

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

*December 17, 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, Asst. District Treasurer  
Michael J. Buckley, Secretary  
Diane C. Robin  
Charles K. Singleton  
Steven J. Tringali

Also in attendance were Superintendent Christine D. Tyrie, Ed., D., Assistant Superintendent Kimberly B. Shaver-Hood, FWHMS Principal Gabrielle Abrams, Assistant Principal Craig Juelis, BMRHS Principal Richard A. Porter and other interested parties.

***APPOINTMENTS***

**Gabrielle Abrams and Craig Juelis**

Chairperson Harvey welcomed Mrs. Abrams and Mr. Juelis to review MCAS results. This is the second consecutive year that the middle school has not achieved AYP in ELA and the fourth consecutive year not achieving AYP in Mathematics.

Mr. Juelis reviewed the statistics of the overall groups in ELA and mathematics. Mrs. Abrams and Mr. Juelis also discussed their improvement plan. They discussed the process they will use to choose students to participate in the after school math and ELA remediation program and also the tools they will use to help with open response questions.

**Richard Porter**

Mr. Porter reviewed the MCAS results for the high school which indicated that they met AYP in ELA and mathematics. There are approximately six students from the class of 2009 that moved into the district and he is waiting for their MCAS results. There are approximately eight students that have to pass MCAS for the class of 2010.

Mrs. Jill Pilla-Gallerani joined Mr. Porter to discuss the special education students and MCAS. She gave a general overview of their ELA and math. The students consistently performed above state scores in all areas. She also reviewed the areas they will focus on in both ELA and math. She also reviewed their strengths and her action plan for the students. Mrs. Pilla-Gallerani would like the committee to consider an alternative to the students receiving a diploma and their participation in graduation.

Mrs. Ellie Conrad made a presentation on the science portion of MCAS. She reviewed scores in both physics and biology. She also reviewed plans for improving test scores in Biology I and for practice test taking techniques.

Mr. Charles Swenson presented MCAS information for the math department. He reviewed the student's strengths and weaknesses. Some of the areas of concern include distinguishing between variable expressions and equations, recognizing equivalent expressions and some advanced students scoring poorly. He also reviewed their action plan which includes open response practice for freshmen and sophomores.

Mr. Campopiano made a presentation for the English portion of MCAS. He reviewed the strengths, areas of concern and their action plans to improve scores.

### ***PUBLIC FORUM***

Chairperson Harvey asked if there were any concerns for public forum; there was no response.

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

#### **General Ledger**

Dr. Tyrie reviewed the reconciliation of the December General Ledger.

#### **Director of Student Services**

There are two candidates that Dr. Tyrie and Ms. Shaver-Hood interviewed for the position of Director of Student Services. Dr. Tyrie stated that teachers are taking on responsibilities at building levels as well as team chairs taking on more responsibilities. This position will be advertised again in January.

#### **MARS Meeting**

Dr. Tyrie and Ms. Shaver-Hood attended a MARS meeting and they do not expect any additional cuts in Chapter 70; however, next year will probably be the worst year. They feel that level funding is the best case scenario.

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

#### **Personnel Update**

Ms. Shaver-Hood stated that Melissa Pilla will be teaching science for the remainder of the school year at the high school; Tim Sullivan has been appointed as a long term sub at the high school; the posting for the groundskeeper position will be posted soon and the fourth grade position is closed.

#### **Sewer Project**

There will be a sewer meeting tomorrow and the project is near completion.

### ***NEW BUSINESS***

#### **Ratification of Support Staff Agreement**

Dr. Tyrie stated that the ratification of the support staff agreement will be postponed as it is not quite ready.

#### **High School Students**

Members discussed various ways to have our students become involved and want to attend high school at BMRHS and not out-of-district.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

Dr. Tyrie reviewed the Consent Agenda which included the warrants and one home schooling request.

**Motion:** It was moved by Mrs. Lesperance, seconded by Mr. Singleton and ***unanimously voted*** to approve Item A of the Consent Agenda.

**Motion:** It was moved by Mrs. Landry, seconded by Mrs. Robinson to approve Item B (home schooling request) of the Consent Agenda. ***The vote was 7 in favor, 1 opposed (Mr. Buckley)***

## **DISTRICT COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **Policy**

Mrs. Landry read the first reading of the MRSA Policy. There were several issues discussed and members agreed that changes should be made prior to the second reading.

**Motion:** It was moved by Mr. Singleton, seconded by Mrs. Lesperance and ***unanimously voted*** to approve the first reading of the MRSA Policy with changes discussed by members.

## **COMMITTEE FORUM**

Mrs. Lesperance stated that the next CoRE meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 13, 2009 at the FWH Middle School.

Mr. Buckley informed members that negotiations will commence between the Town of Blackstone and Verizon FIOS. He suggested that several school committee members be part of the town's committee during the negotiations. Dr. Tyrie will contact Town Administrator Kenneth Bianchi to discuss this matter.

**Motion:** At 9:55 p.m., it was moved by Mr. Buckley, seconded by Mrs. Lesperance, to go into executive session for the purpose of litigation 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***.

**Motion:** At 10:25 p.m., it was moved by Mrs. Landry, seconded by Mr. Singleton and ***unanimously voted*** to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia A. Robinson  
Recording Secretary

ATTEST:  
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Michael J. Buckley, District Secretary