

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

January 4, 2007

The Blackstone-Millville Regional District School Committee met in the Media Center of the Frederick W. Hartnett Middle School on Thursday, January 4, 2007. The following school committee members were in attendance:

Toni M. Harvey, Chairperson
Ann M. Lesperance, Vice Chairperson
Mark J. Almquist
Thomas J. Conlon
Joanne R. Forbes
Robert J. Kluchevitz
Catherine A. Robinson

Lynn M. Landry was not present.

Also in attendance were:

Superintendent Everett B. Campbell, Assistant Superintendent Kathleen A. Montagano, MES Principal Eileen Tetreault, JFK Principal Patrick Lucier, Supportive Reading Teacher Susan Decker, AFM Principal Heather Smith, Members of the AFM Principal's Council and other interested parties.

Student Representative Matthew Chamberlin was not present.

At 7:00 p.m., a quorum being present, Chairperson Harvey called the meeting to order.

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the U.S. followed.

At 7:00 p.m., Superintendent Campbell reviewed the Consent Agenda which included the minutes of the meeting of December 20, 2006. A motion was made by Mrs. Lesperance and seconded by Mrs. Forbes to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. **UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.**

At 7:05 p.m., Chairperson Harvey welcomed MES Principal Eileen Tetreault. Mrs. Tetreault made a presentation on behalf of PE/Health Teacher David Isenberg who was unable to attend due to illness. Mrs. Tetreault reviewed the physical education and health program that she feels is a great success at the Millville Elementary School.

At 7:20 p.m., Chairperson Harvey welcomed AFM Principal Heather Smith and representatives of the Principal's Council. Mrs. Smith explained that each month beginning with October one to two students are chosen from each classroom that displays important traits of their characters such as respect, cooperation, honesty, trust worthiness, etc. Representatives of the School Council include Brennan Stefanik and Emily Aicardi for

cooperation; Cameron Wye and Allison Nadeau for honesty and Justin Soucy and Megan Paulhus for respect.

At 7:35 p.m., Chairperson Harvey welcomed JFK Principal Patrick Lucier and Supportive Reading Teacher Susan Decker. Mrs. Decker explained the leveled reading program that is being used at JFK. Books are labeled as below, at or above grade level. They are in the process of developing a space to store the material for the leveled readers. Harcourt donated some books to help start this program and money from the book fair was also used to purchase some books. Dr. Ilda King has also donated books. Mr. Lucier and Mrs. Decker feel that using leveled reading for non fiction helps students learn much better. Mr. Lucier feels they are moving in the right direction with this program. Mrs. Decker commended Dr. King for all the information she provides them with and all the work she has done.

At 8:05, Chairperson Harvey welcomed Chairman of the Blackstone Board of Selectmen Charles Sawyer and newly appointed Town Administrator Kenneth Bianchi. Mr. Bianchi reviewed his job experience and stated that he would like to have a dialogue with the school committee and work together as much as possible. Mr. Sawyer would like to set up a day to tour the schools with Mr. Bianchi and discuss the budget. Mr. Campbell will contact them regarding this matter.

At 8:55 p.m., Chairperson Harvey asked if there were any issues for the Public Forum.

Mrs. Estelle Martineau, grade 5 teacher from the A. F. Maloney School, expressed her concern regarding a grade 5 teacher position that is being cut at the A. F. Maloney School. She is aware that the issue is the number of students but is asking the school committee to look beyond that in this case because of the number of students needing support services. Mr. Campbell said they will be looking at numbers before they look at anything else. Chairperson Harvey stated that this budget cut is not official yet; the school committee has to listen to the presentation by Mrs. Smith and go from there.

At 9:05 p.m., Mr. Everett B. Campbell, Superintendent of Schools, gave his report. Mr. Campbell reviewed the enrollment figures of spring sports and the music program and the money that was received in user fees. A copy of the breakdown is included in member's packets.

Mr. Campbell reviewed the training schedule for the defibrillators and the schedule of meetings that will be held during January and February 2007.

Also included in member's packets is a copy of the appointment letter sent to Tellstone & Son regarding the award of the bus bid and a letter sent to staff regarding health care reform and dependent eligibility.

At 9:25 p.m., Assistant Superintendent Kathleen A. Montagano gave her report. Ms. Montagano reviewed the current budget and the expenditure ledger. She also explained the trouble spots in the budget and spoke on the matter of the water leak at the high school.

Ms. Montagano stated that the District spends approximately \$12,000 each year on advertising. M.A.S.S. is in the process of developing a way to avoid the high cost of advertising. M.A.S.S. will be placing an ad in the *Boston Globe*, *The Worcester Telegram and Gazette* and the *Springfield Union/Sunday Republican*. A school district web-site link to M.A.S.S. will be provided in the ad and the job postings will be managed by the individual school districts. The yearly membership for BMRSD is \$1,000. Ms. Montagano feels it is worth a try. Mrs. Harvey suggested trying it but also continuing with the *Boston Globe* for now.

Ms. Montagano will present the superintendent's budget at the next school committee meeting at 6:30 p.m.

At 9:50 p.m., Chairperson Harvey asked that the subcommittee reports be made.

Mr. Almquist stated that the Policy Subcommittee will be working on the Administration of Medicines and Bidding Requirements Policies.

At approximately 9:50 p.m., Chairperson Harvey asked if there were any issues for the Committee Forum.

Mr. Campbell said the District is seeking substitute nurses.

At 9:55 p.m., a motion was made by Mrs. Lesperance and seconded by Mr. Almquist that the Regional District School Committee **adjourn the meeting.**
UNANIMOUSLY VOTED

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia A. Robinson
Recording Secretary

ATTEST: _____
Joanne R. Forbes, District Secretary