

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

**April 28, 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  
Diane C. Robin, Assistant District Treasurer  
Steven J. Tringali, District Secretary  
Michael J. Buckley, Member  
Brian T. Faulkner, Member

Absent from meeting were Lisa C. Oliveira, member and Catherine A. Robinson, District Treasurer and student representative Luke Perreault.

Also in attendance at the meeting were Kimberly B. Shaver-Hood, Superintendent of Schools and Alycia Dery, Student Representative.

**Motion:** It was moved by Mr. Buckley, seconded by Mr. Tringali and **unanimously voted** to approve the Consent Agenda which includes Minutes of Meeting of April 14, 2011, Warrants and one field trip request for the BMRHS Athletics.

**Student Report**

Alycia Dery gave the sports report. Alycia said that this is such an exciting time for seniors. With graduation on June 3<sup>rd</sup> there is not a lot of time to get everything done. Everything is set for the senior banquet and awards night. The prom was held last Thursday and everyone had a great time.

The Middle School National Junior Honor Society co-advisors Michelle Ferrara and Jennifer Solari were present to provide an update on the events taking place. Student leaders were also in attendance. The NJHS will be inducting new members in June. It is a very lengthy process and not an easy task to be inducted. The NJHS has completed many projects this year. They have had fundraisers for Make A Wish Foundation, Tyler Symes, food pantry, dollars for food, Cystic Fibrosis, and Gals for Cal.

**Daniel Driggs – Eagle Scout Project Request**

For his Eagle Scout project, Dan Driggs from Blackstone Troop 1 wants to make improvements to the running path at the Hartnett Middle School. Middle School track coach Kevin Maloney started work on the track but there is still much to be done.

Dan stated that all helpers will be supervised by at least two adult leaders at all times.

**Motion:** It was moved by Mr. Buckley, seconded by Mr. Tringali and **unanimously voted** to accept the proposal by Dan Driggs, Eagle Scout candidate to make improvements to the running path at the Hartnett Middle School with the stipulation that the workers are always supervised by at least two adult leaders.

### **Ronald Bibeault – Band/Spring Trip**

The tentative marching band schedule was presented to the School Committee by Mr. Bibeault.

**Motion:** It was moved by Mr. Buckley, seconded by Mr. Eldridge and **unanimously voted** to approve the tentative Marching Band schedule for FY12.

Mr. Bibeault stated that on April 19, 2012 through April 23, 2012 the members of the marching band, jazz band and chorus would like to take a trip to Disneyland. All students will pay their own way. The cost will be between \$950 to \$1,000.

**Motion:** It was moved by Mr. Eldridge, seconded by Mr. Buckley and **unanimously voted** to approve the trip to Disney World in Florida from April 19, 2012 through April 23, 2012. The groups performing are the marching band, jazz band and chorus.

Mr. Bibeault stated that they had a great winter season and could not have done it without the hard work and dedication of members of the community who also gave their support.

Mr. Bibeault mentioned that parent, John Stefanik was able to raise \$8,000 for new percussion equipment.

### **Mr. Eric Tracey – Senior Class Officers**

Mr. Eric Tracey spoke about the senior class trip. In attendance at the meeting were class officers Brett Buskey, Meghan Osborne, Alycia Dery and Mitchell Davis.

On May 31<sup>st</sup> there will be 80 seniors attending the senior class trip to Martha's Vineyard. They will leave at 7:00 a.m. and return at 7:00 p.m. at no cost to the seniors.

Chairman Singleton asked the group to be safe and to keep in mind that they are representing the school district and to represent the school well.

### **Report of the Superintendent**

**Motion:** It was moved by Mr. Eldridge, seconded by Mr. Buckley and **unanimously voted** to approve School Choice in the District for FY12.

Superintendent Shaver-Hood brought student handbooks for the members to review. An administrator from the elementary schools will be at the next meeting to review the changes to the handbooks and answer any questions the Committee might have.

Superintendent Shaver-Hood stated that a sum of money has been earmarked to put toward the FY12 budget. She would also like to make some pre-purchases for supplies as they did last year. This worked out very well.

Due to conflicts the next School Committee meeting was changed from May 12<sup>th</sup> to May 11<sup>th</sup>.

Superintendent Shaver-Hood and Bradford Monroe will spend time at the Hartnett Middle School. Acting principal Warren White will no longer be here for the remainder of the school year.

Mr. Buckley spoke on the current deficit and reduction of assessments for additional contributions.

Employees offered early retirement in the amount of \$86,750

Health Care Savings of \$237,214.57

which drops the running deficit down to \$864,574.43 –

Blackstone share would be \$606,758.33

Millville share would be 257,816.10

After cutting even further they are now at a total deficit of \$542,565.43

Blackstone share \$380,772.42

Millville share \$161,793.01

Blackstone has not made a decision either way if they will give the School District the additional contribution.

Millville is having financial problems and may need to seek an override to cover the possible closing of the Senior Center, Millville Library and the possibility of paying for trash removal. Even if Millville seeks an override it is not to give the School District the additional contribution.

If the School District does not receive the additional funding they will be forced to make further cuts as follows:

Staff Cuts – 3 positions – elementary level – \$134,660

Staff Cuts – 3.5 positions – elementary, middle school and high school levels – \$145,173

Staff Cuts – Custodians – vacancies will not be filled – \$50,000

Staff Cuts – Reduce 5 elementary teachers – \$214,440

This would bring the deficit to zero but would affect class sizes.

A concerned parent asked if they have thought about closing the Millville Elementary School. Mr. Buckley stated that because of the regional agreement they need permission

from the two towns to do this. It is just not that easy. The window to attempt this move is closed for this year.

Denise Daignault, Middle School teacher asked if they could get special permission from the two towns to allow students to cross towns if we have a real problem. Mr. Buckley stated that it takes an act at the town meetings to approve this sort of thing. It would be up to the School Committee to call a special town meeting to possibly do this. It was proposed in 2008 and last year and was shot down both times.

Mr. Buckley stated that the loss of federal stimulus funds is a big problem. They received it for the last two years but have lost it for this year. Until the Government and State pick up their responsibility for public education it will be one crisis after another.

Chairman Singleton stated that very early on Superintendent Shaver-Hood enacted a freeze on spending and this has helped tremendously. To her credit this is why we are looking at over \$400,000 of unencumbered money.

A vote will be taken to vote on reduction as follows:

**Motion:** It was moved by Mr. Buckley, seconded by Mr. Eldridge and **unanimously voted** that the additional contribution in the amount of \$834, 117 apportioned and assessed to the Town of Blackstone for the FY12 operating budget be reduced by \$453,344.58 to \$380,772.42 so that Blackstone's total assessment is now \$7,566,311.42 broken down as follows: \$5,888,144 for the minimum contribution, \$1,026,220 for exclusionary costs, \$380,772.42 as the additional contribution and \$271,175 for capital debt and interest costs.

**Motion:** It was moved by Ms. Robin, seconded by Mr. Tringali and **unanimously voted** that the additional contribution in the amount of \$354,422 apportioned and assessed to the town of Millville for the FY12 operating budget be reduced by \$192,628.99 to \$161,793.01 so that Millville's total assessment is now \$2,392,673.01 broken down as follows: \$1,679,708 for the minimum contribution, \$436,048 for exclusionary costs, \$161,793.01 as the additional contribution and \$115,124 for capital (debt and interest) costs.

At the town meeting if the public votes no on Article 1 it is now up to the Finance Committee to find the money and to decide where it comes from.

If you vote yes on Article 1 then the public will decide where the money comes from. It is not fair to force a resident to decide where to get the money to cover the extra contribution.

A moderator is there to help the people and answer questions. If there is a question on what a yes or no vote will do be sure to ask the moderator to explain it to you.

## **Committee Forum**

Mr. Singleton thanked those who came tonight.

**Motion:** It was moved by Mr. Buckley, seconded by Mr. Eldridge at 9:03 p.m. to adjourn the meeting and enter into Executive Session for the purpose of investigating charges of criminal misconduct and to leave only for the purpose of adjournment. A roll call vote was taken which resulted in a **unanimous vote**.

Respectfully submitted,

Monique F. Simard  
Recording Secretary

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