

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

*November 9, 2006*

The Blackstone-Millville Regional District School Committee met in the Media Center of the Frederick W. Hartnett Middle School on Thursday, November 9, 2006. The following school committee members were in attendance:

Toni M. Harvey, Chairperson  
Ann M. Lesperance, Vice Chairperson  
Mark J. Almquist  
Thomas J. Conlon  
Lynn M. Landry  
Catherine A. Robinson

*Robert J. Kluchevitz and Joanne R. Forbes were not present.*

Also in attendance were:

Superintendent Everett B. Campbell, Assistant Superintendent of Schools Kathleen A. Montagano, Administrative Consultant Frederick W. Hartnett, District Counsel Harold D. Gould, Jr., Mr. Paul Mercier and other interested parties.

At 7:10 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 with a moment of silence in memory of Genevive Carroll, mother-in-law of teacher aide Denise Carroll and also for the mother of middle school teacher Michael Cronan.

At 7:10 p.m., Superintendent Campbell reviewed the Consent Agenda which included several field trips and requests from high school teacher Eric Tracey and recent graduate Bob Carpentier to volunteer to work with the boys' basketball team and ice hockey team. A motion was made by Mrs. Robinson and seconded by Mr. Conlon to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. **UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.**

At 7:15 p.m., Mr. Everett B. Campbell, Superintendent of Schools, gave his report. He spoke on the following:

- Mr. Campbell reviewed the final recommendations of the Foundation Reserve Award. The final recommendations included two half-time teachers for third grade at JFK (\$40,000), homework tutoring session and software for grades 6, 7 and 8 (\$9,755) and English Language Arts textbooks at the middle school (\$12,094). A motion was made by Mrs. Lesperance and seconded by Mr. Conlon to approve the three recommendations. **UNANIMOUSLY VOTED**

- The October 1 enrollment figures were reviewed.
- A copy of the elementary report cards is included in member's packets. Teachers are now able to complete the report cards on their computers.
- The School District received an invitation from Whitman-Hanson Regional High School. They would like to share the work they have done with their school administrators, school committee members, selectmen, finance committee members, local legislators and community members to find better funding for their schools. The program is called Phoenix Project. They would like to work with other schools to share common solutions that could help with funding. The workshop will be held on November 20<sup>th</sup> from 7:00 to 8:30 PM.
- There is an article from *The Call* included in member's packets about the marching band.
- Also in member's packets is an organizational chart of the Blackstone-Millville Regional School District. Mr. Campbell would like to review this at the next meeting.

At 7:30 p.m., Chairperson Harvey welcomed Administrative Consultant Frederick W. Hartnett, District Counsel Harold D. Gould, Jr. and Mr. Paul Mercier to review the sewer project at the high school.

Mr. Hartnett stated that an agreement has been reached with the Blackstone Housing Authority

Attorney Gould stated that he and Mr. Hartnett met with representatives from Gale Associates to finalize the engagement letter for the sewer project. They also met with the representatives from the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) in Worcester. He feels that the meeting went very well. The only concern from DEP was that the District does not own the land where the pumping station will be but they explained that there is no way the District can own the land. Attorney Gould does not anticipate any issues.

They asked Gale Associates to prepare a milestone schedule and Attorney Gould felt it was too aggressive; he revised it by pushing the dates out. The project completion date is September 28, 2007. Attorney Gould distributed a copy of the schedule.

DEP indicated that the District can go ahead with the project. The District will receive a revised consent order and after Attorney Gould prepares the engagement letter and it is signed by both Mr. Campbell and Gale Associates, the District can move forward with this project.

Mr. Hartnett stated that money should be put in the FY08 budget for the maintenance of the sewer. Also, an agreement will have to be made with the town of Blackstone to have the sewer monitored daily.

Mr. Hartnett also feels that the District should look into doing some work on the athletic fields that need attention. He suggested looking into getting some grant money. Mr. Hartnett feels that if the rock was removed it would open up the entire area for fields. This would be beneficial to both communities.

At 8:00 p.m., a motion was made by Mr. Conlon and seconded by Mrs. Lesperance to **enter into executive session** for the purpose of personnel matters and the Committee would come out of executive session for the purpose of continuing the meeting. The motion was followed by a roll call vote that resulted in a **UNANIMOUS VOTE**.

At approximately 9:05 p.m., the Committee returned from Executive Session to continue the meeting.

At 9:05 p.m., Ms. Kathleen A. Montagano, Assistant Superintendent of Schools, gave her report. She spoke on the following:

- Ms. Montagano reviewed the FY07 budget. All encumbrances will be completed by the end of November. The remainder of the adjustments for salaries will have to be done by a consultant from BudgetSense.
- The bus transportation bid has been sent out. They will be opened on Wednesday, December 13<sup>th</sup>. The bid is a three year bid with a two year option.
- Ms. Montagano stated that the special education transportation bid is done by BICO.
- The Corrective Action Grant has been processed and once it is approved Ms. Montagano will provide a list of how the money will be used.

Mr. Campbell stated that the Town of Millville's Finance Committee will recommend placing \$20,000 aside for the water tank at the Millville Elementary School. The total cost to replace the tank is \$60,000. Also, they will recommend \$15,000 to repair/replace the emergency road at the school and \$15,000 to construct a canopy over the double doors leading to the gymnasium on the outside of the school. These items will be on the warrant at the special town meeting on December 4<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Campbell asked for a motion to place items on the surplus list. The items include three water tanks from JFK, three climbing ropes at JFK which can't be used because of insurance purposes, two chin-up bars, one cargo net and a vaulting box. It was suggested that Mr. Campbell look into seeing if these items can be used at the middle school, high school or perhaps give them to an organization such as the Boys and Girls Club. A motion was made by Mrs. Lesperance and seconded by Mrs. Robinson to consider said items as surplus property. **UNANIMOUSLY VOTED**

At 9:15 p.m., Chairperson Harvey asked that the subcommittee reports be made.

Mr. Almquist presented the Public Participation Policy, School Committee Officers Policy and the School Committee Member Orientation Policy for the final readings

Mr. Almquist stated that following the one change previously recommended by Mr. Conlon there have not been any other changes or recommendations. A motion was made by Mrs. Landry and seconded by Mr. Conlon to accept the final reading and adopt said policies. **UNANIMOUSLY VOTED**

Mrs. Lesperance did not have anything to report on the Communication Subcommittee this evening.

At 9:25 p.m., Chairperson Harvey asked if there were any issues for the Committee Forum.

Mr. Almquist reviewed the letter that Margo Bik received from the Department of Revenue. Mr. Almquist would like to implore the selectmen and finance committees to work with the school district to resolve the funding problem. He feels we have a serious funding issue and it's not just a district problem but a community problem. (See attached)

Mr. Conlon made a motion that following a review of the details of the position of Advisory Program Director, the position be posted as a stipend position for the second half of the school year. Mrs. Robinson seconded the motion. **UNANIMOUSLY VOTED**

Mr. Campbell stated that we are members of the Blackstone Valley Chamber of Commerce and that Mr. Swenson is coordinating a "*Back to School Day*" on December 6, 2006 from 8:30 – 11:30 AM. Mr. Swenson sent out invitations to school committee members, selectmen and other town officials to attend.

Mrs. Lesperance asked if a date has been set to meet with the town's boards of selectmen and finance committees. Mr. Campbell stated that he is waiting to hear from several members and when he does he will notify school committee members of the date.

Mrs. Harvey would like any school committee member that is not present at the meeting to be listed as such on the minutes.

At 9:35 p.m., a motion was made by Mr. Conlon 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