

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

November 8, 2007

The Blackstone-Millville Regional District School Committee met in the Media Center of the Frederick W. Hartnett Middle School on Thursday, November 8, 2007. The following school committee members were in attendance:

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

Robert J. Kluchevitz was absent from the meeting.

Also in attendance were:

Superintendent Herbert W. Levine, Ph.D., Assistant Superintendent Kathleen A. Montagano, Ed. D., Food Service Director Carol Greenbaum Judd 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 followed.

Dr. Levine presented the Consent Agenda which included the minutes of the meeting of October 25, 2007 and several field trip requests. A motion was made by Mrs. Lesperance and seconded by Mrs. Robinson to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. **UNANIMOUSLY VOTED**

At 7:10 p.m., Chairperson Harvey welcomed Food Service Director Carol Greenbaum Judd. Ms. Greenbaum Judd reviewed the expenses for the food service department and explained to members how an automated Point of Service (POS) System would work. Ms. Greenbaum Judd feels that this program would allow parents to go online and use debit and credit cards or telephone in for prepayments for school lunches. Parents will also be able to continue paying by cash or check. This program would enable parents to view nutritional information online as well. Dietary restrictions can be entered into the program which would enable staff to help students purchase the correct foods.

Dr. Levine thanked Ms. Greenbaum Judd for the hard work she has been doing in preparing all the things he asked her to do over the last few months. Dr. Levine

explained that if the district removed the health benefits and some of the labor costs from the expenses of the food service department, the district would be running a profit.

Dr. Levine, Dr. Montagano and Ms. Greenbaum Judd have already viewed two POS systems. Once they find a system they agree on, they will bring it forward to the school committee for parents. They believe the total cost will be approximately \$30,000.

Following a question and answer session regarding the POS system, Dr. Levine stated that he will also check references.

Dr. Levine requested that the cost of school lunch be increased by .25¢ beginning January 1, 2008. He reviewed the cost of lunches in surrounding towns. Dr. Levine requested that the new prices would be \$2.00 for elementary and \$2.25 for middle and high schools. This increase will pay for the cost of the new POS system. A motion was made by Mr. Almquist and seconded by Mr. Conlon to approve the request to increase the price of school lunches. **UNANIMOUSLY VOTED**

At approximately 7:25 p.m., Chairperson Harvey asked if there were any issues for the Public Forum. There was no response.

At 7:25 p.m., Dr. Kathleen A. Montagano, Assistant Superintendent of Schools, gave her report.

- Dr. Montagano reviewed the bid for the cracksealing, sealcoating and striping at the high school. She explained that the work can not be done until the spring due to the availability of funds and weather conditions. The prices are guaranteed until that time. Dr. Montagano recommended that the bid be awarded to East Coast Sealcoating Inc. for \$25,480 pending funding. Chairperson Harvey asked for a motion to award the sealcoating bid to East Coast Sealcoating Inc. pending our decision to use the money if and when the money is available and if we so choose to. A motion was made by Mrs. Lesperance and seconded by Mrs. Landry. **UNANIMOUSLY VOTED**
- Dr. Montagano also reviewed the bid for the freezer/cooler at the high school. The work for this bid cannot be done until the summer due to the availability of funds and the fact that the work cannot be done until students are out of school. Chairperson Harvey asked for a motion to award MM Environmental Engineering, Inc. the bid for a new freezer/cooler at the high school pending our decision to use the money if and when the money is available and if we so choose to. The motion was made by Mrs. Lesperance and seconded by Mrs. Forbes. **UNANIMOUSLY VOTED**
- Personnel updates are included in member's packets.
- The district has been chosen by the Department of Education to participate in a cohort that will report on compliance with DOE special education evaluation

timelines in relation to initial evaluations. Mrs. Lawrence has asked the team chairs to begin recording the required information.

- Dr. Montagano reviewed the expenditure ledger. Chairperson Harvey asked several questions regarding a possible shortfall in fuel, maintenance costs, and course reimbursements.

At 7:40 p.m., Dr. Herbert W. Levine, Superintendent of Schools, gave his report.

- Dr. Levine wished Mrs. Lawrence and her family well; her mother is undergoing surgery.
- A letter was received from the Blackstone Valley Chamber of Commerce congratulating students that graduated from the leadership academy last year and those that have been accepted this year. Dr. Levine thanked members for agreeing to join this group. He also thanked Rachel Oakley for recruiting students to apply to this organization.
- Dr. Levine requested a change in the field trip policy regarding the approval of field trips by the school principals. A motion was made by Mrs. Lesperance and seconded by Mrs. Robinson to amend the handbook at the elementary level. This will take effect immediately. **UNANIMOUSLY VOTED**
(See attached)

At 7:50 p.m., Chairperson Harvey asked if there were any subcommittee reports to be made at this time.

Following a discussion revolving around the need for police at school activities, Mr. Almquist recommended they hold the reading of Policy KF-R. Dr. Levine will talk to Mr. Porter to get his feelings on this policy. Chairperson Harvey requested a check off list be attached to field trip requests and use of facilities forms indicating that the principal has reviewed everything and approved/disapproved it.

Following the third and final readings of Policy KF and Policy KF-E, Mr. Almquist made a motion which was seconded by Mrs. Forbes to accept the readings of said policies. **UNANIMOUSLY VOTED**

Mr. Almquist reviewed changes he would like made to the nondiscrimination policies, Policy AC and Policy AC-E.

A motion was made by Mrs. Landry and seconded by Mrs. Lesperance to accept the first reading of Policy AC, Nondiscrimination. **UNANIMOUSLY VOTED**

A motion was made by Mr. Conlon and seconded by Mrs. Landry to accept the first reading of Policy AC-E, Nondiscrimination – Complaint Procedure. **UNANIMOUSLY VOTED**

Mrs. Lesperance sent the following information to the schools for their newsletters: the introduction of Student Representative Lindsey Poirier, Policy JFA, CoRE meeting of November 1st and Community Reading Day.

At 8:20 p.m. Chairperson Harvey asked if there were any issues for the Committee Forum.

Chairperson Harvey reported on the CoRE meeting of November 1st. The next CoRE meeting is scheduled for January 10th at the high school. Following the approval of the minutes, they will be placed on the website. Discussions also included the budget and having more meetings on the road.

Dr. Levine stated that they also discussed full day kindergarten. A grant application has been submitted to DOE and it is hoped a full day kindergarten will begin in 2008.

Chairperson Harvey also stated that the committee will be contacting the towns to set up the joint meetings regarding the budget.

Dr. Levine discussed MRSA. He has a newsletter from the Department of Public Health and the Department of Education that he will send out to parents.

At 8:25 p.m., a motion was made by Mrs. Lesperance and seconded by Mrs. Landry that the Regional District School Committee **adjourn the meeting.**
UNANIMOUSLY VOTED

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia A. Robinson
Recording Secretary

ATTEST: _____
Joanne R. Forbes, District Secretary