

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

**August 25, 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  
Michael J. Buckley, Member  
Brian T. Faulkner, Member

Absent from the meeting was Lisa C. Oliveira, Member.

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

**Motion:** It was moved by Mr. Buckley, seconded by Mr. Eldridge (Mrs. Robin, Mr. Faulkner and Mrs. Robinson abstained from vote on Minutes of Meeting as they were not present at that meeting of July 14) and **unanimously voted** to approve the Consent Agenda which includes Minutes of Meeting of July 14<sup>th</sup> and Warrants.

**Motion:** It was moved by Mr. Buckley, seconded by Mr. Singleton (**5 in favor, 2 opposed – Chairman Singleton and Mr. Buckley**) to approve Consent Agenda B which includes seven home schooling requests.

The new Millville Elementary School principal, Varsha Desai spoke on her new position. She previously worked in Andover Ma and found the commute to be too lengthy and decided to stay closer to home. She likes the atmosphere at the school and is very happy to work in the District.

The new Frederick Hartnett Middle School principal, Justin Cameron spoke. He discussed his plans for the future and how he is looking at ways to put the spotlight on the students. He is offering a Rosetta Stone exploratory on line program for students and their families which gives them the ability to learn up to 22 foreign languages.

Chairman Singleton feels the District has made the right decision to put money into technology.

## **Report of the Superintendent**

Superintendent Shaver-Hood gave the budget update and explained how they currently have over \$700,000 in the E & D account.

The Town of Blackstone thought that any additional money that the school had should not go into pre purchasing but back to the Towns. The Committee feels that since they have not received additional contributions from the towns in 3 years that this is the schools money to use as they see fit. They are willing to justify everything they have done in a forum.

The Superintendent has asked former School Committee member Ann Lesperance to form a Communication Committee for them. Ann has agreed to do this. The first meeting will be held next week.

The Superintendent will work on re-doing the BMR homepage with Justin Cameron. They will try to make it more interactive and user friendly.

An annual asbestos survey will be done.

In the Special Education area 98% of 9<sup>th</sup> graders scored in the Needs Improvement area on MCAS testing.

They will invite interested parents to come to the math professional development to show them different tools they can use to help their children.

They are trying to track the Math data over a five year period.

Mr. Eldridge feels the teachers may not be teaching the material correctly.

The Superintendent stated that there hasn't been a change in teaching with all of the professional development they have received in the last few years.

The Superintendent stated that they are targeting groups of students at the lower elementary level who need help with reading. They want all students to read by the end of grade 2.

**Motion:** It was moved by Mrs. Robinson, seconded by Mr. Eldridge and **unanimously voted** to allow the Reading Specialist, Shaylyn Walker at the Millville Elementary School a one year child rearing leave.

There are three openings in the District for a library media specialist, a long term substitute teaching position at the Millville Elementary School and a long term 6 week Art position at the High School.

The Superintendent stated that new teachers will be receiving an orientation on August 31<sup>st</sup> and all teachers will report on opening day on September 1<sup>st</sup>. The first day of school for students will be on September 6<sup>th</sup>.

**Motion:** It was moved by Mr. Eldridge, seconded by Mr. Tringali and **unanimously voted** to accept the update to the school calendar. The professional development date will be moved from November 10<sup>th</sup> to January 13<sup>th</sup>.

### **Committee Forum**

Mrs. Robin stated that they will meet for one day for the Vision and Mission Statement on August 31<sup>st</sup> at 7:00 p.m.

Mr. Buckley stated that he has raised issues with the Town of Blackstone concerning the fact that repair to the JFK/AFM complex roof is only a 1 to 3 year solution. He is concerned that the roof is exposed to weather conditions which can cause the neoprene to split.

Chairman Singleton read a letter from Joann Archetto of the B.M.E.F. thanking the Committee members for their support of the recent golf tournament. The tournament raised over \$7500 this year.

Chairman Singleton stated that parent groups are requesting a working on-line calendar of events. Superintendent Shaver-Hood stated that they are very close to completing this.

Chairman Singleton wants to make sure that the cheerleaders get more gymnasium time to practice this year.

Scott Maynard will be representing two students from Blackstone who will be attending school at Tri County Vocational School this year. The concern is over transportation. Superintendent Shaver-Hood notified the towns regarding this concern since it is not the responsibility of the School District.

**Motion:** It was moved by Mr. Eldridge, seconded by Mrs. Robin to adjourn the School Committee meeting at 8:50 p.m. which was followed by a role call vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Monique F. Simard  
Recording Secretary

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

