

**MINUTES OF MEETING
BLACKSTONE-MILLVILLE REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
OCTOBER 12, 2006
FREDERICK W. HARTNETT MIDDLE SCHOOL
MEDIA CENTER
35 FEDERAL STREET
BLACKSTONE, MA 01504**

At 7:05 p.m. the School Committee Meeting was called to order. The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America was recited.

The following members were present at the meeting:

Toni M. Harvey, Chairperson
Ann M. Lesperance, Vice Chairperson
Joanne R. Forbes, District Secretary
Mark J. Almquist, District Treasurer
Thomas J. Conlon, Asst. District Treasurer
Lynn M. Landry, Member
Robert J. Kluchevitz, Member
Catherine A. Robinson, Member

Also in attendance were Everett B. Campbell, Superintendent of Schools and Kathleen A. Montagano, Assistant Superintendent of Schools.

There were no items for the Consent Agenda other than 2 warrants.

At 7:05 p.m. Mrs. Eileen Tetreault, Principal of the Millville Elementary School gave her opening day school report. She introduced some of the new staff members at her school which include Ms. Katelyn Descoteaux, grade five teacher, Mr. Jeffrey Jardin, Int. Pre School teacher, Ms. Katie Bowen, grade two teacher, Mrs. Katherine Kenyon, School Psychologist, Dr. Karen Noone-Yvon, Team Chairperson, Ms. Amanda Rask, Occupational Therapist and Ms. Susan Cable, Physical Therapist.

Mrs. Tetreault stated that all teachers are currently participating in the Literacy Professional Development program. They have currently expanded the Open Circle to include Kindergarten and Grade two. The School currently offers after school Extra Curricular Activities which include the AOK Club, Chess Club, Scrabble Club, Potpourri Art Club, Textile Math Club and a hands-on Science Club.

Mrs. Tetreault has been working closely with Helen Coffin, Executive Secretary for the Town of Millville on water issues that have occurred at the school as well as a handicapped accessibility concern.

Mrs. Tetreault is very excited and feels that they are off to a wonderful start.

At 7:20 p.m. Mr. Patrick Lucier, Principal of the J.F.K. Elementary School gave his Opening Day Report.

Mr. Lucier presented a new kindergarten teacher Mrs. Courtney Antonucci. He feels that she will create an atmosphere where children love to attend school through her energy and enthusiasm. He wanted a teacher who would create a very positive atmosphere in the classroom. She was previously a Pre-K teacher and then moved to Kindergarten.

Mr. Lucier presented new members of his staff which include Angela Vario, School Nurse, Sarah Kissier, Special Education Teacher, Gloria Pierce, Counselor, Karen Noone-Yvon, Team Chair, Karen Briggs and Christine Martinelli, teacher aides, Gary Castiglioni, School Psychologist, Amanda Rask, Occupational Therapist and Susan Cable, Physical Therapist.

Mr. Lucier discussed his enrollment figures for this year which represents an increase in total enrollment of 25 over last year.

At JFK they are training three additional teachers for Open Circle. They are able to do this through the help of the parent organization BEPO. BEPO also provided the funds to send Mr. Lucier to an outside Open Circle training session.

Mr. Lucier is pleased that BEPO has a number of activities planned for the year. Mrs. Wye, BEPO president has been keeping him up to date with her plans for the year.

Mr. Lucier has started to address some of the plumbing issues found to be a problem at the school last year. Because of the age of the building Mr. Lucier feels that things will come up, but they are being addressed.

They have been doing some beautification of the courtyard by bringing in some stone. He received help on this project from the Town of Blackstone as well as from the groundskeeper, Dennis LaRose. Some of the stone was used in the butterfly garden as well.

Mr. Campbell stated that he has recently submitted items to the town for repair at the JFK and AFM schools. They have been looking at Capital Planning items to be addressed over time.

At 8:00 p.m. Heather Smith, Principal at the A.F. Maloney Elementary School gave her report.

She introduced Mrs. Gloria Pierce, the new .5 School Adjustment Counselor for the complex. Mrs. Pierce is working with the 5th graders on bullying prevention.

Mrs. Smith presented new staff members Dr. Karen Noone-Yvon, Team Chairperson, Mrs. Angela Vario, School Nurse, Mr. Gary Castiglioni, School Psychologist and Mrs. Christina Greer, Special Education Teacher.

Mrs. Smith discussed the current enrollment figures at the school with an average class size of 22 students.

Mrs. Smith also stated some of the changes and additions taking place at the school which include more inclusive classrooms, math directed study (due to the loss of Title I Math at the school), monthly D.E.A.R. (a program promoting pleasure reading in the school) and a new playground fully funded by the BEPO. Mrs. Smith gave special thanks to a few community members, Bruce Paterson and Jim Sullivan, who gave their assistance with excavation and installation at the new playground.

Mrs. Smith wanted to mention the AFM School Council members who are Janis Torvey, Cecelia Doyle, Janet Lodge, Liz Manton, Carolyn Coleman and Melissa McKennan. On Sept. 30th they had a safety demonstration day which included Police, Fire, Emergency Management and the Lion's Club who volunteered to give out food.

There is currently a new book room at the AFM school. This was done with the help of Cecilia Doyle's son, Matthew Doyle, who took on the organization of this room for his Eagle Scout Project.

At 8:15 p.m. the three Elementary School Principals came forward to discuss the recent moratorium on the elementary field trips. Mr. Campbell stated that a meeting was held to reconsider the recommendation he made at a previous meeting. The new plan under consideration is to have no field trips during the winter and have only one per grade level at each school in the Spring.

The principals would like to see procedural changes for the class trips. Some of the concerns that they have identified are a higher incidence of serious medical conditions and allergies. They are having more concerns with family issues and legal concerns. They would like to have procedures in place to protect the school and children during these field trips. They also have travel time concerns. They feel that some of the trips take too much travel time and not enough educational time is spent at the actual facility that they are visiting. They are finding that some parents are taking other siblings out of school for the day and following the bus. These trips are not intended as a family day. They need to look at all aspects of the trips and make sure that the students are all protected while they are in the school's care.

They have come up with preliminary suggestions and recommendations. They spent part of the day at their recent professional development day to go over this. Safety is their number one concern. These changes will require support from the School Committee as well. They would like to see everyone on a trip wearing a school identification tag. They would like to see that parents are discouraged from attending field trips if they are not authorized to serve as chaperones. They are looking to have a 50

mile radius for any trips. They would like to have the bus driver stay with the bus in the event that they need to leave the facility or if people need to re-enter the bus. They are looking to have 2 cell phones in place on the trips. One phone would go with the lead teacher and one with the school nurse. They need a way to contact all groups at any time. The nurse would remain in one location at all times on the trip. They would never have more than a five to one ratio with students and chaperones. They would like to see one policy for all of the elementary schools and they want to be prepared for whatever could happen.

Mr. Campbell stated that the School Committee will need any policy recommendation as soon as possible and no later than Jan. 1st if they would like to have Spring field trips. Mr. Almquist and the policy committee will need time to consider changes.

At the last meeting there was a consensus on a moratorium on the trips for the sole reason that they did not have nurses for these class trips. A consensus was taken by the Committee that they will now lift the moratorium on class trips but continue working on and towards a policy and procedures for these trips.

At 8:50 p.m. Mr. Campbell gave the Report of the Superintendent.

Mr. Campbell stated that the School District received pothole money in the amount of \$174,000 from the State of Massachusetts. The District is one of 6 regional districts to receive the funds and one of 50 districts in the state. The funds are set up as a grant fund and the funds will be used at the discretion of the School Committee. The School Committee has complete control over this money. The Committee has not had the opportunity to meet to discuss the allocation of this money and therefore Mr. Campbell is not able to make any recommendations at this time. Mr. Campbell recommends that the majority of the money be child focused. These are not sustainable funds and may not be made available to the District next year.

Mrs. Harvey would like to set up a workshop next week to discuss their plans. The members will meet on October 17th at the High School at 7:00 p.m. After they have met and made decisions they can present their recommendations on where to allocate the funds.

At 9:00 p.m. Mr. Campbell discussed school safety. A meeting has been set up to meet with public safety officials on October 25th @ 9:30 a.m. to review recommendations that Mr. Campbell has to establish consistent protocols for lockdowns if there is an intruder in the building. With all that is going on in our society today they are taking steps to be sure they are prepared in a crisis situation. The towns of Blackstone and Millville have reversed 911 to contact the community in case of an emergency situation. The School District would like to be able to use this if necessary.

The School District is trying to reach out to the community so that everyone is well informed about what is going on in the District. There will be a meeting with the School Committee here at the Middle School on October 19th @ 7:00 p.m. All parents and concerned members of the community are encouraged to attend.

Mr. Campbell announced that High School student, Emma Hardy will be joining him and Principal Porter at a luncheon to honor her. Emma has been chosen to receive the award for Academic Excellence as designated by the Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents. This award is given to high performing students throughout the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. On Tuesday, January 23, 2007 she will be honored at a luncheon at WPI at 12:00 noon. She will also be invited to attend the next school committee meeting to discuss her plans for the future.

Mr. Campbell is very satisfied with the training taking place by Unifund. He feels that the Expenditure Ledger will be much more readable than in the past.

At 9:20 p.m. Ms. Montagano gave the Report of the Assistant Superintendent.

At 9:21 p.m. a motion was made by Mr. Conlon, seconded by Mr. Almquist to accept the Elementary School Principal job description. **UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.**

Ms. Montagano discussed and gave explanations on the FY 07 budget to the Committee, she presented an overview of FY 08 budget planning process.

Ms. Montagano distributed a handout and discussed the FY 08 budget process dates with the members of the School Committee.

Mr. Almquist asked to schedule a few more committee dates. He feels it is easier to set up the meetings now and have to cancel them at a later date than not to plan them at all. They decided to meet on April 10th for a budget workshop and change it to a public meeting if need be.

At 9:50 p.m. Policies were discussed at Sub Committee Reports.

Mr. Almquist discussed banning animals in the schools as part of the Severe Allergy Policy. He stated that it may be necessary to do this in the Elementary Schools but not in the Middle School or High School.

A motion was made by Mrs. Lesperance, seconded by Mrs. Robinson to accept the second reading of the Allergy Policy by Mr. Almquist. **UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.**

Mr. Almquist gave the 1st reading of the Revised School Committee Officers duties.

At 10:00 p.m. a motion was made by Mr. Kluchevitz, seconded by Mrs. Landry to accept the 1st reading of the Revised School Committee Officers Policy. **UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.**

At 10:03 p.m. a motion was made by Mrs. Lesperance, seconded by Mr. Kluchevitz to accept the 1st reading of the Revised School Committee Member Orientation Policy. **UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.**

At 10:05 p.m. a motion was made by Mrs. Landry, seconded by Mrs. Forbes to accept the 1st reading of the New Public Participation Policy on the recommendation of MASC. **UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.**

There were no items for Committee Forum.

There were no items for Executive Session.

At 10:10 p.m. a motion was made by Mrs. Lesperance, seconded by Mr. Conlon to adjourn the School Committee Meeting. **UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.**

Respectfully submitted,

Monique Simard
Recording Secretary

ATTEST: _____
Joanne Forbes, District Secretary