

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

May 11, 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
Catherine A. Robinson, District Treasurer
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 student representative Alycia Dery.

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

Motion: It was moved by Mr. Buckley, seconded by Mr. Eldridge and **unanimously voted** to approve the Consent Agenda which includes Minutes of Meeting of April 28, 2011, Warrants and four field trip requests.

Student Report

Luke Perreault gave the student report. Luke gave information on the on-going senior events, National Honor Society Induction Ceremony tomorrow evening and a band report.

BMRHS Cheerleaders

Members of the High School cheerleading squad were in attendance. The squad of 15 girls participated in competitions this year and have done very well. They requested that next year they be allowed to practice more than twice a week in the High School gym. The girls spoke on teamwork and the fun they had doing it. The cheerleading coach Eva Lucovics could not attend the meeting.

MESPA

Members of the Millville Elementary Parents Association were present at the meeting. They were there to follow up with a letter they recently sent to the School Committee members showing their support for Millville Elementary Principal Eileen Tetreault. These women have had dealings with Mrs. Tetreault on a daily basis and have built a strong relationship with her. They are asking what the rationale is behind her non-renewal of contract. They are looking for the reason why she will not be back next year. They are also looking for the reason why they found out about this by the posting of her position on the website.

Chairman Singleton stated that the School Committee, by law cannot comment on the reasons why Mrs. Tetreault's contract will not be renewed. He also stated that the School Committee does not have the ability to hire and fire employees in the School District and it is in the hands of the Superintendent of Schools. Mr. Singleton also stated that he sees a clear difference between her being fired and not having her contract renewed.

Member, Mr. Buckley stated that as a parent whose children attended the Millville Elementary School not too long ago he feels these parents deserve answers. He feels that Mrs. Tetreault is a 10 year veteran of the School District who has served with distinction. He believes that Millville doesn't have much but they do have a fine elementary school.

Mr. Eldridge stated that for the good of the District what Mr. Singleton stated is what they all must do. They have exposure to law suits now. People do have the right to know what is going on but due to law suits the Committee cannot answer the questions.

Mr. Tringali stated that his son spent seven years at the Millville Elementary School and there are few people he has more respect for than Eileen Tetreault. However, Mr. Tringali stands 100% behind the decision made by the Superintendent.

Mrs. Robinson stated that she stands behind the Superintendent.

Mr. Faulkner stated that the Superintendent has the opportunity to make change and build her own team and he supports her fully.

Mr. Buckley wants to go on record as saying that he does not support having the Millville Pre-School moved to the JFK/AFM Complex and he does not support the Superintendent's decision not to renew Mrs. Tetreault's contract.

Mr. Eldridge stated that as the Committee moves forward the public will be told what is going on.

Superintendent Shaver-Hood wants to attend the MESPA and Student Council meetings and would like to know what they are looking for in a principal and have the people join the search Committee for the new principal. She invites parents to be a part of this process and apologizes that she cannot share her reasons with them for not renewing Mrs.

Tetreault's contract. Superintendent Shaver-Hood did state that the reasons were by no means personal.

It was stated that MESPA is a very strong organization which raises approximately \$20,000 per year. The money goes mainly to after school programs and field trip busing.

Mr. Buckley stated that for eight years there has been an issue with the drinking water at the Millville School. However, the parents feel confident in Mrs. Tetreault's leadership that they knew she would take control of the situation and never questioned her.

Chairman Singleton feels that they all have the right to say what they need to say and give their support to Mrs. Tetreault and thanked all of the concerned parents for attending the meeting.

Handbook Approval – BMRHS and FWHMS

Handbook changes were reviewed with the School Committee by BMRHS Vice Principal, Keith Ducharme. There were corrections made to the harassment and bullying policy, work permit page, dates for PSAT and MCAS as well as having no major tests or projects going on during exam time, excused absences for exams, no exposed undergarments, and allowing students to bring laptops to school.

Motion: It was moved by Mrs. Robinson, seconded by Mr. Eldridge and **unanimously voted** to approve the handbook changes for the BMR High School for the FY12 school year.

Handbook changes were reviewed with the School Committee by FWHMS Vice Principal, Rene Lafayette. There were corrections made to page 3, plagiarism, page 7, in school suspension, fighting clarification, out of school vs. in school suspension, assembly behavior, no gang related items worn on campus and no hoods worn at school.

Motion: It was moved by Mr. Eldridge, seconded by Mr. Buckley and **unanimously voted** to approve the handbook changes for the Hartnett Middle School for the FY12 school year.

Superintendent's Report

The Superintendent recommends keeping user fees the same for FY12.

Motion: It was moved by Mr. Buckley, seconded by Mr. Eldridge and **unanimously voted** to keep the user fees at \$80 with a family cap of \$320 for the FY12 school year.

Motion: It was moved by Mrs. Robinson, seconded by Mr. Buckley and **unanimously voted** to approve the maternity leave for Lynne Gomes beginning on June

13, 2011 for the remainder of the school year and maternity leave for Christine Robertson starting at the beginning of the school year on September 1, 2011.

Superintendent Shaver-Hood has free cash from the FY11 budget in the amount of \$473,977 free cash from FY11 budget. She will start presenting pre-purchasing items for next year. They will be taking \$350,000 from the FY11 budget for the FY12 budget.

Superintendent Shaver-Hood spoke on the recent MA DOE Administrative review which took place for the Food Services Program. They did very well on the review receiving a score of 98. The cafeteria has seen a profit this year of \$83,922 well over last years figure of \$2,288. The Superintendent is very happy with the performance of the food service director, Jeanne Sheridan.

Public Forum

Maureen Vasquez understands how passionate the people in Millville are but hopes they will back the Superintendent.

Mrs. Pickering requests a copy of the Executive Session meeting minutes now that the decision has been made.

Jane Reggio defends the Superintendent's right to make the decision. She feels we have no right to know about personnel decisions. She feels the Superintendent does have responsibility to the people and this is the piece that is missing. She learned about Mrs. Tetreault's dismissal on the internet. She was unhappy about this. She asks that we all move forward together.

Mary Vinacco believes this should be revisited and they should reconsider Mrs. Tetreault's contract. She feels there are too many questions left unanswered.

A Millville parent is requesting a district calendar that shows all activities taking place in the District. She feels the current Districtwide calendar is not up to date.

Ms. Shaver-Hood stated that Mrs. Tetreault had ample opportunity to address her contract non-renewal with her staff.

Another parent has a deep respect for Mrs. Tetreault and is disturbed by change in leadership when we are asking for an override in the town. She does not share the hopefulness in getting a better person and feels they have the strong leadership in Mrs. Tetreault.

Mrs. Cote, District Educators Association President stated that she had a talk with staff members and feels they need to abide by professionalism in the workplace and staff cannot engage in rumors. She advised them not to get involved.

Committee Forum

Mrs. Robin stated that she has not heard back on the Strategic Planning Session. The Committee is ready to put together a strategic plan.

Mr. Tringali stated that 80 to 100 people participated in the Bradley Gignac Scholarship run. He believes that it will be a great event for years to come.

Mr. Faulkner stated that the Millville Variety Show was successful.

Mr. Buckley extend congratulations to the new National Honor Society inductees.

Mr. Eldridge says thank you for the support given for the school by the Finance Committees and Boards of Selectmen. They were able to come to a compromise and the Towns acknowledge that we did not ask for additional contributions in the last two years.

A parent asked if Superintendent Shaver-Hood will reconsider her decision about Mrs. Tetreault's contract non-renewal.

The Superintendent stated that she has not made this decision lightly but it was made over a period of time and she will not change her mind on the non-renewal of Mrs. Tetreault's contract. She is truly sorry that she cannot give them the answer they want. Legally, she cannot say anything about her reasons.

Motion: It was moved by Mr. Buckley, seconded by Mr. Eldridge and **unanimously voted** to adjourn the School Committee Meeting at 9:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Monique F. Simard
Recording Secretary

ATTEST: _____
Steven J. Tringali, District Secretary