

MINUTES OF MEETING
BLACKSTONE-MILLVILLE REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
NOVEMBER 20, 2007 – 7:00 P.M.
FREDERICK W. HARTNETT MIDDLE SCHOOL
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 in attendance:

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

Absent from the meeting were members Robert J. Kluchevitz and Catherine A. Robinson.

Also in attendance were Superintendent Herbert W. Levine, Ph.D., Assistant Superintendent Kathleen A. Montagano, Ed. D., Attorney Harold D. Gould, Jr., Middle School Principal Kimberly Shaver-Hood and Student Representative Lindsay Poirier.

At 7:05 p.m. a motion was made by Mrs. Lesperance, seconded by Mrs. Landry to accept the Consent Agenda which included Minutes of the Meeting for November 8th and CoRE Minutes for November 1st. This includes one amendment requested by Joanne Forbes to include Thomas Conlon as attending the November 8th meeting. **UNANIMOUSLY VOTED**

At 7:10 p.m. Attorney Gould spoke on the current sewer project. Attorney Gould stated that on October 1st the Blackstone Conservation Committee voted unanimously for a new pumping station to be built with a 20 foot easement where it meets Blackstone Street from Early Village. The Housing Corporation board of directors voted to approve the easement in which Attorney Gould brought copies of this agreement. The agreement states that the Town has granted to the District a permit to connect the Regional High School to the Town's municipal sanitary sewer system at the existing manhole located on Blackstone Street opposite the entrance to Early Village Drive whereas the infrastructure for said connection will include two underground pump stations and their respective appurtenances, one to be located on the District's premises and the other to be located on the Early Village premises and owned by the Blackstone Housing Corporation.

The District is responsible for all sewer connections to connect to the BMR High School. The easement is the major piece for the puzzle and what makes all of this work. There will be two pump stations on the Districts property and one new pump station on the property of the housing corporation. An agreement has been made where the town of Blackstone will oversee the two pumping stations. Attorney Gould brought a document with this information for Committee members to sign. The District will pay \$10,000 to the Town for the first year and

each year after that the fee will be adjusted accordingly. The District will be responsible to keep the pumping stations running. The Town will wave all of the connection fees for this project. The agreement has already been signed by all members of the Board of Selectmen and was signed by members of the School Committee this evening.

A motion was made by Mr. Conlon, seconded by Mrs. Landry to approve the Operations and Maintenance Agreement between the Town of Blackstone and the District School Committee where the Town granted the District a permit to connect the BMR High School to the Town's municipal sanitary sewer system at the existing manhole located on Blackstone Street opposite the entrance to Early Village Drive and whereas the infrastructure for said connection will include two underground pump stations and their respective appurtenances, one to be located on the District's premises and the other to be located on the Early Village premises owned by the Blackstone Housing Corporation. **UNANIMOUSLY VOTED**

Attorney Gould is hoping that the remaining bond money left over from the FWH Middle School project will soon be signed by the House and Senate to allow the District to use the funds at the BMR High School to remodel and make repairs to the building and to construct a sewer system to connect the building to the Town of Blackstone.

Dr. Montagano reviewed budget information which included information on the expenditure ledger. Dr. Montagano stated that we are currently paying a much higher water fee than we should be. She feels that the fact that the High School freezer was previously leaking may be the reason for this. She will thoroughly research this concern and report back to the Committee at a later date.

Dr. Montagano stated that all budget information has been returned to her and the first budget meeting will be held on December 10th.

A motion was made by Mrs. Forbes, seconded by Mrs. Landry to accept the current estimated budget balance of \$726,353 from expenditure ledger as of 11/20/07. This balance was outlined by Dr. Montagano with a full explanation of any changes reported at the meeting. **UNANIMOUSLY VOTED**

Dr. Montagano mentioned there could be a potential snow season problem with the sander on the old truck. The cost to purchase a new sander could be anywhere from \$4,000 to \$6,000. This amount was not budgeted for in the FY08 budget. Dr. Levine would like to explore the possibility of purchasing a stainless steel sander which would last longer. They will probably make the recommendation at the next meeting and possibly use funds from the Medicaid account.

Dr. Montagano, Dr. Levine and Ms. Judd continue to work on cafeteria hours and staffing. Dr. Levine will probably have a recommendation for the Committee at the first meeting in January.

Dr. Levine stated that if we are successful in getting the grants for full day kindergarten we should be very likely to continue to get these grants year after year. He believes that shortly a full day kindergarten will be mandated. These students are better suited for first grade socially and emotionally. He went to a conference on this recently and it went very well.

Dr. Levine stated that there is discussion of automating the cafeteria Districtwide and will be meeting with a company to discuss this option. They will be asking the company to make a presentation to the Committee at some point. He expects that the cafeteria account will pay for these costs which will be about \$30,000– \$35,000 per year.

Mr. Almquist gave the second reading of the AC policy.

There was a discussion of the AC policy and the need for a police officer at the Middle School dances. Up to this point they have not had this and either the principal or assistant principal have been in attendance. Mrs. Lesperance feels that it has worked well this way for quite a while. Mrs. Forbes feels that the middle school should have a uniform police officer at all dances.

Dr. Levine feels that drugs and alcohol are not necessarily at our dances or social events but the potential is there that something could happen. You could be safer if you include the middle school which in turn may cause us to spend more money.

Dr. Levine stated that he wants a full time adjustment counselor who is trained to talk to kids at the middle and high schools to address the alcohol and drug issues.

Mrs. Lesperance is comfortable in leaving the decision of whether or not to have a uniform officer with the building principal.

Ms. Shaver-Hood asked for a concession for the 6th grade dances.

Chairperson Harvey asked Mr. Almquist to table this for now.

Mr. Conlon is more in favor of it being a principal's decision and not by the committee or a blanket policy.

A motion was made by Mrs. Lesperance, seconded by Mr. Conlon to table the KF-R policy for the time being. **UNANIMOUSLY VOTED**

A motion was made by Mrs. Landry, seconded by Mrs. Lesperance to accept the 2nd reading of the AC-E policy. **UNANIMOUSLY VOTED**

For communications Mrs. Lesperance stated that she is ready to do their next update and if anyone has anything to include please let her know.

Mrs. Lesperance stated that the next CoRE meeting will be held on December 10th @ 7:00 p.m. in the High School Library.

Lindsay Poirier gave her update. She stated that there will be a pep rally on December 17th – the theme this year is board games. Upcoming events will include spirit week, annual canned food drive, the National Honor Society working on holiday activities, hosting a mittens and hat drive and just jeans drive-penny wars. Lindsay also gave the sports breakdown and stated that the marching band placed 2nd at Giant Stadium recently.

Chairperson Harvey stated that there will be a school committee workshop on Tuesday, November 27 at 6:30 p.m. at the middle school.

At 8:15 p.m. a motion was made by Mrs. Lesperance, seconded by Mrs. Forbes to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of possible litigation. The School Committee will leave Executive Session only for the purpose of adjournment. **UNANIMOUSLY VOTED**

Respectfully submitted,

Monique F. Simard
Recording Secretary

ATTEST: _____
Joanne R. Forbes, District Secretary