

**MINUTES OF MEETING**  
**BLACKSTONE-MILLVILLE REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**September 27, 2007 @ 7:00 p.m.**  
**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  
Mark J. Almquist, District Treasurer  
Thomas J. Conlon, Assistant District Treasurer  
Catherine A. Robinson, Member  
Lynn M. Landry, Member (arrived at 8:10 p.m.)

Absent from the meeting was Joanne R. Forbes, District Secretary and Robert J. Kluchevitz, Member.

Also present at the meeting were Superintendent, Herbert W. Levine, Ph.D., Superintendent of Schools, Kathleen A. Montagano, Ed.D., Assistant Superintendent of Schools and Student Representative, Lindsay Poirier.

At 7:05 p.m. a motion was made by Mrs. Lesperance, seconded by Mrs. Robinson to accept the Consent Agenda which includes Minutes of Meeting of Sept. 6<sup>th</sup>, five field trip requests and three observation requests. **UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.**

At 7:10 p.m. Kim Shaver-Hood, principal of the Frederick Hartnett Middle School gave a power point presentation on the opening day of the Middle School along with Vice Principal, Craig Juelis.

Ms. Shaver-Hood mentioned new staff members, total Middle School enrollment of 575 students, the current anti-bullying policy and a recent student survey done to approach school related issues. She stated that another parent-teacher conference has been added in March 07. Most parents were in favor of having scheduled conferences. She also mentioned that each Team of students will do a community service project this year. She informed the Committee that an 8<sup>th</sup> grade Chorus Class has been added this year with 38 students involved in it.

The Middle School Improvement Goals are to improve student achievement on the MCAS test, continue to develop and encourage a vibrant school community for all members and to continue to develop and implement an inclusion model of teaching.

Mrs. Harvey stated that she feels Ms. Shaver-Hood is doing a great job at the Middle School.

Dr. Levine feels that she has provided substance and depth to improve the quality of education for the students of her school.

Ms. Shaver-Hood requested a transfer of money from one budget line to another to place an order for new Middle School Science Textbooks.

A motion was made by Mrs. Lesperance, seconded by Mr. Conlon to transfer funds from the following budget lines: Textbooks English in the amount of \$748.00, Textbooks Math in the amount of \$1387.58, and Instructional Supplies English in the amount of \$658.30 to the textbook account at the Middle School to order new Science Books. **UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.**

At 7:30 p.m. Mr. Porter, BMR High School Principal and Keith Ducharme, BMR High School Vice Principal gave the presentation on the High School. Mr. Porter stated that the High School had an energetic and smooth opening. He stated that there were very few scheduling problems. He stated that there were 590 students enrolled on the first day of school. He stated that they have enhanced Step Up Day which has been reorganized and improved.

Mr. Porter stated that August 22<sup>nd</sup> was freshman tour day in which 56 students attended. He also stated that he is concerned about the handicap accessibility in the school and he is currently working on this with Dr. Levine.

Mrs. Harvey asked that Mr. Porter include any plans to improve the handicap accessibility in his budget priority list for the future.

Mr. Porter stated that all of the current Advanced Placement courses have been reviewed by a college board and have met their requirements.

Mr. Ducharme stated that the class of 2007 purchased a bell tone system for the High School, a 42" HD TV for teacher use and presented the school with \$3,000 toward a new scoreboard. He is very thankful to the Class of 2007 for this contribution.

Mr. Porter would like all students who leave BMR to have a sound financial background. He would like to have all students meet with guest speakers to hear about this and to make this mandatory for seniors.

Lindsay Poirier gave a report on freshman tours, homecoming day and dance activities.

Dr. Levine stated that he would like to bring back many of the extracurricular activities which many parents have requested. He would also like to see a broadening of

the athletic program. Dr. Levine finds the students in the District to be very courteous and pleasant.

At 8:05 p.m. a motion was made by Mrs. Robinson, seconded by Mr. Almquist to allow the Athletic Boosters Club to accept the gift of \$3,070 from the Class of 2007 to be used toward the new scoreboard at the High School. **UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.**

At 8:10 p.m. Sue Cullen, Director of Curriculum gave a report. Mrs. Cullen gave a full report to the School Committee on having a full day Kindergarten in the District. She also stated that Dr. Levine is in favor of moving forward with this. There is currently a grant offered by the State of Massachusetts to allow the District to begin the planning stages. The District would then be eligible for \$15,000 per classroom if they move forward with it.

Mrs. Cullen would like to see the School Committee establish a special committee and be ready to go to a full day Kindergarten by 2008. Mrs. Cullen would head this committee.

Mrs. Cullen feels that the full day Kindergarten would help to improve the MCAS scores which are currently flat and on a downward trend.

Mrs. Cullen mentioned that the Governor is in favor of this. A letter of intent is needed by tomorrow, October 22<sup>nd</sup> to move forward.

At 8:25 p.m. a motion was made by Mrs. Landry, seconded by Mr. Conlon to send a letter of intent to the Department of Education to move forward with the possibility of a full day Kindergarten. **UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.**

At 8:26 p.m. Ms. Montagano gave the Report of the Assistant Superintendent and gave budget information to the Committee.

At 8:27 p.m. a motion was made by Mrs. Lesperance, seconded by Mrs. Landry to advertise for a Teaching Assistant at the BMR High School. **UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.**

At 8:30 p.m. Dr. Levine gave the Superintendent's Report. He discussed the current air quality at the high school. At this time they do not need to clear asbestos from the B & C wings because the school has the proper ventilation.

At 8:40 p.m. a motion was made by Mrs. Lesperance, seconded by Mrs. Landry to accept the 3<sup>rd</sup> and final reading of the Non-member Student Policy. **UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.**

During Committee Forum Mrs. Harvey introduced Lindsay Poirier who will be the School Committee Student Representative this year replacing Matt Chamberlin.

Lindsay is currently in the junior class, she is secretary of Student Council, is currently on the National Honor Society and in the Marching Band.

Mr. Almquist made mention that he is not in favor of charging tuition if the District decides to move to an all day Kindergarten.

At 9:00 p.m. a motion was made by Mr. Landry, seconded by Mr. Almquist to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of Contract Negotiations and come out of Executive Session only for the purpose of adjournment. **UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.**

Respectfully submitted,

Monique Simard  
Recording Secretary

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
Joanne Forbes, District Secretary