

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

*October 9, 2008*

The Blackstone-Millville Regional District School Committee met in the library/media center of the Frederick W. Hartnett Middle School commencing at 7:00 p.m. with the following members present:

Toni M. Harvey, Chairperson  
Ann M. Lesperance, Vice Chairperson  
Lynn M. Landry, District Treasurer  
Catherine A. Robinson, Assistant District Treasurer  
Michael J. Buckley, Secretary  
Diane D. Robin  
Charles K. Singleton  
Steven J. Tringali

Also in attendance were Superintendent Christine D. Tyrie, Ed. D., Assistant Superintendent Kimberly B. Shaver-Hood, Student Representative Lindsay Poirier, and other interested parties.

Dr. Tyrie requested a moment of silence for Thomas Devlin, former school committee member.

***PUBLIC FORUM***

Ryan Donlon, Wayne Cousineau, Tim Galuza and Matthew Kane, members of the Blackstone Adult Basketball League, were present to request that the \$75 per night fee for the use of the gymnasium at the high school be waived. In past years they have given a scholarship to a graduating senior in place of paying user fees. Mrs. Landry explained that the facilities subcommittee is in the process of working on the policy and requested that there be a one time user fee of \$70.00. Following Mr. Buckley's explanation that according to district policy, the basketball league would have to be charged the full amount, \$75 per night, or waive the fee. Mrs. Lesperance suggested that the fee be waived for this year while the policy is reviewed.

**Motion:** It was moved by Mrs. Landry, seconded by Mrs. Lesperance, to waive the fee for the Blackstone Adult Basketball League for the use of the gymnasium at the high school from now through the last Wednesday in March, 2009. The vote was **7 approved, 1 opposed (Mr. Buckley)**

***APPOINTMENTS***

**Suzan B. Cullen**

Mrs. Cullen and members of the Full Day Kindergarten Subcommittee were present to obtain approval for the full day kindergarten program. They reviewed the highlights of their research, the cost and the benefits of a full day kindergarten program. Following a discussion, six (6) members of the District School Committee indicated they were in favor of

tabling the response to the Kindergarten Subcommittee until October 23, 2008. Two (2) members indicated they were not in favor of tabling the vote. (*Mrs. Landry and Mr. Tringali*)

## **REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT – Christine D. Tyrie, Ed. D.**

### **Medicaid Billing**

Dr. Tyrie reported she met with Mrs. Simard who processes Medicaid billing. That process is under control and at this point Dr. Tyrie noted she feels capable of answering any questions regarding that area. She noted she wishes to postpone meetings with the Finance Committee Chairs pending an update.

### **BICO**

Dr. Tyrie reported she attended a BICO meeting last Tuesday. BICO is now considered the largest collaborative in Massachusetts and it is expanding its services above and beyond special education. She noted Easton was previously approved, Walpole has expressed their intent to come on board and tonight she would like committee members to vote to include the Town of Norton.

**Motion:** It was moved by Mr. Singleton, seconded by Mrs. Robinson and ***unanimously voted*** to amend the preamble of the existing agreement of the Bi-County Collaborative to include the School Committee of the Town of Norton, MA.

### **Enrollment Figures**

Dr. Tyrie addressed enrollment figures noting that enrollment is gathered in three ways: 1) opening day enrollment (which is a body count); 2) October 1<sup>st</sup> data; and 3) foundation enrollment numbers used for Chapter 70 reporting. She informed members that we have five additional students this year compared to last year on this date. As of today, we have 2,167 students which include Pre-K – 12 in-district and out-of-district students, students receiving limited services who may not actually attend school in the District as well as those students from other districts attending as school choice students.

### **Substitute Teachers**

Dr. Tyrie informed the members that staff attendance data is being gathered and noted that in view of recently gathered data, the available permanent substitutes are not adequate to cover all absences. When teaching staff members provide coverage they receive \$21.50 per 45 minutes which equals \$115/day whereas permanent substitutes receive a flat rate of \$75/day. She suggested that rehiring permanent substitutes cut from this year's budget might be feasible.

## **REPORT OF THE ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT – Kimberly B. Shaver-Hood**

### **Personnel Update**

Ms. Shaver-Hood reviewed staff attendance numbers. She noted that to date, data collected shows that the total number of sick days used is 349 (this includes all staff) while personal days used is 35. It is intended to collect staff attendance breaking it down by the week thereby obtaining a better percentage. Discussion ensued regarding staff attendance and the types of reports that may be issued.

### **Observation**

**Motion:** It was moved by Mrs. Robinson, seconded by Mr. Singleton, and ***unanimously voted*** to allow Justin Hebert, a 2007 BMRHS graduate, following completion of

a CORI check, to observe classes in Physical Education at the John F. Kennedy Elementary School for a period of 45 minutes.

Members were informed of a variance to be held by the Blackstone Zoning Board on October 15, 2008 on the northwesterly corner of Federal and Ascension Hill. Also, on October 16, 2008 from 7:00–8:15 p.m., a District Council meeting will be held. Representatives from the School Councils and the Support Staff and Teachers' Unions have been invited.

### **First Grade**

Ms. Shaver-Hood informed members that Ann Spont (formerly a permanent sub) has been hired as a first grade teacher at B-1. Mrs. Sherman, school adjustment counselor, is involved in the transition process. There are 19 students in the classroom.

### **Non-Residents**

The issue of non-residents was addressed. From reports since the inception of this school year, five non-residents have been discovered and have been notified regarding termination of the students' attendance in the District. Ms. Shaver-Hood recognized local residents for provision of information and the police departments for cooperating in verification of non-residence.

### **Data Books**

Ms. Shaver-Hood distributed handouts for placement in member's data books. Included was a comparison by line item for each year going back five years and budget expended figures for the last five years.

### **Sewer Project**

The sewer project was reviewed by Ms. Shaver-Hood noting that it was 60% complete. However, it has been determined that the pipes draining out of the kitchen go down 14 feet and into a grease trap. Following several meetings, change orders to correct this unexpected problem will require a plumber. It appears this was caused by a drawing error prepared by Gale Associates.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

Dr. Tyrie reviewed the information received from the Department of Revenue, which had originally been e-mailed in error to Dr. Levine. The letter stated that the District had an excess of \$71,314 in E & D.

Dr. Tyrie has contacted Blackstone and Millville to meet and share this information. Letters have been sent to the towns to inform them that the excess will be deducted from their next assessment payment. Dr. Tyrie also reviewed a report from the district's accountant, James Eggert. (*See attached*)

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

Dr. Tyrie presented the Consent Agenda which included the minutes of the meeting of September 25<sup>th</sup>, several field trip requests and the warrants.

**Motion:** It was moved by Mrs. Robinson, seconded by Mrs. Lesperance and **voted 7 in favor, 1 abstained (Mrs. Robin)** to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

Chairperson Harvey also reviewed several requests for waivers for use of facilities.

- Motion:** It was moved by Mr. Buckley, seconded by Mr. Singleton and **unanimously voted** to waive the fee assessed to Girl Scout Troop 153.
- Motion:** it was moved by Mr. Buckley, seconded by Mrs. Robinson and **unanimously voted** to waive the fee assessed to BMYSO for the use of the gymnasium at MVL.
- Motion:** It was moved by Mrs. Robinson, seconded by Mr. Singleton and **unanimously voted** to waive the fee assessed to BMYSO for the use of the gymnasium at AFM.

### ***DISTRICT COMMITTEE REPORTS***

Mrs. Landry reported on the use of school facilities policy. There have been no changes and requested that the second reading be waived.

Mrs. Lesperance reminded members of the upcoming CoRE meeting which is scheduled for Thursday, October 30<sup>th</sup> from 7:00 to 9:00 PM at the middle school. She also asked that building principals include this information in their newsletters.

The next facilities meeting will be Tuesday, October 21<sup>st</sup> at the Complex.

Mr. Buckley stated that the Regional Agreement Subcommittee is in the forming stage.

### ***Lindsay Poirier***

Homecoming week-end will be October 17-18<sup>th</sup>; FBLA store is open; members of SADD are making students aware of teen suicide; and pictures were taken of class officers and clubs for the yearbook. Lindsay also reviewed band activities and the stats of the sports teams.

### ***COMMITTEE FORUM***

Mr. Singleton thanked Mrs. Tetreault, Mrs. Joliceur and National Grid for their presentation at the Millville Elementary School.

Mr. Buckley reviewed a meeting he attended for Chapter 70.

October 24<sup>th</sup> is Community Reading Day in the District.

**Motion:** At 10:30 p.m., it was moved by Mrs. Lesperance, seconded by Mr. Singleton and **unanimously voted** to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia A. Robinson  
Recording Secretary

**ATTEST:** \_\_\_\_\_  
Michael J. Buckley, District Secretary