

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

January 17, 2008

The Blackstone-Millville Regional District School Committee met in the Media Center of the Frederick W. Hartnett Middle School on Thursday, January 17, 2008. The following school committee members were in attendance:

Toni M. Harvey, Chairperson
Ann M. Lesperance, Vice Chairperson
Mark J. Almquist
Joanne R. Forbes
Catherine A. Robinson

Thomas J. Conlon, Lynn M. Landry and Robert J. Kluchevitz were absent from the meeting.

Also in attendance were:

Superintendent Herbert W. Levine, Ph.D., Assistant Superintendent Kathleen A. Montagano, Ed. D., FWH Middle School Principal Kimberly B. Shaver-Hood, BMR High School Principal Richard A. Porter, Administrative Consultant Frederick W. Hartnett 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 United States was recited followed by a moment of silence for Mr. William Barrett, father of Doreen Frend, cafeteria aide at the JFK/AFM Complex.

Dr. Levine presented the Consent Agenda which included minutes of the meetings of December 6, 2007 and January 3, 2008, several field trip requests, a home schooling request and several requests for observations. A motion was made by Mrs. Lesperance and seconded by Mr. Almquist to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

UNANIMOUSLY VOTED

At 7:15 Chairperson Harvey welcomed FWH Middle School Principal Kimberly B. Shaver-Hood. Ms. Shaver-Hood introduced Guidance Counselor Lisa Oliveira, Assistant Principal Craig Juelis, Team Leaders Kevin McCourt, Marianne McLean, Denise Daignault, Stephanie Abisla, and Alan Chaharyn. During their MCAS PowerPoint presentation, they focused on the strengths and weaknesses of the students in grades 6 through 8 as well as the areas of concern. In many cases the students scored above state average but they feel the students are able to do better. The presentation also touched on their plans to help the students to continue moving forward.

At 8:00 p.m., Chairperson Harvey welcomed BMR High School Principal Richard A. Porter. Mr. Porter introduced Department Heads Mary Jane Larson, Mark Campopiano and Ellie Conrad. They also did a PowerPoint presentation regarding MCAS. They have one junior and one senior that need to pass the MCAS test; they have one more chance. Mr. Porter stated that their goal is to identify the areas of need and create a plan of action to improve instruction. Each department head reviewed their areas of concern and the action plans to help improve their scores.

At 8:50 p.m., Chairperson Harvey welcomed Administrative Consultant Frederick W. Hartnett. Mr. Hartnett presented the committee with a report on the maintenance and capital needs of the school district. Mr. Hartnett reviewed the concerns of each school. (See attached)

Mr. Hartnett recommended that the school committee plan to meet with the boards of selectmen and finance committees to discuss how the district can proceed with the needs of the schools.

Chairperson Harvey feels that the committee has to take the correct steps to get projects completed. Mr. Hartnett is very concerned with the intercom system at the complex. It was suggested that perhaps the Kennedy School can be done now and in subsequent years complete the project at the Maloney School. Mr. Hartnett will inquire from a vendor if it is possible to do the project in two phases and also ask for an estimate.

Mr. Hartnett distributed an analysis that he completed regarding the GIC insurance. Mr. Hartnett does not recommend that the district sign up for this type of insurance.

Mrs. Forbes suggested that the district contact the state regarding a grant for the intercom system at the complex. She stated that Homeland Security is sponsoring such grants. Dr. Levine will speak with Mr. Bianchi on this matter.

At approximately 9:40 p.m., Dr. Kathleen A. Montagano, Assistant Superintendent of Schools, gave her report.

- Dr. Montagano reported on the meeting she had with the representative from Océ. Following a request from Dr. Levine, a motion was made by Mrs. Robinson and seconded by Mrs. Lesperance to sign the contract to lease a copy machine for the guidance department at the high school
- Dr. Montagano gave updates on personnel and Harpers/BudgetSense.
- The expenditure ledger was reviewed.

At 9:50 p.m., Dr. Herbert W. Levine, Superintendent of Schools, gave his report.

- Dr. Levine reviewed the closure of the Millville Elementary School last week following an unidentified odor in the building. There were two problems which have both been corrected. There was a bomb threat at the high school on

Tuesday. The students were sent to the middle school while the building was checked. When they were satisfied that the building was clean they allowed the students back into school. On Wednesday there was an electrical problem at the high school and the students had to be dismissed at 12:30 p.m. Dr. Levine sent the students home early because there was no power, the fire alarm was not working and there was an odor from the ballasts. The fire alarm system was checked after students were dismissed and everything is working properly.

- Dr. Levine asked to hold the vote on his recommendation to move half of the cafeteria aide's salaries and 50% of the health insurance from the cafeteria account to the appropriate line items.
- The automated system for the cafeteria will be reviewed at the school committee meeting of February 13, 2008.
- Dr. Levine feels strongly that the district needs to purchase a mass communication system. Such a system would allow every parent to be called in three minutes. He will ask Mr. Bianchi if it is possible to tap into their system and also find out if Millville will be purchasing such a system.

At 10:00 p.m., Chairperson Harvey asked if there were any subcommittee reports to be made at this time.

Mr. Almquist stated that at the next meeting he would like to have the third reading on the use of school facilities policy regarding police at school functions.

Mrs. Lesperance will be sending out the next communications message shortly and requested any input be sent to her.

Mrs. Lesperance feels there are not enough press releases regarding school events and all the good things the students are doing. Dr. Levine will discuss this at the next leadership team meeting.

At 10:05 p.m. Chairperson Harvey asked if there were any issues for the Committee Forum.

Student Representative Lindsey Poirier reported on the pep rally, the penny war, "just jeans" drive, band and sports activities, Mr. BMR and the upcoming proms.

Following a discussion pertaining to the motion for committee members to approve the warrant article regarding stipends of school committee members, it was stated that the motion will have to pass in both Blackstone and Millville. If this article passes in both towns it will prevent any school committee member that does not attend at least 60% of the meetings from being compensated.

Mr. Almquist regretfully submitted his resignation due to other responsibilities. He has three years remaining on his term.

Chairperson Harvey recommended that the senior citizen luncheon be held on April 18th at the middle school at which time they can discuss the budget.

At 10:25 p.m., a motion was made by Mrs. Lesperance and seconded by Mrs. Robinson that the Regional District School Committee **adjourn the meeting.**
UNANIMOUSLY VOTED

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia A. Robinson
Recording Secretary

ATTEST: _____
Joanne R. Forbes, District Secretary