

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

December 6, 2007

The Blackstone-Millville Regional District School Committee met in the Media Center of the Frederick W. Hartnett Middle School on Thursday, December 6, 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 – *arrived at 7:50 p.m.*
Catherine A. Robinson

Robert J. Kluchevitz was absent from the meeting.

Also in attendance were:

Assistant Superintendent Kathleen A. Montagano, Ed. D., Representatives of the Blackstone-Millville Education Foundation (BMEF) and other interested parties. *Superintendent Herbert W. Levine, Ph. D. was not present.*

At 7:00 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 with a moment of silence in memory of Mr. Thomas Levine, father of Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Herbert Levine.

Dr. Montagano presented the Consent Agenda. A motion was made by Mrs. Forbes and seconded by Mr. Conlon to approve the Consent Agenda as presented which included minutes of the meeting of November 20, 2007, requests for several field trips, observations and a waiver of user fees. **UNANIMOUSLY VOTED**

At 7:10 p.m., Chairperson Harvey welcomed Joan DuRocher, president of BMEF and Maureen Vasquez, treasurer of BMEF, to review the list of grants that have been funded by BMEF.

At 7:20 p.m., Chairperson Harvey asked if there were any issues for the Public Forum. There was no response.

At 7:20 p.m., Dr. Kathleen A. Montagano, Assistant Superintendent of Schools, gave her report.

- Dr. Montagano reported on the energy audit that is taking place throughout the district. Following the audit, which is being funded by the Department of Energy, the auditor will recommend ways for the district to be more energy efficient.

Mr. Almquist suggested putting the lights on in the driveway at the middle school when activities are taking place during the evening.

- Dr. Montagano reviewed the expenditure ledger.
- A summary of proposed staff for FY09 is included in the budget detail books that were distributed to members. All justifications are included.
- The cost to repair the sander is approximately \$900. Dr. Montagano stated that the cost of a new two yard stainless sander would be \$4,700 including installation. There are funds available from the Medicaid account. A motion was made by Mrs. Lesperance and seconded by Mrs. Robinson to purchase the sander from Stanley Truck Equipment, Inc. **UNANIMOUSLY VOTED**

Stanley Truck Equipment Inc. has also offered to try to sell the old sander and give the money to the district. If they can not sell it, the district will declare it as surplus. A motion was made by Mrs. Lesperance and seconded by Mrs. Forbes to allow said company to try to sell the sander. **UNANIMOUSLY VOTED**

- Dr. Montagano stated that the new freezer at the high school is air cooled, not water cooled. She also stated that she reviewed the high school water bill with the Department of Public Works and she feels the usage is correct. It appears the high usage is from the water running through the freezer at the high school. The district is also charged a fee for the water hydrant located on the property of the complex even though the land is owned by the Town of Blackstone. Dr. Montagano will look into this.
- Harpers cannot provide the information regarding encumbrances that Dr. Montagano needs for payroll purposes. Dr. Montagano stated that the training to do the budget on BudgetSense has been cut from the budget several times and this would be a great help to the central office. Chairperson Harvey stated that there is a meeting scheduled for Tuesday and they will try to find a solution to not being able to encumber 75%.

Mr. Conlon would like to attend the meeting since that is his profession.

- Dr. Montagano reviewed the personnel update which included one new hire.
- There will be an air quality test at the high school on Monday at a cost of \$2,375
- There is a public comment period for an amendment on the Department of Education's website regarding the budgets of regional school districts.
- There will not be a warrant for the meeting on January 3rd due to a vacation. If something outstanding has to be paid, Ms. Scungio can do a warrant.

- Dr. Montagano reviewed plans from Guerriere and Halnon regarding property that abuts the middle school. There will be a housing project on 17 acres and the developer may donate some land to the regional school district. However, Attorney Gould will look into this and will keep members updated.

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

Mr. Almquist did the third and final readings of Policies AC and AC-E. A motion was made by Mrs. Lesperance and seconded by Mrs. Landry to approve the third and final reading of policies AC and AC-E. **UNANIMOUSLY VOTED**

Mr. Almquist reviewed the concern discussed at the last meeting regarding the need for a police officer at school activities. Following a discussion regarding this concern, Mr. Almquist stated that Policy JJB-R, Student Social Events, may be the policy to revise concerning the need for police officers at school activities. Mr. Almquist will begin working on this policy.

Communication information should be sent to Mrs. Lesperance prior to the next school committee meeting.

At 8:00 p.m., Chairperson Harvey welcomed Student Representative Lindsey Poirier. Lindsey reported that students are working on the pep rally which is scheduled for December 20th; they have spirit days planned for the week of the pep rally; the canned food drive is being held at this time; SADD members are having a penny war and the proceeds will go to buying gifts for local students; winter athletics have started and the chorus will be performing on December 19th.

At 8:05 p.m. Chairperson Harvey asked if there were any issues for the Committee Forum.

Chairperson Harvey stated that the legislation that they submitted is on the governor's desk and at the last step at this time.

At 8:10 p.m., a motion was made by Mrs. Lesperance and seconded by Mr. Conlon that the Regional District School Committee **adjourn the meeting.** **UNANIMOUSLY VOTED**

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia A. Robinson
Recording Secretary

ATTEST: _____
Joanne R. Forbes, District Secretary