

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

Open Hearing

FY10 Proposed Budget

March 12, 2009

The Blackstone-Millville Regional District School Committee met in the Molony-Sullivan Auditorium at BMR High School commencing at 7:00 p.m. with the following members present:

Toni M. Harvey, Chairperson
Ann M. Lesperance, Vice Chairperson
Lynn M. Landry, Treasurer
Catherine A. Robinson, Assistant 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 and other interested parties.

Chairperson Harvey welcomed the public to the Open Hearing which was followed by the pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States.

Chairperson Harvey proceeded to inform residents the procedure of building the level dollars budget that the school committee prepared.

Dr. Tyrie showed a PowerPoint presentation on the budget. She reviewed the back up material for the budget including revenues, capital costs, FY09 and FY10 comparisons of town revenues, grant information, etc.

Chairperson Harvey opened the question and answer session.

John Eldridge of Blackstone stated that he was pleased when he looked at the budget. He felt that the committee sent out a message to residents that this is not a time to think about passing increased costs to people in the communities. Mr. Eldridge asked if the budget increases over the past three years included the additional contribution from the towns. Dr. Tyrie responded that the additional contribution was included. Mr. Eldridge did state that he was disappointed with the raises that went to all school employees; he feels all salaries should be frozen.

Connie Perreault, Blackstone Board of Selectmen, asked for clarification on the E & D funds. Dr. Tyrie stated that the remaining balance is \$550,000 and Chairperson Harvey

stated that the committee has discussed the future of the remaining money but she does not feel she can give a definite answer at this time what will happen with the money.

Mr. Buckley stated that the district has new administration and he feels they have tremendous oversight at this time. He also stated that following the certification of the budget, it can only be decreased, not increased, so this is the optimal budget the district would have.

Chairperson Harvey talked briefly about full day kindergarten explaining that because of the state grant the district received, they are able to offer full day kindergarten. Chairperson Harvey introduced Director of Curriculum Suzan Cullen who explained the full day kindergarten program.

Chairperson Harvey stated that the cost to fund full day kindergarten next year is only \$40,000 because of the \$105,000 transition to full day kindergarten grant the district received. She also discussed the many ways the central office has made cuts to the budget including one and one half less administrators, and six less teachers.

Jackie Miner of Blackstone spoke on her displeasure with every staff member receiving a raise.

Charlie Sawyer, Blackstone Board of Selectmen, voiced his concerns with exclusionary costs.

Mr. Buckley responded to Mr. Sawyer's concerns by explaining that the figures are derived from four categories and by law they cannot be in the operating budget. The four categories being transportation, community use, equipment ad debt service. Mr. Buckley also explained that if our school district was not a regional district, the town would have to pay for the transportation in its entirety.

The open hearing meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

At 8:25 p.m., a quorum being present, Chairperson Harvey called the school committee meeting to order.

Appointments

Director of Curriculum Suzan Cullen made a presentation on the overview of the Education Data Warehouse. She distributed a packet to members showing the different information that is now available on DESE's website including MCAS reports. This information is available through the Security Portal.

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 she and Mrs. Robin will meet to discuss strategic planning. She distributed a copy of a plan that she would like to use as a starting place.

- Dr. Tyrie updated members on the asbestos matters. Mr. Matilainen of Tighe & Bond will provide Dr. Tyrie with a list of items that will be worked on during the summer. Abatement of asbestos in the life skills room will have to be completed prior to the construction of the new bathroom. District Counsel feels this project needs to be bid out again. The location of the bathroom for the life skills class was also discussed.

Mr. Bacon has looked into the removal of the asbestos. He received three quotes and will be using a company from Rhode Island that will charge \$500 every time the 55 gallon drum is emptied.

There is a box that turns on the irrigation that is located above the ceiling. Mr. Bacon will ask Mr. Desquenne to move the box outside of the ceiling so the custodians will not have to get suited up and use the containment unit every time they need to turn the irrigation on or off.

- Dr. Tyrie stated that the history requirement portion of MCAS has been postponed for two years.

Report of the Assistant Superintendent – Kimberly B. Shaver-Hood

- Ms. Shaver-Hood presented the following change orders for the sewer project.

CO #11 – during the tie-in, pipes needed to be rerouted to a home that is located next to Early Village costing \$3,417.50.

CO #12 – to purchase a fence to surround an electrical box located in the field and also to place a cover on the box at a cost of \$2,259.39.

Motion: It was moved by Mrs. Robinson, seconded by Mrs. Landry and ***unanimously voted*** to accept Change Order #'s 11 and 12.

- Ms. Shaver-Hood reviewed the following articles that will be placed on the Warrants at the Annual Town Meetings.

The first Article is to see if the Town will vote to approve the establishment of a Stabilization Fund effective July 1, 2009 for the Blackstone-Millville Regional School District pursuant to, and in accordance with, the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 71, Section 16G1/2; or take any other action in relation thereto.

The second Article is to see if the Town will vote to authorize the members of the Blackstone-Millville Regional District School Committee to be compensated for their services as such members and to set the amount of said compensation at \$1,800.00 for the Chairman and \$1,500.00 for each of the other members, such compensation to be paid in three (3) equal installments in the months of July, November and March provided, however, that no such installment shall be paid a) to a member who has not attended at least 60% of the meetings of the District School Committee (excluding, however, any meetings not attended by such member due to the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 268A) in the twelve (12) month period prior to July 1, November 1 or March 1, as the case may be, if such member has been a

member for twelve (12) or more months prior to each of said dates; or b) to a member who has not attended at least 60% of the meetings of the District School Committee (excluding, however, any meetings not attended by such member due to the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 268A) in the period prior to each of said dates if such member has not been a member for twelve (12) or more months prior to each of said dates; or take any other action in relation thereto.

Motion: It was moved by Mrs. Robinson, seconded by Mrs. Lesperance and ***unanimously voted*** to approve the warrant articles that will be presented to the Towns.

- Ms. Shaver-Hood updated members on the position of food service director. The position will be shared with Bellingham and the cost will be split 55/45. She will advertise for the position soon.
- The new COBRA law was reviewed and Ms. Shaver-Hood explained that eligible COBRA participants will be required to pay 35% of the cost and the remaining 65% will be subsidized by the Federal Government.
- Ms. Shaver-Hood reviewed the expenditure ledger. She also reviewed a one-time purchase list.

Motion: It was moved by Mr. Buckley, seconded by Mrs. Landry and ***unanimously voted*** to allow Ms. Shaver-Hood to spend no more than \$175,000.00 on one-time purchases.

Consent Agenda

Dr. Tyrie presented the Consent Agenda which included a field trip request and the warrants.

Motion: It was moved by Mr. Buckley, seconded by Mrs. Landry and ***unanimously voted*** to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

Dr. Tyrie informed members that Mrs. Abrams requested approval for middle school students to travel to the high school to attend a play.

Motion: It was moved by Mrs. Landry, seconded by Mrs. Lesperance and ***unanimously voted*** to allow the middle school students to travel to the high school.

District Committee Reports

Mrs. Lesperance requested information be sent to her for the school newsletters.

The next CoRE meeting will be held on April 16th and will be dedicated to the budget.

Ms. Shaver-Hood reviewed the user fee requests. Paula Ryan requested the fee be waived for the Andrew Bibeault Variety Show.

Motion: It was moved by Mrs. Lesperance, seconded by Mrs. Landry and ***unanimously voted*** to approve the request for the fee to be waived for the Andrew Bibeault Variety Show.

Committee Forum

Chairperson Harvey stated that the budget will be certified at the school committee meeting of Wednesday, March 25th. Dr. Tyrie will also discuss her six month assessment at the meeting of March 25th.

Mr. Porter will attend the meeting of April 8th to discuss the ice hockey program.

Motion: At 9:25 p.m., it was moved by Mr. Buckley, 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 conducting a budget hearing. The motion was followed by a roll call vote that resulted in a ***unanimous vote***.

Motion: At 9:45 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