

**MINUTES OF MEETING  
BLACKSTONE-MILLVILLE REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
SEPTEMBER 14, 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.

Members of the School Committee were present as follows:

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

Also present at the meeting were Everett B. Campbell, Superintendent of Schools, Kathleen A. Montagano, Assistant Superintendent of Schools, Richard Porter, Principal, BMR High School and Rachel Lawrence, Director of Student Services.

At 7:10 p.m. a motion was made by Mrs. Lesperance, seconded by Mrs. Forbes to accept the Consent Agenda which includes Minutes of the Meeting of August 3<sup>rd</sup>, mentor request, home schooling request and a course walk request. **UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.**

At 7:15 p.m. Mrs. Rachel Lawrence, Director of Student Services spoke. She gave a handout and gave information on her background.

Mrs. Lawrence spoke on the Opening Day meeting which took place on Sept. 5<sup>th</sup>. At that time she reviewed the changes to IDEA, gave a Coordinated Program Review update, discussed new forms as well as the IEP process with staff.

Mrs. Lawrence made mention of the newly hired staff which includes 7 new teachers, 2 new team chairs, and 2 new school psychologists.

There are currently two new special needs programs added to the district as follows: New Transition Program and an Intensive Needs PreK program.

Mrs. Lawrence discussed grants which include Special Education Entitlement, Program Improvement and Early Childhood. The funds for the Entitlement Grant have not yet been released by the state.

She discussed the 7 new staff members. She is very happy with the expertise of these teachers. There are 2 new team chairs. Both come from diverse backgrounds. They have implemented a new program at the High School for students in transition. Jill Pilla-Gallerani has been instrumental in getting this new program implemented. An Intensive Pre-School program has been implemented as well. She discussed the lifeskills class at the Middle School. The new teacher is very creative.

At this time the District is looking to fill a contracted position for Occupational Therapist. Mr. Campbell went to BICO and was assured they currently have a very good candidate for this position. The School Committee would like to be told when this person is found.

Mrs. Lawrence stated that she is currently trying to address some of the items listed on the Coordinated Program Review.

The District was expecting more students to be coming back from Out of District than they actually had return. There is a very high cost associated with students who attend out of district schools. Currently we have twenty five (25) Out of District students. Last year, we had thirty-five (35). That is a very positive trend.

At 7:35 p.m. Mr. Richard Porter spoke on the NEASC report.

He brought with him Mr. Bibeault, Band Director, Mr. Campopiano, English Dept. Head, Jill Pilla-Gallerani, Student Services Dept. Head and Jack Carroll, Library Media Director.

Mr. Richard Porter is pleased to announce that the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC) has reviewed the school's special progress report and has voted to continue the school's accreditation. This action by the commission removes Blackstone-Millville Regional High School from "warning status" for the Standards on school resources for learning community resources for learning.

If any substantial cuts had been made by the school this year Mr. Porter believes that the school would have been left on warning status.

The Commission was impressed with the school and impressed with the school's answers on the questions.

Mr. Campbell feels that the NEASC is a very positive development for the parents, students and community. He is very pleased to report that the high school exceeded the state targets for the Spring 2006 administration of MCAS tests.

The School Committee is very grateful for all that the High School Staff has done to improve the school and continue it's accreditation.

At 7:50 p.m. Mr. Porter spoke on the opening report on the High School. He felt that the staff had real enthusiasm and excitement about opening day this year. He was very pleased to see this. There were very few freshman problems. Over the course of the first few days he reviewed schedules, lockers, lunchtime, etc. with the students.

They are currently running an alternative program that replaces out of district placement. They are using materials that are perfect for the students' current academic levels. These students are getting all of their academic classes with the eventual goal of integration into the mainstream.

Mr. Porter stated that the summer school program worked out very well and feels that Mr. Swenson did a fine job of overseeing and directing this program. There were a few out of district students. After all the bills were paid, the school was left with a \$700 balance which will be used toward next year's summer school program. Mr. Porter stated that all students passed these courses and are able to move on to the next grade.

Mr. Porter feels that overall class sizes are very good this year. They are close to 20 in most cases. A few schedule changes had to be made to lower some class size levels from 30 down to the mid to high 20's.

Mr. Porter was quite pleased with the preliminary MCAS results.

Mr. Porter feels that extracurricular activities are currently booming and he is very pleased with the overall excitement associated with the beginning of school.

At 8:15 p.m. Mr. Campbell gave the Report of the Superintendent.

Mr. Campbell gave an overview of the bus situation. He feels that all concerns have been addressed at this time.

There is a school committee work session scheduled for Wednesday, October 4 @ 7:00 p.m. to further prepare for the October 19<sup>th</sup> meeting with parents and community members.

The Town of Millville is currently in the process of working with engineering firms to make the water at the Millville Elementary School safe. On Sept. 7<sup>th</sup> they were informed by Small Water Systems Services, a company hired to test and monitor the water supply in Millville, that samples collected on 9/5/06 and 9/6/06 were clear of bacteria. As a result, they have been cleared to use the water to wash hands and for food preparation beginning on Sept. 11, 2006.

Mr. Campbell addressed the current District enrollment numbers and comparisons which he placed in the member's packets. These figures show a decrease of 9 students overall from last year.

Mr. Campbell stated that there is concern from a parent over the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade class sizes which are larger this year than in past years. He has asked this parent to attend the next School Committee meeting and be placed on the agenda to address this issue further. The School Committee and administration was clear in stating that budget cuts would impact class sizes at some grade levels. Third grade was particularly noted.

Mr. Campbell discussed the preliminary MCAS results which were released by the Dept. of Education. Raw scores for individual students at grades 3-10 have been received, but they are waiting to receive official student reports for parents and schools that will give each child a performance level.

Mr. Campbell stated that the District did meet the AYP or Adequate Yearly Progress in the aggregate for ELA and Mathematics, but did not make AYP for the subgroups of special education and low income. He also stated that overall the District exceeded state targets for all students in both ELA and Math. Mr. Campbell stated that letters will be sent to parents of all students at AFM, MES and FWHMS to inform them of their school's accountability status.

Mr. Campbell met with staff at the elementary schools last year to discuss the test scores. He gave information on how to calculate the CPI of the MCAS results.

Mr. Campbell stated that the District is currently having trouble getting substitute school nurses. Mr. Campbell would appreciate anyone interested in becoming a substitute nurse to please apply.

According to Kathleen Montagano there will be a nursing agency used to get sub nurses in the schools. We currently have nine nurses on our sub list. Other school systems are running into problems. Mrs. Forbes would be more comfortable with a floating nurse rather than using an agency. If you could find a permanent sub in the district who is also a nurse this would work well. Although Mr. Campbell felt that would be unlikely, he felt it would be an ideal situation. Mr. Campbell also reported that the policy of having nurses on field trips is causing a severe shortage of nurses available to cover our students. Not only is it cost prohibitive, it also causes a safety concern when nurses are not present.

The elementary principals have requested a one year moratorium on field trips. They will work with the parent groups to try to get quality presentations into the schools that will benefit students. The purpose of this one year moratorium would be to increase time on task (less travel), save money, and to have less difficulty covering nurses.

At 9:05 p.m. Kathy Montagano gave the Assistant Superintendent's Report. Ms. Montagano discussed newly appointed staff members, and discussed the FY07 budget

with the Committee. She also discussed the successful mentoring program and the fact that the District is now looking for a .5 team chairperson for the Millville Elementary School, and two permanent substitute teachers.

Ms. Montagano stated that the District has applied for foundation reserve money for special circumstances. It is called pothole money. This year we are eligible due to declining enrollment and an increase in transportation costs. They are hoping for some funding in this regard.

At 9:40 for Committee Forum it was stated that at the next meeting members of the Middle School Building Committee will discuss the current financial status of the new Middle School. Mr. Hartnett, Attorney Harold D. Gould, Jr. and the building committee members will be present.

At 9:45 p.m. a motion was made by Mrs. Robinson, seconded by Mrs. Lesperance to do the second reading on the Wellness Policy. **UNANIMOUS VOTE.**

Recently the school nurses had requested that the Committee take a look at severe allergies. They would like to set a meeting on this to get their feedback.

The Wellness Policy should be here by the next meeting.

For Communications Mrs. Lesperance stated that she would put a blurb about nurses needed in the District, the NEASC results and the current enrollment figures Districtwide.

For Committee Forum Mrs. Lesperance stated that she would like to have 2 High School Students placed back on the school committee panel, preferably seniors.

The special town meeting will be held on Sept. 26<sup>th</sup> at the high school at 7:00 p.m. One of the warrant items is the language for the Recall of the School Committee members.

At 10:00 p.m. a motion was made by Mrs. Lesperance, seconded by Mr. Kluchevitz to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of contract negotiations and leave Executive Session only for the purpose of adjournment. A roll call vote was taken. **UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.**

At 10:20 p.m. the Committee came out of executive session. A motion was made by Mrs. Lesperance and seconded by Mr. Landry to adjourn the meeting.  
**UNANIMOUSLY VOTE.**

Respectfully submitted,

Monique F. Simard  
Recording Secretary

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
Joanne Forbes, District Secretary

