

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

**February 3, 2011**

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

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

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

Absent from the meeting was Ann M. Lesperance, Vice Chairperson and Student Representatives, Alycia Dery and Luke Perreault.

**Motion:** It was moved by Mr. Eldridge, seconded by Mr. Buckley and **unanimously voted** to approve the Consent Agenda which includes Minutes of Meeting of January 20, 2011, Warrants and Field Trip Requests for HMS Chorus and Varsity Softball.

**Student Report** - Alycia Dery and Luke Perreault were absent from meeting.

**Middle School – Project 351**

Brennan Stefanik, 8<sup>th</sup> grade student from Hartnett Middle School spoke on his experience taking part in Project 351. Allison Daneault, who could not attend tonight's meeting also accompanied Brennan on the project. One 8<sup>th</sup> grader from all cities and towns were selected to take part in this project.

The two students traveled to Boston with 349 other students to take part in this project. They participated in community service projects while they were there. The group helped over 10,000 people in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in the following ways:

Made 4,000 school readiness kits for Spanish and English speaking children-  
Made 4025 backpacks filled with nutritious foods for children facing hunger-  
Served over 2000 lunches for seniors-

Painted 4 large rooms and transformed them to increase capacity for 100 additional toddlers at the Dimock Center's Early Childhood Education Center-  
Created 5 theaters and painted for the early childhood education "play and creativity" learning module-  
Brennan and Allison made no-sew blankets for needy children-

The project received help from such influential people as Governor Deval Patrick, Ray Allen from the Boston Celtics and Kevin Faulk from the New England Patriots.

The High School boys basketball teams could not attend tonight's meeting since they had a makeup game.

Theresa Dagal is requesting the use of the BMR High School as the starting point for a Memorial Run on Saturday, April 30, 2011. The run is in memory of Kevin Gignac and to benefit his son Bradley Gignac.

**Motion:** It was moved by Mr. Eldridge, seconded by Mrs. Robinson and **unanimously voted** to approve the use of the BMR High School as the starting point for the Memorial Run on Saturday, April 30, 2011 with the stipulation that the requestor, Theresa Dagal address the possible need for a police officer with the town of Blackstone. This would not be the responsibility of the School District.

### **Report of the Superintendent of Schools**

There will be a Budget Sub-Committee meeting on Tuesday evening at 6:30 p.m.

There will be a zumba fitness class held after school at the Millville Elementary School. They are looking for a waiver of \$420 (cost of the gymnasium fee).

**Motion:** It was moved by Mr. Buckley, seconded by Mrs. Robinson and **unanimously voted** to waive the gymnasium fee of \$420 for the zumba class to be held at the Millville Elementary School.

Superintendent Shaver-Hood gave the members a handout of the school meal lunch efficiency report. The cafeteria is doing very well.

A request was received from the Bellingham School District to extend the contract of the Cafeteria Manager, Mrs. Jeanne Sheridan for the next three years. Bellingham will be doing this and requests that our school district to do the same.

The Superintendent placed a technology plan in the members packets. It outlines where we are headed and how we are moving forward. Mr. Buckley would like to speak with Mr. Monroe and Mr. Toupin from our technology department about the items they will be purchasing and how beneficial they will be to the students.

A professional development plan has been worked on and is in the member packets.

The roof at the Millville Elementary School is leaking. They have been working with Mrs. Coffin, Executive Secretary and the Town of Millville to address some of the issues. When the new roof was put on it came with an extended 30 year warranty. They are currently looking for information on how to make use of the warranty.

Chairman Singleton was not aware of the leaking roof in Millville. It came as a surprise to him. He is asking that the school principals give Superintendent Shaver-Hood a list of things they need to have addressed now that cannot wait.

Superintendent Shaver-Hood asked that all head custodians inspect the snow on the roof of their schools. If it poses a problem and if the custodians are unable to take care of it themselves they will have the snow removed by a professional company. Millville has had a professional company remove some of their snow. The High School will likely need a company to remove snow from the roof of the cafeteria. The Hartnett Middle School may need to have snow removed from the gymnasium.

Superintendent Shaver-Hood asked that it be reflected that the Ipad purchase cost has been reduced from the original estimated amount of \$83,000 to \$26,414.06. This change will be an update to those minutes.

### **Public Forum**

Esther Cote, Educators' Association President requests the re-opening of the Collective Bargaining Agreement. Mrs. Cote stated that she sent a written request to the School Committee in October and has not received a written response from them. She did receive verbal response from Chairman Singleton but would like to set dates to bring forward to the Negotiating Committee.

Mrs. Cote is disappointed that they will enter into Collective Bargaining which will bring Attorney Gould to the table. She feels they should be given a chance to work it out amongst themselves first without the presence of an attorney.

Chairman Singleton stated that the School Committee made the decision to enter into collective bargaining. They are interested in a fair resolution.

Mrs. Cote also has concerns with the repairs taking place at the JFK Complex. She stated that on February 1<sup>st</sup> concerns were brought to JFK Principal, Carol Costa regarding the painting that is taking place there. Individuals at the school are complaining about the paint fumes and the lack of ventilation. She has asked Principal Costa to stop painting until the issue has been resolved. There is a pregnant teacher at the school and Mrs. Costa has agreed to move her to the other side of the building.

The painting in the building begins at 3:30 p.m. The Committee has offered to begin the painting at 4:00 p.m. and to move any teacher who feels the fumes are too strong. Mr. Gallagher the painter has agreed to open doors in the evening to ventilate.

Mrs. Cote also mentioned the rug that was recently replaced. She feels it is used and would like to know if it was treated with anything since it was donated to the school.

Mr. Eldridge hears what she is saying and feels the teachers who are having trouble with the fumes should be moved. He stated it is only temporary. The painting will not go on forever and will improve the school which was in poor shape. He stated that it is the responsibility of the School Committee to maintain the building and the scheduling of work is not always convenient to everyone.

Mrs. Oliveira stated that it is not always feasible for the custodians to use the vacation week to do the work since they already have things scheduled for that week. There needs to be a compromise. The solution may be to move the teachers and their students temporarily.

Superintendent Shaver-Hood stated that OSHA says there are no specific guidelines to painting in the schools. They are allowed to paint during the school day but have decided to wait until after school to do so. The main goal is to get the building bright and cheery for the students. They are able to do it for a low cost and are trying to work around the custodial schedule. They will try to work on the ventilation and will continue to do the best they can and ask the staff to be cooperative during this time.

Chairman Singleton stated that when the Committee took a tour of the school they found the old carpet was wrinkled, had tears and rips and had duct tape on it. The carpeting they put in was donated to the school. It was believed to be unused. Chairman Singleton believes that even if it was used they are better off now than with the old carpeting. If there are any asbestos tiles they will now be covered by the new carpeting. They have to put the safety factor first. The two rooms they chose to cover with carpeting are those that had the most peeling.

The Town of Blackstone has set aside \$40,000 for repair work to the school. The District will not continue to ignore the problems.

### **Committee Forum**

Mr. Buckley wanted to say thank you to the staff and give recognition to those dealing with all of this snow. He wants everyone to be careful when driving and watch out for the kids who are walking.

Mr. Buckley wanted to remind everyone that BMR will be performing at Jazz Night at the Stadium Theatre next Thursday night, February 10<sup>th</sup>.

Chairman Singleton wanted to thank Superintendent Shaver-Hood, Mr. Porter and Mr. Ducharme for coordinating the ceremony for Tyler Symes held at the New England Sports Center.

Citations were given out to those who helped Tyler when he was hit by a puck in the chest at a hockey game. The citations were given to those who saved his life. He also thanked the BMR staff who raised \$849.00 for Tyler and the American Heart Association on the last Professional Development Day.

**Motion:** It was moved at 8:35 p.m. by Mr. Buckley, seconded by Mr. Eldridge to enter into Executive Session to conduct strategy sessions for negotiations with non-union personnel and to leave Executive Session only for the purpose of adjournment. The motion was followed by a roll call vote that resulted in a **unanimous vote**.

Respectfully Submitted,

Monique F. Simard  
Recording Secretary

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
Steven J. Tringali, District Secretary