

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

*June 12, 2008*

The Blackstone-Millville Regional District School Committee met in the library/media center of the Frederick W. Hartnett Middle School on Thursday, June 12, 2008. The following school committee members were in attendance:

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

Also in attendance were Superintendent Herbert W. Levine, Ph.D., Assistant Superintendent Kathleen A. Montagano, Ed. D., Technology Director Bradford A. Monroe, Millville Elementary School Principal Eileen M. Tetreault, JFK/AFM Principal Everett B. Campbell, Student Representative Lindsay Poirier and other interested parties.

At 7:05 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 for John Kiely, father of middle school teacher Kevin Kiely; Helen Fredette, aunt of cafeteria worker Susan Bourassa; Roger Paquette, father-in-law of teacher aide Holly Paquette and Clarence Paterson, father of retired teacher Susan Bergeron and father-in-law of Norman Bergeron, Chairman of the Blackstone Finance Committee.

Dr. Levine presented the Consent Agenda which included minutes of the meeting of May 29, 2008. A motion was made by Mrs. Lesperance and seconded by Mr. Conlon to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Mr. Singleton indicated that the date for the opening of the asbestos bids has changed from June 9<sup>th</sup> to June 25<sup>th</sup> and requested that this change be reflected in the minutes of this meeting. **UNANIMOUS VOTE**

Chairperson Harvey welcomed retirees Mary Jane Larson, Gail Mondoux and Christopher Groessel. After thanking the retirees for their dedication and service to the children of Blackstone and Millville, Dr. Levine presented them with books they chose to be donated to a school library of their choice. Mrs. Larson chose *The Face on the Milk Carton* to be donated to the FWH Middle School Library/Media Center, Mrs. Mondoux chose *Rainbabies* and Christopher Groessel chose *The Art of Reading*, both books being donated to the Robert A. Keefe Library/Media Center at the JFK/AFM Complex.

Dr. Levine stated Cindy Kosciak and William Marrocco will also be retiring but they were unable to attend the meeting. Mrs. Kosciak chose *A Baby Sister for Frances* and

Mr. Marrocco chose *A Light in the Attic* and both books will be donated to the Robert A. Keefe Library/Media Center at the JFK/AFM Complex.

At 7:30 p.m., Chairperson Harvey welcomed Technology Director Bradford Monroe. Mr. Monroe reviewed the X2 Parent Portal which will allow parents to have access to the student's grades, conduct, attendance, etc.

Mr. Monroe reviewed the Pilot Program for the middle and high schools for the 2008/2009 school year. The only cost to the district will be the training for specific teachers.

Mr. Singleton asked Mr. Monroe if *School Notes* will become part of the new parent portal. Mr. Monroe stated that he assumes it will continue as is.

Mr. Conlon suggested looking into the policy to be sure we do not expose information about students that we are not allowed to.

Committee members indicated they were all in favor of the parent portal.

At 7:55 p.m., Chairperson Harvey welcomed Millville Elementary School Principal Eileen M. Tetreault and JFK/AFM Principal Everett B. Campbell to review changes that will be made to the School Improvement Plans and the Elementary Handbook.

Mrs. Tetreault and Mr. Campbell presented the committee with a copy of their yearbooks.

Following a review of the School Improvement Plan by Mrs. Tetreault for the Millville Elementary School, a motion was made to accept the plan as presented by Mr. Singleton and seconded by Mrs. Landry. **UNANIMOUS VOTE**

Mr. Campbell also reviewed the changes that will be made to the School Improvement Plan at both the John F. Kennedy and A. F. Maloney Schools. A motion was made by Mrs. Lesperance and seconded by Mr. Singleton to approve the School Improvement Plans for the JFK/AFM Schools. **UNANIMOUS VOTE**

Mr. Buckley asked if there has been an update to the Sanitary Survey Report issued to the Town of Millville for the Millville Elementary School which was dated July 19, 2007. Following a discussion regarding this matter, Chairperson Harvey said there will be an answer to this question at the next school committee meeting.

Mrs. Tetreault reviewed changes that will be made to the elementary handbooks. A motion was made by Mrs. Lesperance and seconded by Mrs. Landry to accept the changes to the elementary handbooks as presented. **UNANIMOUS VOTE**

At 8:35 p.m., Chairperson Harvey asked if there were any issues for the public forum. There was no response.

At approximately 8:35 p.m., Chairperson Harvey welcomed Ms. Kimberly B. Shaver-Hood. Ms. Shaver-Hood has been appointed as Assistant Superintendent of Schools effective July 1, 2008. A motion was made by Mrs. Lesperance and seconded by Mr.

Buckley that the Committee approve and execute the proposed Employment Agreement by and between the Regional School District and Kimberly B. Shaver-Hood as presented by District Counsel. **UNANIMOUS VOTE**

At 8:40 p.m., Dr. Herbert W. Levine, Superintendent of Schools, gave his report.

- Dr. Levine updated members on the asbestos situation at the high school. He also stated that he has not received a final report on the possibility of the middle school being used as an emergency shelter and he will update members as soon as he gets the report. Dr. Levine also informed members that he has appointed a new principal for the middle school.
- Dr. Levine recognized Student Representative Lindsay Poirier for receiving the Rensselaer Medal Award and receiving a \$60,000 scholarship (\$15,000 per year for four years). Dr. Levine and members congratulated Lindsay and wished her well in the future.
- Dr. Levine reported on the parent volunteer at the Millville Elementary School that has been diagnosed with MRSA. The parent will return to school when she gets cleared by her doctor and provides a doctor's note.
- The need of an adjustment counselor to be shared with the high school and middle school was discussed. Dr. Levine asked the committee to meet with Ms. Shaver-Hood to discuss this matter.
- Following an explanation of the back page by Dr. Levine, he recommended that a motion be made to reduce the operating budget for next year from 4.05% to 3.83%. A motion was made by Mr. Buckley and seconded by Mrs. Landry to certify the FY09 Operating Budget of \$20,995,596. **UNANIMOUS VOTE**
- A motion was also made by Mrs. Lesperance and seconded by Mr. Singleton to make the following reductions to the original certified budget (4.05%): \$31,730 from account #4400 (computer repairs), \$2,961 from account #1450 (software/cartridges) and \$10,000 from account #4130 (sewer pump operator) for a total of \$44,691. Dr. Levine also recommended looking at the reductions at the end of the year to restore this money with reserve funds. **UNANIMOUS VOTE**
- Dr. Levine has been invited to visit the new John F. Kennedy Library on June 25<sup>th</sup> by Governor Patrick; he will report on this at the June 26<sup>th</sup> meeting.

At 8:45 p.m., Assistant Superintendent of Schools, Kathleen A. Montagano, Ed. D., gave her report.

- Dr. Montagano reviewed the energy audit reports and explained that a broker will meet with the collaborative on June 19<sup>th</sup> to discuss options for getting lower oil prices.

- Bid for improvements to the handicap access ramp at the high school have been sent out; the architect is also drawing plans for the loading dock at the high school.
- Dr. Montagano reviewed the Expenditure Ledger and updated members on personnel.
- Dr. Montagano informed members that Ms. Shaver-hood is chairing the search committee for the director of student services; the school committee will need to make this appointment.

At 9:10 p.m., Chairperson Harvey asked if there were any issues for the Committee Forum.

Student Representative Lindsay Poirier reported on activities that have been taking place at the high school including graduation, election of class officers and the sophomores received their class rings.

There will be a work session for the school committee members on Monday, June 16<sup>th</sup> at the middle school.

The BMEF Golf Tournament will be held on August 1<sup>st</sup> and school committee members will sponsor a hole.

Mr. Conlon served notice of his resignation effective June 30<sup>th</sup> of this year. Mr. Conlon will be moving and will no longer be a resident of Millville.

Chairperson Harvey stated that there will be an opening for secretary for the committee; please contact her if you are interested in filling this position.

At 9:15 p.m., a motion was made by Mrs. Lesperance and seconded by Mr. Buckley to **enter into executive session** for the purpose of contract negotiations and the Committee would come out of executive session for the purpose of adjourning the meeting. The motion was followed by a roll call vote that resulted in a **UNANIMOUS VOTE**.

At 9:45 p.m., a motion was made by Mrs. Landry and seconded by Mr. Buckley that the Regional District School Committee **adjourn the meeting. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED**

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia A. Robinson  
Recording Secretary

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
Thomas J. Conlon, District Secretary