

**MINUTES OF MEETING
BLACKSTONE-MILLVILLE REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
OCTOBER 26, 2006
FREDERICK W. HARTNETT MIDDLE SCHOOL
MEDIA CENTER
35 FEDERAL STREET
BLACKSTONE, MA 01504**

At 7:00 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
Catherine A. Robinson, Member

Absent from the meeting was Member, Robert Kluchevitz.

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

At 7:05 p.m. a motion was made by Mrs. Lesperance, seconded by Mrs. Forbes to accept the Consent Agenda which included Minutes of the Meeting of September 28 and October 12th, field trip requests from the Life Skills class at the Frederick Hartnett Middle School and a Home Schooling request by Daniel and Shelley McGonagle.
UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

At 7:10 p.m. Mrs. Harvey introduced Emma Hardy, winner of the MASS outstanding high school student award. She will be honored at a Superintendent's luncheon at The Worcester Polytechnic Institute. Emma is an excellent student, a member of the National Honor Society and many other groups at the school.

Mr. Campbell made a formal presentation of an award certificate to Emma.

At 7:15 p.m. Buddy Bibeault spoke on the lights that the Music Association would like to place in the back field of the BMR High School, which would be funded completely by the Band Boosters.

At 7:20 p.m. a motion was made by Mr. Almquist, seconded by Mrs. Lesperance to accept the offer from the Band Boosters Music Association for the purchase of lights and the installation of those lights at the back field of the BMR High School. This would be at no cost to the School District. The paving of the area is to be put on hold until after the completion of the sewer system work at the Blackstone-Millville Regional High School.. **UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.**

At 7:20 p.m. Susan Houle, parent of a 3rd grade student at the Millville Elementary School spoke. She stated that class sizes for 3rd and 4th graders at MES are too high. She feels that by lowering the class sizes in these two grades the District will see greater student achievement. Mrs. Houle believes that the elementary schools were affected most by the budget cuts and she is requesting that some of the \$174,000 of pothole money be spent for a new teacher in this area.

Mr. Campbell stated that it has been a priority to keep class sizes low at all elementary grades.

He stated that the School Committee will vote this evening on the allocation of a some of the pothole money but not all. The request by Mrs. Houle for another teacher at the Millville Elementary School was not on that list.

He also stated that the recommendation for JFK is to add two half time teachers to assist in the four affected classrooms and not to add one additional teacher. He stated that it would be very difficult to make the decision as to which students should be moved to the new classroom and which should stay where they are now.

According to Mrs. Harvey the School Committee will take Mrs. Houle's request under advisement but not vote on it this evening.

At 7:40 p.m. Pauline Allaire-Adams, Curriculum Facilitator, gave her Opening of School Report.

Mrs. Allaire-Adams stated that Ilda King, educational diagnostician will be meeting with Grades K-5 teachers, working with Project Read and other literacy matters.

Mrs. Adams is moving forward with getting teachers and students at the Secondary Level to look differently at Math. They also want to continue to expose parents to what the Everyday Math approach is all about at the elementary level. Teachers are now asked to teach Math in a way that they were not taught in school.

Mrs. Adams also stated that differentiated instruction will continue in professional development at the Middle School.

At the High School level and as part of the NEASC review they will continue to develop Interdisciplinary Lessons.

They will continue to offer co-teaching training as well as the Mentor-Protégé program. She would like to continue as part of professional development to have a day where the teacher/protégé will observe other teachers in their classrooms and then go back and discuss it together. This has been done and found to be very successful.

Mrs. Adams stated that there appears to be 12 students in the District with Limited English Proficiency. They will develop a plan for providing services for these students and may eventually require a full time ESL teacher.

At 8:15 p.m. a motion was made by Mr. Conlon, seconded by Mrs. Landry to enter into Executive Session for the reason of Collective Bargaining and to leave executive session for the reason of resuming the regular School Committee Meeting. **UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.** Mrs. Forbes recused herself from the executive session due to her relationship with a support staff member.

At 8:45 p.m. a motion was made by Mrs. Robinson, seconded by Mrs. Landry to continue the School Committee Meeting of October 26, 2006. **UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.**

At 8:46 p.m. a motion was made by Mrs. Robinson, seconded by Mrs. Landry to have public documents requested by a citizen provided as hard copies, not electronic copies, and to charge corresponding fees to this citizen. **UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.**

At 8:47 p.m. Mr. Brad Monroe, Director of Technology, gave his Opening Day Report. He discussed the addition of the wide area network infrastructure and how the District has gained approximately five times the computer speed by doing this.

Mr. Monroe stated that homeroom attendance is now done in X2 and the cafeteria employees now have access to e-mail. He also stated that new hardware was placed in 3 labs at JFK, AFM and the High School.

Mr. Monroe stated that the District is looking at the Public Portal for X2 which would give parents access to grades, etc. However, this is only being looked at and he is not recommending this at this time.

He would like to see Special Education become a part of X2 at a cost of \$5.50 per student.

He would like to get the Web Page back and running.

At 9:15 p.m. John Carroll Director of Library/Media Services gave his Opening Day Report.

He stated that Mrs. Lauren Reilly has replaced Priscilla Dauphinee as the Library Paraprofessional at the High School and Middle School. She went through all of the

books in the library and weeded out anything from 1980 or prior. She has also added 120 new books to the High School library.

Mr. Carroll stated that they would be having a book club at the High School again this year and he also wants to start one at the Middle School.

JFK students will now be able to have library once a week instead of every other week per a request from Mr. Lucier, Principal of the JFK school.

Millville Elementary School now has a smart board in the Library/Media area.

At 9:40 p.m. Mr. Campbell gave the Report of the Superintendent. Mr. Campbell gave a handout with the proposed Foundation Reserve Award recommendations.

At 9:50 p.m. a motion was made by Mrs. Forbes, seconded by Mrs. Landry to move forward with the allocation of \$62,141 of the Foundation Reserve spending as outlined on the handout given at the meeting. **UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.**

There were three items that were not being voted on at this time as follows:

JFK-3rd grade teacher support (4 classes) – 2 ½ time teachers

FWHMS – 8th grade math remediation (3 times per week)

FWHMS – Science Textbooks

These items will be discussed at the next School Committee meeting.

At 10:05 p.m. a consensus was made to post an anticipated vacancy for two half time teacher positions for JFK third grade. Mr. Campbell will get Mrs. Tetreault's feedback on Mrs. Houle's request to add an additional teacher at the MES School for grades 3 and 4.

Mr. Campbell stated that an unencumbered FY07 E & D amount has been certified by the Dept. of Revenue. The certified amount for the period ended June 30, 2006 is slightly over \$400,000.

Mr. Campbell wanted to remind the citizens that the next meeting for the Community Resource for Education will be on November 30th from 7-9 p.m. at the Middle School Media Center.

Mrs. Paulette Boyko approached Mr. Campbell with an idea for Adult Education in the District. Mrs. Harvey feels that it would take much thought and planning to implement. Mrs. Harvey feels it is a wonderful concept, however, there is no funding for it.

Mr. Campbell congratulated BMR athletes for receiving the District E Sportsmanship Award. Mrs. Dupre, Athletic Director, and Principal Richard Porter will accept the award on November 14th at Gillette Stadium.

Mr. Campbell met with all principals and the Police and Fire chiefs of both Blackstone and Millville to discuss an intrusion plan. They would like to put into place a building by building plan for a lockdown if it were ever necessary.. They need to have procedures set forth.

At 10:30 p.m. Mrs. Montagano gave the Report of the Assistant Superintendent. She handed out the newest Expenditure Leger to the Committee.

They have had a recent increase in legal fees and special education costs.

At 10:40 p.m. Mr. Almquist spoke on Sub-Committee reports.

At 10:41 p.m. a motion was made by Mrs. Forbes, seconded by Mrs. Robinson to accept the 3rd and final reading of the Severe Allergy Policy with changes made.

UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

Mr. Almquist stated that policy books with this policy are available in hard copy at the Superintendent's Office and at each school.

At 10:50 p.m. a motion was made by Mrs. Leserpance, seconded by Mrs. Landry to accept the 2nd reading of the Revised School Committee Officers Policy, Revised School Committee Member Orientation Policy and the New Public Participation Policy.

UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

Mrs. Leserpance spoke on how to word the Foundation Reserve items during Communications.

During Committee Forum Mr. Almquist asked Mr. Campbell about the employee plus one insurance plan. He feels that looking into this plan could save the District as well as employees money. Mr. Campbell stated that this may be a good alternative to using the family plan, which can be much more expensive.

At 11:15 p.m. a motion was made by Mrs. Leserpance, seconded by Mrs. Landry to adjourn the School Committee Meeting. **UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.**

Respectfully submitted,

Monique Simard
Recording Secretary

ATTEST: _____
Joanne R. Forbes, District Secretary