

**MINUTES OF MEETING
BLACKSTONE-MILLVILLE REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
FEBRUARY 15, 2007
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 as follows:

Toni M. Harvey, Chairperson
Ann M. Lesperance, Vice Chairperson
Mark J. Almquist, District Treasurer
Thomas J. Conlon, Assistant District Treasurer
Joanne R. Forbes, District Secretary
Lynn M. Landry, Member (arrived at 7:30 p.m.)
Robert J. Kluchevitz, Member

Absent from the meeting was member Catherine A. Robinson and Student Representative Matthew Chamberlin.

Also present at the meeting were Superintendent, Everett B. Campbell and Asst. Superintendent Kathleen A. Montagano.

At 7:05 p.m. a motion was made by Mrs. Forbes, seconded by Mrs. Lesperance to accept the Consent Agenda which included Minutes of the Meeting of February 1st, Community Resource Minutes of January 25th, February 6th and February 8th as well as a field trip request.

UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

Curriculum Coordinator, Pauline Allaire-Adams spoke on the Time To Teach Training that she will be presenting and will take place on Saturday, March 3rd or March 10th from 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. at the Hartnett Middle School. Teachers who participate will receive 10 PDP's. TTT is an evidence and research based classroom management model which uses practical, proven, and powerful strategies. Teachers can choose one of the 2 dates offered.

Mrs. Adams gave a handout compiled by Dr. Ilda King on "Best Practices" by grade level. It indicates the grade level, phonology and leveled books and comprehension for each grade, K-5.

Mrs. Adams also stated that Dr. Jenny Tsankova has been providing professional development in Math to the district staff. Dr. Tsankova has extensive experience with Everyday Math and is very familiar with its strengths and weaknesses. Her conclusions are that teachers should be allowed to somewhat pick and choose what should be taught in Everyday Math. It is not the curriculum, but a resource just like all textbooks we use in the district.

Mr. Campbell announced that Mrs. Adams would be retiring in August of this year. He wanted to thank Mrs. Adams for her hard work and stated that she has been a tremendous benefit to the School

District. He also stated how important her work is as Curriculum Facilitator and how it has helped the teaching staff.

Mrs. Adams wanted everyone to keep in mind that during the budget process it doesn't necessarily matter how much money you spend on textbooks. Research shows that what makes a better and more prepared student is an effective teacher.

At 7:45 p.m. during Public Forum, Mrs. Harvey stressed how important it is for community members to attend the Tuesday, March 6th meeting at 7:00 p.m. in the Media Center of the Frederick Hartnett Middle School. She is appealing to all citizens to attend and to show Senator Moore and Representative Callahan how concerned we are regarding the future education of our children.

At 7:55 p.m. Mr. Campbell gave the Report of the Superintendent. He stated that the proposed FY08 School Calendar was placed in members packets tonight. He stated that on the calendar the 1st day of school will be Sept. 5th and the last day of school June 19th. He also outlined the proposed professional development days. He suggested that the committee consider voting on the 2007-2008 calendar at the March 1st meeting.

Mr. Campbell discussed the current High School elevator situation. Bay State Elevator Service came to Mr. Campbell on February 7th and stated that any elevator installed prior to 1976 needed to install a double bottom bulkhead. Bay State Elevator offered to do this for the school at a cost of \$33,000. The elevator was turned off by the Department of Public Safety. Mr. Campbell appealed to Senator Moore who made an appeal to the Commissioner of Public Safety on the District's behalf, but his request was denied. However, Mr. Campbell and a supervisor from the Department of Public Safety met and the Commissioner did grant an extension and the elevator was turned back on after being off for just two days. A contract must be entered into by the District by May 1st of this year in order for the elevator to remain in operation. Mr. Campbell will appeal for an extension, past May 1st, to complete the work during the summer. If all quotes exceed \$25,000, the District will need to go out to bid.

At 8:10 p.m. Kathleen Montagano gave the Report of the Assistant Superintendent. Ms. Montagano reviewed budget changes with the Committee. She also stated that she is currently working on compliance issues for the Coordinated Program Review.

Ms. Montagano stated that the School District is asking the Committee to consider entering into a contract with Harpers Payroll Service. They would provide most payroll services to the District as of July 1st. They would not be providing the review of time sheets as part of their service which will still need to be completed by Linda Salome. This service should free up Mrs. Salome for approximately two days per week so she can work on other needed central office activities. Ms. Montagano will bring the request back to the Committee with more particulars at the next meeting.

In Sub Committee Reports there were no items for Middle School.

At 8:20 p.m. Mr. Almquist gave the 1st reading of the Bid Request Policy and the 1st and final reading for the Expense Reimbursement Policy.

At 8:25 p.m. a motion was made by Mrs. Lesperance, seconded by Mrs. Landry to accept the 1st reading of the Bid Request Policy. **UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.**

Ms. Montagano asked that the School District be allowed some flexibility with the bidding policy. She would like the Committee to consider going along with Chapter 30B laws to allow this flexibility. She feels that there are times when you will get better quotes and more quotes if you are able to make phone calls to companies for pricing rather than having these companies submit formal bids.

At 8:35 p.m. a motion was made by Mrs. Lesperance, seconded by Mr. Conlon to accept the 1st and final reading of the Expense Reimbursement Policy. **UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.**

For Communications Mrs. Lesperance stated that the February update was rather lengthy.

For Committee Forum Mrs. Landry stated that at the basketball games individuals who buy sandwiches do not have anywhere to eat them. She asked if the Construction Zone could build a bench near the Basketball Court at the High School since they are no longer allowed to use the teachers lounge to sit down and eat.

Mr. Conlon feels it would benefit the School District to hire an additional full time nurse. Ms. Montagano stated that it is being proposed at this time for the FY08 budget.

There were no items for Executive Session.

At 8:55 p.m. a motion was made by Mrs. Lesperance, seconded by Mrs. Landry to adjourn the School Committee Meeting of February 15, 2007. **UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Monique F. Simard
Recording Secretary

ATTEST: _____
Joanne R. Forbes, District Secretary