

**MINUTES OF MEETING**  
**BLACKSTONE-MILLVILLE REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**COMMUNITY RESOURCE FOR EDUCATION (CoRE)**  
**May 8, 2008 7-9 p.m.**  
**Millville Elementary School**  
**Berthelette Way**  
**Millville, MA**

At 7:15 p.m. the CoRE Meeting was called to order.

The following members were present:

Toni M. Harvey, Chairperson  
Ann M. Lesperance, Vice Chairperson  
Thomas J. Conlon, Secretary  
Diane C. Robin, Member  
Charles K. Singleton, Member  
Michael J. Buckley, Member

Absent from meeting were: Lynn M. Landry and Catherine A. Robinson.

Also in attendance were Superintendent Herbert W. Levine, Ph.D., and Christine Tyrie, Ed. D., recently appointed Superintendent of Schools.

Dr. Tyrie was introduced by Mrs. Harvey and welcomed to the district.

Dr. Levine reported on the inspection that was completed at the Millville Elementary School following the odor problem that occurred recently. There are nine recommendations, most of which are minor with the exception of the gutter runoff which could cause mold and mildew problems if it is not corrected. Dr. Levine stated that it needs to be replaced. Mrs. Tetreault will get quotes and proceed with taking care of this problem.

Dr. Levine also stated that the stairs leading to the loading dock at the Millville Elementary School are crumbling and need to be replaced.

Dr. Levine stated that after a year of thoroughly reviewing two prospective reading programs a decision has been made. The school district will purchase the Houghton-Mifflin reading series at cost of \$99,500. Dr. Levine thanked Suzan Cullen, Director of Curriculum, for her hard work on this project and he feels it is the best possible reading program available.

An update on students planning to attend vocational schools next year was given by Dr. Levine and Mrs. Harvey. Norfolk Agricultural School has accepted 14 students from Blackstone and four from Millville. Blackstone Valley Regional Technical High School has accepted 44 students from the district. Thirty-one of those students have chosen to attend. Dr. Levine believes that "Step up Day" helped students with their decision to stay at BMR.

Mrs. Harvey stated that there will be a meeting of the Athletic Field Committee on May 21<sup>st</sup> @ 6:30 p.m. at the high school. Mr. Hartnett and Mr. Mercier are heading the committee to improve the athletic fields in the district. They were able to use middle school funds through special legislation to hire an architectural firm to design the fields. Mrs. Harvey is very happy with the progress and feels this improvement is well overdue.

Dr. Levine stated that there were two finalists in the recent search for the middle school principal to replace Ms. Shaver-Hood, who has accepted the position as Assistant Superintendent of Schools. The search committee has reopened the search process for the middle school principal. Dr. Levine asked the committee to consider a one year interim principal since the new search may not draw many qualified candidates this late in the year. Mrs. Harvey asked Dr. Levine if he and the search committee would review the applications of the inside candidates as well. Dr. Levine stated that neither one of the internal candidates made the finalist pool during the first round of interviews.

Mrs. Lesperance spoke on the recent round table video which ran for 55 minutes. At the round table they discussed the budget process, capital needs, the reading program, and the kindergarten program. The video played on cable television in both Blackstone and Millville. The round table discussion was a way of giving factual information and clarifying the rumors that were circulating in the towns.

Mrs. Harvey gave an update on the FY09 budget. The Millville Finance Committee is supporting the 3.83% increase. The Blackstone Finance Committee has not supported the increase but proposing to cut it further. Mrs. Harvey stated that even with the 3.83% increase the district is still asking for less money than the towns actually paid out last year by \$115,000.

Dr. Levine stated that at the beginning of the budget process the budget was increased by 20% over last year and it has been cut to an increase of 3.83%.

Mrs. Daignault, middle school teacher, stated that the district saved the town of Blackstone over \$200,000 this past year in health care costs. It was the school district that managed to secure a zero percent increase in health care costs. Mrs. Daignault feels that the Finance Committee should take this into consideration when reviewing the budget.

Mrs. Harvey reviewed the following upcoming meetings and encouraged citizens to attend:

The Blackstone Finance Committee will hold its Public Hearing on May 12<sup>th</sup> @ 7:00 p.m. at the Town Hall.

Millville's Annual Town Meeting will be held on May 12<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. at the Millville Elementary School

Blackstone's Annual Town Meeting will be held on May 27<sup>th</sup> @ 7:30 p.m. in the auditorium at the high school.

Mrs. Harvey stated that this is the last CoRE meeting scheduled for this year suggestions for meetings for next year should be directed to her.

The committee would like to distribute information to the citizens at the Annual Town Meeting in Blackstone so residents are able to see the whole picture of the school district if we do not receive the funds that are needed. Dr. Levine and Mr. Buckley will prepare this information.

At 8:20 p.m. the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Monique Simard  
Recording Secretary

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
Thomas J. Conlon, District Secretary