

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

December 4, 2008

The Blackstone-Millville Regional District School Committee met in the library/media center of the FWH 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, District 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, BMEF President Joan DuRocher, BMRHS Assistant Principal Keith Ducharme, Guidance Counselors Maureen Tessier and Lindsey Charron, Student Representative Lindsay Poirier, and other interested parties.

Following the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the US, a moment of silence was held in memory of the mother of Mr. Richard A. Porter, Principal of BMRHS.

APPOINTMENTS

Lindsay Poirier

Chairperson Harvey welcomed Student Representative Lindsay Poirier. Lindsay is the recipient of the Superintendent's Academic Excellence Award. Dr. Tyrie presented Lindsay with the award and spoke about the activities that Lindsay is involved with in and out of school.

Joan DuRocher

Chairperson Harvey welcomed Joan DuRocher to award the BMEF grants for this school year. The primary fundraiser for BMEF is their annual golf tournament which was held in August. The money that is raised is returned to the teachers and students in the district through the grants.

Outreach to Middle School Students

Mr. Ducharme, Mrs. Tessier, Mrs. Charron and Mrs. Abrams discussed the transition of students from the middle school to the high school. In past years when the middle school students were housed at the high school, there was not a problem with students transferring to out-of-district schools when entering ninth grade. Many incoming ninth grade students transfer to BVT or Tri-County each year. Their goal is to retain as many students as possible. Mr. Ducharme discussed Step-Up Day which was very successful this year along with their three to five year vision.

Public Forum

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

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

Town of Blackstone

Dr. Tyrie and Ms. Shaver-Hood met with the Town of Blackstone to discuss ways that the town and school district can work together to cut costs. Mr. Bianchi indicated that there will be a budget shortfall of \$400,000. Dr. Tyrie also met with a representative from the senior citizen center and the representative asked if the district would be able to print their newsletter at a cost. Dr. Tyrie will speak with the librarians in both towns and try to work cooperatively and jointly.

Radio Station WOON

Dr. Tyrie was on radio station WOON to talk about education and the school district. She also met the publisher from *The Call* and he would like to do articles on a weekly basis for the district.

Retirees

Dr. Tyrie and Ms. Shaver-Hood reviewed the new process that will be used when hiring retirees and distributed a form that will be used during this process.

Millville Water

Included in member's folders is the protocol for the water situation in Millville.

Cross Country

Chairperson Harvey reviewed a letter she received from Kevin Maloney regarding students at the middle school not participating in cross country. She suggested that someone ask students at the middle school if they are interested in participating in this program. Mr. Buckley suggested Ms. Dupre be involved as the Athletic Director.

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

Personnel Update

Ms. Shaver-Hood reviewed the personnel update which included the appointment of Ms. Melvin who will replace Mrs. Pasciucco as the pre-school teacher at the Millville Elementary School.

Director of Student Services

Ms. Shaver-Hood requested approval from members to interview two candidates on December 9th for the position of Director of Student Services. Ms. Shaver-Hood also requested volunteers for the search committee; Chairperson Harvey volunteered.

Job Description

Ms. Shaver-Hood included a copy of the job description for the groundskeeper position in member's packets. Following a discussion regarding the salary for this position, it was agreed that this person should have the qualifications to be able to do minor plumbing and electrical work. It was explained that the groundskeeper position is not a full time position therefore, she would like to have this person directed by one person and he/she can be sent where needed in the district.

Motion: It was moved by Mrs. Robinson, seconded by Mrs. Lesperance and **voted unanimously** to approve the job description for the groundskeeper position and to include in the job description that this person should be asbestos certified.

Sewer Project

The target date for completion of the sewer project is still mid-December. Early Village requested that we use natural gas and not propane. After comparing costs it was agreed to change to natural gas.

The Senior Citizens have requested help from the district by allowing them to purchase lunches on Wednesdays and Fridays. They will be charged \$3.00 each. It was agreed that the district will provide the menu and have it prepared at the middle or high school and bill them through the food service department. Mrs. Lesperance suggested asking the Millville senior citizens if they would like to participate in this program. This will begin on January 1st.

Motion: It was moved by Mr. Buckley, seconded by Mrs. Lesperance and **unanimously voted** to approve the district to provide lunch to the senior citizens in Blackstone at the cost of \$3.00 per person for this school year and if the town of Millville requests to participate, the district will also provide lunch for them.

NEW BUSINESS

District Counsel Harold D. Gould, Jr. was present to discuss the ratification of the teacher's contract. Attorney Gould reviewed the matters that were agreed. (*Please see attached.*)

Motion: It was moved by Mr. Buckley, seconded by Mrs. Robinson and **unanimously voted** that the Committee approve the Collective Bargaining Agreement between the Regional School District and the Regional School District Educators' Association for the period commencing on September 1, 2008 and ending on August 31, 2010.

CONSENT AGENDA

Dr. Tyrie presented the Consent Agenda which included the minutes of the meeting of November 20th, a home schooling request, several field trip requests, and the warrants.

Motion: It was moved by Mrs. Lesperance, seconded by Mrs. Landry and **voted unanimously** to approve the Consent Agenda but to hold the home schooling request.

Motion: It was moved by Mrs. Lesperance, seconded by Mrs. Robinson and **voted 6 in favor, 1 opposed (Mr. Buckley)** to approve the home schooling request.

DISTRICT COMMITTEE REPORTS

Regional Agreement

Mr. Buckley stated that he met with Mr. Tringali and Mr. Singleton to review the Regional Agreement. He will meet with Attorney Gould to review his copy and they will work to bring the Agreement up to date.

Lindsay Poirier

Lindsay reported that the pep rally will be held the half day before holiday vacation; the Penny War is going well; the canned food drive will be held during the week before the holiday vacation; NHS is sponsoring the *Hats and Mittens Drive* and members went on a field trip to *A Christmas Carol* and this Friday night is *HOOP NIGHT*.

COMMITTEE FORUM

Chairperson Harvey stated that she, District Counsel Harold D. Gould, Jr. and the attorney from Millville are working on the lease with the Town of Millville and they are hoping to have it completed by the end of the year.

Motion: At 9:35 p.m., it was moved by Mrs. Lesperance, seconded by Mrs. Landry and ***unanimously voted***, to go into executive session for the purpose of negotiations and the Committee would come out of executive session for the purpose of adjourning the meeting.

Motion: At 10:00 p.m., it was moved by Mrs. Robinson, seconded by Mrs. Lesperance and ***unanimously voted*** to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia A. Robinson
Recording Secretary

ATTEST:

Michael J. Buckley, District Secretary