

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

April 14, 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.

Motion: It was moved by Mr. Eldridge, seconded by Mrs. Robin to appoint Charles K. Singleton as Chairman of the Blackstone-Millville Regional District School Committee. The motion was followed by a paper ballot vote which resulted in a **unanimous vote**.

Motion: It was moved by Mr. Tringali, seconded by Mrs. Robin to appoint John J. Eldridge as Vice Chairman of the Blackstone-Millville Regional District School Committee. The motion was followed by a paper ballot vote which resulted in a **unanimous vote**.

Motion: It was moved by Mrs. Robin, seconded by Mrs. Robinson and **unanimously voted** to appoint Steven J. Tringali as District Secretary of the Blackstone-Millville Regional District School Committee.

Motion: It was moved by Mr. Buckley, seconded by Mr. Eldridge and **unanimously voted** to appoint Catherine A. Robinson as District Treasurer of the Blackstone-Millville Regional District School Committee.

Motion: It was moved by Mr. Buckley, seconded by Mr. Eldridge and **unanimously voted** to appoint Diane C. Robin as Assistant District Treasurer of the Blackstone-Millville Regional District School Committee.

Motion: It was moved by Mrs. Robinson, seconded by Mr. Tringali and **unanimously voted** to appoint Donna M. Scungio as a non-member Assistant Treasurer of the Blackstone-Millville Regional District School Committee.

Motion: It was moved by Mr. Eldridge, seconded by Mrs. Robin and **unanimously voted** to appoint Harold D. Gould Jr. as District Counsel of the Blackstone-Millville Regional District School Committee.

The District School Committee members were present as follows:

Charles K. Singleton, Chairman
John J. Eldridge, Vice Chairman
Catherine A. Robinson, District Treasurer
Diane C. Robin, Assistant District Treasurer

Steven J. Tringali, District Secretary
Michael J. Buckley, Member
Lisa C. Oliveira, Member
Brian T. Faulkner, Member

Also in attendance at the meeting was Kimberly B. Shaver-Hood, Superintendent of Schools and Luke Perreault, Student Representative.

Chairman Singleton welcomed the new member Brian Faulkner who is replacing Ann Lesperance.

Motion: It was moved by Mr. Eldridge, seconded by Mrs. Robin and **unanimously voted** to approve the Consent Agenda which includes Minutes of Meeting of March 24, 2011, Warrants and a field trip request by the Senior Class to go to Martha's Vineyard on Tuesday, May 31, 2011.

Student Report

Luke Perreault gave the student report. He spoke on many of the activities taking place. Luke stated that the High School Band and Wind Ensemble recently competed at MICCA. The concert band received a silver medal and the Wind Ensemble received a gold medal.

The Wind Ensemble reportedly received 133 points out of a possible 135. The Wind Ensemble will play at Mechanics Hall in Worcester, MA on Sunday, April 17th @ 2:30 p.m.

Luke mentioned that the Humanities Club went to Bryant University recently to attend a lecture on media and the impact on society as well as taking a self guided tour at the RISD museum.

FWHMS Student Council Members

Middle School teacher and student council advisor Kevin McCourt spoke on the activities of the student council. Each student spoke on one activity. In September they put on the Open Doors Day for incoming 6th graders. In October they began the first ever Green Team and Box Tops for Education. In November they put together 40 Thanksgiving baskets by having a canned good collection. In December they had a holiday luncheon for the school followed by a raffle. In February they sponsored a valentines candy gram sale.

In March they attended a conference to promote leadership and received the gold award of the MASC for the 2nd year in a row. They will be the host school for the MASC conference next year.

April will mark the Opening Day at Hartnett Middle School which will coincide with the Red Sox Opening Day.

In May they will make plans for Teacher Appreciation Week. The students and their advisor would like to thank Principal Mr. White and Vice Principal Mr. Lafayette for allowing them to hold all of these great activities.

The School Committee complimented them on doing a great job. They appreciate all these hard working students do.

Public Forum – there were no items for public forum.

Technology Director, Brad Monroe gave a discussion on the iPad Pilot Project. The iPad has been piloted in History Teacher, Jeff Curran's Social Studies class. Student, Mitchell Lockwood spoke on the subject as well. A DVD was shown of the students using the iPads.

Overall, Mr. Curran believes that the iPads are a great review tool. The students like using them and it has made researching much easier and faster. He looks forward to using other applications with it as well. It allows the students a more hands on student centered approach to learning. The students get very excited about using the iPad.

Professional Learning Community presentation-

Presenters from the JFK/AFM Complex gave a presentation. Those in attendance were Linda McGill, Lisa Trottier, Janice Torvi, Susan Day, Gary Castiglioni, Renee Rousselle and Cecilia Doyle.

They have been working and meeting for the last six weeks to put together professional learning communities in their schools. They are addressing the learning needs of the students. It involves a collaboration of teachers working as a team and gives them the opportunity to work together to see where the students are going, what they are doing and ways to seek out the best teaching and learning practices and test them in the classrooms so they can continuously improve processes and focus on results.

Mr. Faulkner would like to see the parents involvement in this as well. If the teachers were able to send home notes to the parents with extra worksheets, etc. that they can do at home with their children this would help as well.

Chairman Singleton likes the fact that all learners are incorporated here and all levels of learning are included. He felt it was a wonderful presentation by all.

Parks and Recreation – Blackstone

Celeste Langlois from the Parks and Recreation is here for the help of the School Committee. Ms. Langlois stated that they have renovated their soccer fields at the Complex but they are still not quite ready for use this spring.

She is looking for any space they can be allowed to use for soccer practices at the BMR High School. They are currently using the Hartnett Middle School field but are looking to alleviate some of the pressure from this field. She stated that the fields would be used only when not in use by school sports.

The School Committee agreed to work with them and asked that Celeste contact Mr. Johnson the Athletic Director. They would ask that the Field Hockey field not be used since funds were spent to improve this field and they would like to keep it the way it is.

Superintendent Shaver-Hood will contact Mr. Johnson so that he can let Ms. Langlois know what is available.

Ms. Langlois stated that Mr. Johnson has been very helpful when she spoke with him on the phone.

Report of the Superintendent-

Motion: It was moved by Mr. Eldridge, seconded by Mr. Buckley (**7 approved and one abstained from voting – Chairman Singleton**) to approve the waiving of the fee of \$80 for the BMYBL Charger Basketball camp.

Superintendent Shaver-Hood spoke on the proposed lunch changes for the FY12 lunch program as outlined by Cafeteria Manager, Jeanne Sheridan.

Motion: It was moved by Mr. Eldridge, seconded by Mr. Tringali and **unanimously voted** to approve the FY12 student lunch prices as follows:
Elementary increase from \$2.00 to \$2.25
Middle School and High School increase from \$2.25 to \$2.50

Teacher, Shaylyn Walker is requesting a maternity leave on or around June 1st. The recommendation of the Superintendent is to allow this leave. However, she will need to return to work by the first day of school or stay out for the entire FY12 school year. She will not be allowed to return to work on or around January 2nd which she requested.

Motion: It was moved by Mrs. Robin, seconded by Mrs. Oliveira and **unanimously voted** to allow the maternity leave request for Shaylyn Walker on or around June 1, 2011. Ms. Walker will need to return to work by the first day of school or stay out for the entire FY12 school year.

Superintendent Shaver-Hood discussed the FY12 school calendar. It is more cost effective to go with full day professional development days rather than half days.

Motion: It was moved by Mr. Eldridge, seconded by Mrs. Robinson and **unanimously voted** to approve the FY12 School Calendar as presented.

Superintendent Shaver-Hood requested the purchase of winter percussion jackets and patches. This is past practice whenever a group wins District awards.

Motion: It was moved by Mr. Buckley, seconded by Mrs. Oliveira and **unanimously voted** to purchase 17 winter percussion jackets and 10 patches for a total cost of \$1,694.65.

Attorney Harold Gould stated that the current budget deficit is \$1,188,539. It is the responsibility of the School Committee to fund the budget to what it was certified at. The School Committee needs to reassess the towns of Blackstone and Millville for the additional contributions necessary to fund the budget deficit.

Motion: It was moved by Mr. Buckley seconded by Mr. Eldridge and **unanimously voted** to reassess the towns of Blackstone and Millville the additional contributions.

Mrs. Robinson does not feel the town of Millville has the funds to give the additional contribution. They are currently looking at closing the library, senior center and charging for trash removal to cover their budget. It was stated that they may seek a Prop 2.5 override. However, this override would be to fund the library, senior center and trash removal and not for the School District additional contribution.

Mr. Gould stated that it is the legal obligation of the School Committee to seek this funding.

Both Chairman Singleton and Mr. Tringali believe that the town of Millville does not have the funds to cover the additional contribution. They will only vote for this because they are legally obligated to do so.

Chairman Singleton had a short conversation with Norman Bergeron from the Blackstone Finance Committee. He stated that if we are asking for money they will need to know immediately. They may have the funding in stabilization and free cash to support the request.

Mrs. Oliveira feels strongly that they still ask for the funds.

Mr. Buckley wants to present their case to the voters and see how they vote. It is not the case of whether or not Millville or Blackstone has the money but it is up to the voters whether or not they want to spend it. We owe the voters of both towns the opportunity to make this decision.

Mr. Gould stated that they have met the first requirement. The action taken tonight does not affect any of these figures. What they are doing tonight is complying with the rest of the statutes. They have already assessed Blackstone and Millville their minimum contributions and have a remaining deficit this evening of \$1,188,539. They have not complied fully with the requirements by requesting more than the minimum contribution.

This is what they will be addressing this evening. Tonight they need to assess Blackstone \$834,117 and Millville \$354,422 which will make up the total deficit of \$1,188,539. Mr. Gould stated that it becomes their decision whether to give you the money or not. At the town meeting the voters will make the decision and take the votes. The School Committee has until April 23rd to get this information to the towns. Therefore, they will need to act tonight.

Mr. Gould stated that this does not raise the original gross budget.

Mr. Eldridge suggests they meet 3 or 4 times per year with the Boards of Selectman and Finance Committees to discuss what the availability of money is. It is unfortunate that we are not in compliance until we do this. The point he is trying to make is that something is wrong here that the minimum contribution is what it is. He feels that putting it in the hands of the Towns is wrong, but it is the law.

Mrs. Oliveira stated that the foundation budget is there to give kids an adequate education. It is not what is supposed to be enough to run the School District. You need to give the voters the chance to make the decision as to whether they want to fund the additional contribution or not.

Mr. Eldridge feels we need to have a conversation with the Finance Committees and Boards of Selectman. We owe them more than a letter stating their request for additional contributions.

Mr. Buckley commented on the fact that Education Reform was set up for towns and not regions. Regions have to carry health insurance where towns do not and this makes a big difference that we have this in our budget.

Mr. Buckley stated that we did not ask for additional contributions in FY10 and FY11 since we had an influx of federal stimulus money. We don't have a spending problem but a revenue problem. To keep class sizes at a minimum we need more than minimum contribution.

The worst case scenario if you get nothing from Blackstone and Millville you will then need to reduce your net operating budget by making additional cuts.

Mr. Buckley agrees with Mr. Eldridge that time is of the essence. You need to make the Towns aware of what your needs are.

The minimum contribution costs do not include any transportation or equipment. If you just get the minimum contribution you have a huge deficit right there.

You need to go to your state representatives and ask them to put dollars back into transportation which was promised.

The School District is also losing some grant funding which helped to keep us running.

Chairman Singleton believes that the Town of Millville cannot afford the additional contribution. He will not violate a state law so he will ask the towns for the money. He will support it but believes that Millville does not have the money to give and that we should not make the request.

Motion: It was moved by Mr. Buckley, seconded by Mr. Tringali and **unanimously voted** to assess the amount of \$834,117 to the Town of Blackstone as its share of the additional contribution required from the member towns to cover the deficit in the amount of \$1,188,539. in the operating budget for FY2012.

Motion: It was moved by Mr. Buckley, seconded by Mrs. Oliveira and **unanimously voted** to assess the amount of \$354,422 to the Town of Millville as its share of the additional contribution required from the member towns to cover the deficit in the amount of \$1,188,539. in the operating budget for FY2012.

Mr. Eldridge will vote to comply with the law but does not believe in it.

Motion: It was moved by Mr. Eldridge, seconded by Mrs. Oliveira and **unanimously voted** to adjourn the School Committee Meeting at 10:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Monique F. Simard
Recording Secretary

ATTEST: _____
Steven J. Tringali, District Secretary