vote and allow Millville residents the ability to take out resources from the Blackstone library.

A parent at the meeting brought up the fact that the residents of Woonsocket are allowed to pay a \$35.00 fee to use the Blackstone library. This parent is questioning why the town of Millville residents cannot do the same.

Superintendent Shaver-Hood has had conversations with Helen Coffin, Executive Secretary for the Town of Millville about the possibility of allowing the town hall employees to move into empty rooms at the Millville Elementary School. The police department would be excluded from this. The reason for the move would be that the town hall needs a new roof and furnace.

Motion: It was moved by Mr. Robinson, seconded by Mr. Eldridge and **unanimously voted** to form a sub-committee to enter into discussions with the Town of Millville regarding the possibility of employees of the Town Hall renting space at the Millville Elementary School. They committee would gather as much information on this arrangement as possible.

Mrs. Robinson and Mr. Tringali would like to be a part of this committee.

Motion: It was moved by Mr. Eldridge, seconded by Mrs. Robin and **unanimously voted** to form a Regional Agreement sub-committee to discuss the possibilities of moving school children between Millville and Blackstone when needed.

Mr. Buckley cautions the committee that this may not be the best time to move forward with this investigation into the Regional Agreement.

Motion: It was moved by Mr. Robinson, seconded by Mrs. Robin and **unanimously voted** to close school on Monday, January 2, 2012 and extend the school year by 1 day making the last day of school Tuesday, June 19, 2012 from the ruling by the D.E.S.E. that schools in Massachusetts cannot be open on January 2nd.

This will be displayed on the BMR website and notices sent home to parents.

There were no items for Public Forum.

Committee Forum – It was stated that the Middle School band had a Christmas Concert and there was wonderful parental support for this.

Strategic Planning- Mrs. Robin stated that an article was placed in the Blackstone Enlightener for volunteers to sit on the Strategic Planning sub-committee. One response was received so far. They are looking for 30 to 35 people to serve on this committee. They will try to keep the amount of meetings to a minimum (approx. 3-5).

Mrs. Robin will put something together and go on the John Eldridge Show to promote this.

Motion: It was moved by Mr. Eldridge, seconded by Mrs. Robin and **unanimously voted** to adjourn the School Committee meeting at 9:20 p.m. A roll call vote was taken.

Respectfully submitted,

Monique F. Simard
Recording Secretary

ATTEST: _____
Steven J. Tringali, District Secretary