

**MINUTES OF MEETING
BLACKSTONE-MILLVILLE REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
April 17, 2008
FREDERICK W. HARTNETT MIDDLE SCHOOL
MEDIA CENTER
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 present as follows:

Toni M. Harvey, Chairperson
Ann M. Lesperance, Vice Chairperson
Lynn M. Landry, Treasurer
Catherine A. Robinson, Assistant Treasurer
Diane C. Robin, Member
Charles K. Singleton, Member
Michael J. Buckley, Member

Absent from meeting was: Thomas J. Conlon, Secretary.

Also in attendance were Assistant Superintendent, Kathleen A. Montagano, Ed. D., and Student Representative Lindsay Poirier.

A motion was made by Mrs. Robinson, seconded by Mrs. Landry to accept the Consent Agenda excluding the Minutes of the Meeting of April 3, 2008. **UNANIMOUSLY VOTED**

Mrs. Lesperance questioned if the committee will continue to approve requests for waivers in the future. It was stated that waivers would be granted on a case-by-case basis.

Ronald Bibeault, Music Director, spoke. He stated that the band has won the 2nd consecutive NESBA final championships. The Jazz Band received a gold metal at MICCA. The trip to Washington, DC will leave on Thursday morning, April 24th and return on Sunday evening, April 27th.

Mr. Bibeault stated that BMMA is in the process of looking over the aging band uniforms.

Maureen Vasquez, member of BMMA, explained to the committee that they are seeking the approval of the school committee to begin raising funds to replace band uniforms. Their goal is to raise \$45,000 over the next 2 years. The marching band uniforms will cost approximately \$225 each. Mrs. Vasquez stated that they are currently looking into a community wide garage sale to be held at the high school. Mrs. Harvey stated that there are regulations they will need to follow for this garage sale and they need to be looked into. She wants to be sure that nothing is left behind at the end of the day; that all safety requirements are met, and must be adhered to. Mr. Bibeault stated that Principal Richard Porter has given his support to the fundraising efforts.

Mrs. Harvey would like to discuss the sign to be placed in front of the high school by the boosters reporting their fundraising amount. She wants to be sure it is appropriate as it will be permanent. She asked that Mr. Bibeault call Chief Atstupenas to be sure it is not a safety hazard.

Mrs. Vasquez asked if they would be allowed to solicit alumni. Dr. Montagano will ask legal counsel if this is allowed. Mr. Bibeault will show legal counsel the draft of the letter to be sent out to alumni.

Mr. Bibeault and Mrs. Vasquez will come back to the school committee with more information.

A motion was made by Mr. Buckley, seconded by Mrs. Lesperance, to allow the BMMA to place collection buckets at the upcoming band concerts and allowing the BMMA to take on the endeavor of looking into raising funds to purchase new band uniforms in the future contingent upon the above issues raised. **UNANIMOUSLY VOTED**

A motion was made by Mrs. Robinson, seconded by Mr. Singleton to allow Mr. Bibeault, band director, to purchase 2 jackets and 16 patches for the Winter Guard. **UNANIMOUSLY VOTED**

At 7:30 p.m. Mr. Richard Porter and various committee advisors spoke on their proposal for the implementation of a high school student activity account. This account would be an interest bearing account managed by Mr. Porter. When a committee advisor needs funds, the advisor can apply for the funding. It will expedite the process and avoid out-of-pocket funding by committee advisors.

Lynn Gomes stated that it is important to have this account especially when the funds are needed quickly for funding the prom.

Charles Swenson stated that sometimes there are discounts available if you are able to pay early. Many times this can't be done because it takes too long to get the funds due to the paperwork.

Mrs. Lesperance asked if there would be a backup person able to sign in case Mr. Porter was not available. Mr. Porter stated that Mr. Ducharme would be his backup. Mrs. Lesperance stated that they should defer on this decision until Dr. Levine can be made a part of this decision.

Dr. Montagano discussed the warrant process at the request of Mr. Singleton. She stated that this new process would be much quicker. She also stated that District Accountant, James Eggert, suggested placing limits on the account in accordance with state regulations.

Mr. Porter stated the account will enhance their ability to use student funds in a more timely manner. To be safe with the warrant process, the funds need to be applied for one month in advance.

Mrs. Harvey would like to give the proposal to people in the central office for their review. She also stated that they should create one form so that an advisor would use it with a three-day turn around. She stated that in the long run they will save on paperwork and the kids will not miss out on anything as well as decreasing out-of-pocket expenses for advisors.

Mrs. Harvey stated that the request was validated. The request was tabled and the committee will take a vote on it at the next meeting when Dr. Levine is present. She asked that the item be placed on the May 1st agenda.

At 8:00 p.m. Suzan Cullen, Curriculum Facilitator, spoke on the Literacy Program as well as giving a Power Point presentation. She recommended to the committee that the program be adopted for the upcoming school year. She looked at many companies and, along with staff, narrowed it down to two. They are MacMillan/McGraw Hill and Houghton- Mifflin.

Teachers from the different elementary schools reported on the programs they piloted.

When the programs were rated, Houghton-Mifflin was rated 4.6 on a scale of 1-5. Many school systems adopted this program and have been very happy with it. Houghton-Mifflin is also willing to provide many free materials.

It was stated the program meets the needs of students and teachers. Houghton-Mifflin offer company service, competitive cost, sustainability and professional development. This is connected to MCAS scores and students at lower levels. Mrs. Tetreault, MES Principal, believes we will be very successful with this program.

Mr. Campbell, JFK/AFM Principal, gave accolades to teachers who piloted this program. He believes it is time for a reading services change. Many teachers are already seeing the benefits of this program.

Betty Krill, representative from Houghton-Mifflin, gave information on the reading program. She stated that the program is a balanced, comprehensive and manageable program. They have proven successes, are partners in literacy; are correlated to the Massachusetts Frameworks, have great home and school connection, and the most extensive clinical research study ever conducted in public schools.

Some students need more help with instruction. Families and children can log on to the website and young readers will be able to summarize and predict. There are guided reading programs and each child needs to be exposed to thousands of new words per year. Teachers will have classroom instruction kits to help them teach so they will be much better prepared. There is also an online assessment system which monitors student progress. The program will be tweaked and tailored to what is needed in the district.

A motion was made by Mrs. Lesperance, seconded by Mrs. Robinson, to accept the Houghton-Mifflin Reading Program for grades K-5 in the amount of \$99,197.

UNANIMOUSLY VOTED

Dr. Montagano requested that a list of equipment be declared surplus because it is obsolete, failed or unusable by the district network configuration. This equipment will be picked up at our site by CRT Recycling of Brockton, MA.

A motion was made by Mrs. Robinson, seconded by Mr. Singleton to declare the items as surplus hardware inventory. **UNANIMOUSLY VOTED**

There were no items for sub-committee reports. Mrs. Harvey asked that members please think about joining the policy sub-committee as she is looking for someone to chair it.

Mrs. Lesperance spoke on communications regarding the newsletter and important May meetings.

Student Representative Lindsay Poirier gave her report. She spoke about Go Green Day, Crafty Readers, a motivational speaker coming to BMR on April 11th, and the dance team. Mr. BMR raised \$1,500. May 9th will be the sophomore semi formal.

At 9:30 p.m. a motion was made by Mrs. Lesperance, seconded by Mrs. Landry, to adjourn the School Committee meeting of April 17th. **UNANIMOUSLY VOTED**

Respectfully Submitted,

Monique Simard
Recording Secretary

ATTEST: _____
Thomas J. Conlon, District Secretary