

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

*February 12, 2009*

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  
Michael J. Buckley, District Secretary  
Diane C. Robin  
Charles K. Singleton  
Steven J. Tringali

*Catherine A. Robinson was not present.*

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

A quorum being present, Chairperson Harvey called the meeting to order which was followed by the pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States.

**APPOINTMENTS**

BMR High School Principal Richard A. Porter, Assistant Principal Keith A. Ducharme, Guidance Counselor Lindsey A. Charron and FWH Middle School Principal Gabrielle T. Abrams reviewed the time-line they have been working on to help encourage students to attend BMR High School when they enter ninth grade. Mr. Ducharme reviewed Step-up Days which will be held on April 14 and 16, 2009.

March 18<sup>th</sup> is "9<sup>th</sup> Grade Orientation Night" for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students and their parents. It will be held in the high school auditorium at 6:00 PM.

Mr. Porter discussed the MCAS status which is good news – all seniors have passed and eligible to receive their diplomas. Three members of the junior class still need to pass MCAS; retests will begin in March. They have a math tutoring program that is held on Tuesdays and Thursdays and it is funded through a state grant.

Mr. Porter also discussed NEASC. He reviewed the self study the high school went through in 2002-2004. The school was placed on warning status following this self study. The high school has satisfactorily corrected the problems so they are no longer on warning status. The next self study will begin in 2012.

Mr. Porter stated that he is required to report to NEASC any substantive changes that take place in the high school. These changes usually take place due to budget cuts. A big concern is the media center, loss of teachers, guidance personnel, dropping two or three

sports, etc. He has to send a report to them by March 1<sup>st</sup>. If there are substantive changes NEASC must be notified within 90 days.

Mr. Porter also reported on a committee that is composed of Mrs. Harvey, Ms. Smutok, Mr. Swenson and himself that met to discuss an alternative diploma because the state will not allow students that do not pass MCAS to receive a diploma. They recommended three different standards for receiving alternate recognition. The first is a *Diploma*; the second is a *Certificate of Achievement* for students that have passed all BMR requirements but not the requirements for MCAS and the third is a *Certificate of Completion* for a student who was unable to pass MCAS and also did not pass BMR graduation requirements.

Following a discussion regarding number three of the alternative certificates, it was agreed that the wording should be changed and be specific when referring to the program of study. It was agreed to use the term "*school committee approved program of study*".

**Motion:** It was moved by Mrs. Lesperance, seconded by Mr. Buckley and ***unanimously voted*** to accept the three alternatives for diplomas as presented by Mr. Porter with the change to number three as stated above.

### ***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.***

- Dr. Tyrie stated that ANP is going to pick up 30% of the cost of the remaining work to be done following the energy audit while National Grid will pay 70%.

**Motion:** It was moved by Mrs. Lesperance, seconded by Mr. Singleton and ***unanimously voted*** to allow Mrs. Tetreault to accept the donation from ANP to cover the cost of the remaining work following the energy audit.

- Dr. Tyrie updated members on the water situation in Millville. She was informed by Helen Coffin that the town will be adding a salt bag of filtration. They have a cost estimate from the company they are working with and are waiting for a second quote. The school committee is scheduled to meet with the finance committee on April 1, 2009.
- Members are scheduled to meet with the Blackstone Finance Committee on March 11<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 PM.
- Dr. Tyrie distributed a letter she received from the Blackstone Selectmen requesting a reduction in their assessment. The amount the selectmen are requesting is the same amount that the school district returned to them earlier this year. Dr. Tyrie has drafted a response to Mr. Bianchi clarifying that the district did send them a check dated October 9, 2008.
- Members agreed with Dr. Tyrie's request that the meeting of February 26<sup>th</sup> be cancelled and rescheduled for March 5<sup>th</sup>.

- Dr. Tyrie stated that five to six students from Hopedale will play ice hockey next year. Dr. Tyrie and Mr. Porter feel that if a practice bus is not provided for the students it would help cut expenses or raising the cost of user fees to help defray the cost of ice time. Dr. Tyrie stated that if they were to increase user fees, they would be doubled - \$800 per student.

Mr. Buckley would like to get some input on dissolving the program because of all the money that this program requires. It was requested that this item be placed on the next agenda for further discussion.

- Dr. Tyrie has set up a stabilization fund to be used in the future for capital projects. The consensus of members was to have District Counsel review the details of the fund.
- Dr. Tyrie updated members on the community bulletin boards that will be used in each school and on our website; the intern in the superintendent's office is working on a district newsletter; an e-mail has been sent to staff allowing them to use stability balls and a meeting to redesign the website will be held on March 17<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 PM.

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

- Mrs. Robin and Mrs. Lesperance will join Ms. Shaver-Hood to discuss a parent/teacher conference format on March 3<sup>rd</sup> at 3:30 PM.
- Ms. Shaver-Hood met with a representative from Medicaid and was informed that the district can go back through two years of invoices and she feels this will increase the revenue for the district.
- Ms. Shaver-Hood will be meeting with a representative from the insurance company to discuss the rates for the upcoming school year. They are anticipating a 6.8% increase.
- Ms. Shaver-Hood and Donna Scungio will be meeting with Jim Eggert to discuss revenues.
- The food service budget is in the negative. Ms. Shaver-Hood has been monitoring this very closely and at this time we are about \$80,000 in the hole but revenues for the month of January have not been applied. Ms. Shaver-Hood will continue to update members.
- The expense ledger was reviewed and the transportation and substitute accounts were discussed in detail.

**New Business**

Dr. Tyrie reviewed the physical restraint policy. The policy has been in the district but never adopted.

**Motion:** It was moved by Mr. Buckley, seconded by Mrs. Landry and **unanimously voted** to forgo the three readings of the Physical Restraint Policy and adopt said policy.

Dr. Tyrie also reviewed the principal evaluation form.

**Motion:** It was moved by Mrs. Lesperance, seconded by Mrs. Landry and **unanimously voted** to adopt the Principal Performance Standards.

Mrs. Landry requested an approval of the third reading of *Policy KF-E, Community Use of Facilities Fees*.

**Motion:** It was moved by Mr. Singleton, seconded by Mr. Buckley and ***unanimously voted*** to adopt *Policy KF-E*.

Mrs. Landry stated that the policy subcommittee members are working on the student activity account policy.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

Dr. Tyrie presented the Consent Agenda which included the minutes of the meeting of January 20 and 22, 2009, field trip requests, requests for practicum hours and the warrants.

**Motion:** It was moved by Mrs. Lesperance, seconded by Mrs. Landry and ***unanimously voted*** to approve the Consent Agenda but holding the minutes of January 20 because Mrs. Landry, Mrs. Lesperance and Mr. Buckley were not present at the meeting.

**Motion:** It was moved by Mr. Singleton, seconded by Mr. Tringali and ***voted four in favor and three abstained*** to accept the minutes of January 20, 2009.

### **DISTRICT COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Student Representative Lindsay Poirier reported on STUCO attending the MASC Conference in March; students made valentine cards for the senior citizens on February 10; there will be a talent show on March 24<sup>th</sup>; NHS held the *Empty Bowl Project* which was a huge success; *Just Jeans January* was also a great success. FBLA is holding a fundraiser for *March of Dimes* and *Mr. BMR* will be held on March 12<sup>th</sup>. Lindsay also reviewed sports which included the boys' basketball team qualifying for the Clark Tournament.

**Motion:** At 9:07 p.m., it was moved by Mr. Buckley and seconded by Mr. Tringali, to go 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***.

**Motion:** At 9:30 p.m., it was moved by Mrs. Landry, seconded by Mr. Buckley and ***unanimously voted*** to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia A. Robinson  
Recording Secretary

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