

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

March 5, 2009

The Blackstone-Millville Regional District School Committee met in the library/media center of the FWH Middle School commencing at 7:00 p.m. The meeting was called to order. The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America was recited.

The following members were present as follows:

Toni M. Harvey, Chairperson
Michael J. Buckley, District Secretary
Lynn Landry, District Treasurer
Catherine A. Robinson, Asst. District Treasurer
Steven Tringali, Member
Charles Singleton, Member

Ann M. Lesperance and Diane C. Robin were not present.

Also present at the meeting were Christine D. Tyrie, Ed. D, Superintendent of Schools and Kimberly Shaver-Hood, Assistant Superintendent of Schools.

Under appointments Ethan Roe of the BMYBL (Blackstone Millville Youth Basketball League) spoke on sponsoring a summer basketball camp this summer for the 5th year. The camp will run from August 11 -14th. A brochure was distributed to members.

Mr. Roe stated that last year out of 33 campers 32 were from Blackstone and Millville. They have received very good feedback over the years. He stated that they had over \$300 left over last year to start things up for this year. Mr. Roe made a request that the fee for the use of facilities be \$200.

Mrs. Harvey stated that the camp would be placed in group three and the fee would be \$280 for the use of facilities. A discussion ensued regarding the fee.

Motion: It was moved by Mr. Buckley, seconded by Mr. Tringali and *voted 5 in favor, 1 abstained (Mr. Singleton)* that the fee would be \$140.

Dr. Tyrie gave the Report of the Superintendent. She met with Ken Lombardi from EBS Foran Insurance and Advisory Services to discuss the health care for next year. The proposed increase for next year is 6.8% however; the increase may be able to be brought down to 5% if an increase in co-pays is implemented. The increase would be a \$5 increase in office visits and a \$25 increase in emergency room visits. Medex 3 to Medex 2 may also be revised. Changing this plan would require MIIA meeting with 20 impacted members to review member specific impact.

Mr. Buckley would like to see Mr. Hartnett involved in the discussions for health care since he is very experienced in this field and was able to negotiate a 0% increase a few years ago.

Motion: A motion was made by Mrs. Landry, seconded by Mr. Singleton and *unanimously voted* to ask Dr. Tyrie to inform Mr. Lombardi to move forward with groups 3 and 4 to reduce the health care increase and also to bring Mr. Hartnett in on the negotiations.

Mrs. Harvey requested Dr. Tyrie to continue to be at the head of this process.

Dr. Tyrie stated that there are three good candidates for Special Education Director that the District will pursue. None of the candidates have experience but all have their certification. Interviews will be held on March 26th.

Dr. Tyrie stated that Ms. Shaver-Hood and Ms. Scungio met with accountant Jim Eggert to review the current year revenue projection. Information on this will be brought to the next meeting.

Dr. Tyrie informed members that they are in the process of getting quotes for the cost to abate both the B and C wings of the high school of asbestos. She would like to get separate prices for each wing and an estimate of how long it will take to complete this because it needs to be completed during the summer.

Ms. Shaver-Hood gave the Report of the Assistant Superintendent.

Ms. Shaver-Hood explained to members that she would like to create a stabilization fund. Following a discussion, the following motion was made. Mr. Buckley asked that this be explained at the Open Hearing so the townspeople understand the reasoning for the stabilization fund.

Motion: It was moved by Mr. Buckley, seconded by Mrs. Landry and *unanimously voted* that pursuant to, and in accordance with the provisions of MA General Laws, Chapter 71, Section 16G.5, the District establish a stabilization fund effective July 1, 2009.

Ms. Shaver-Hood reported that everything is hooked up with the sewer project but they are in need of one additional float. Ms. Shaver-Hood requested approval from the committee to move forward with purchasing the float.

Motion: It was moved by Mrs. Landry, seconded by Mr. Buckley and *unanimously voted* to approve the request for approval of Change Order #10 during installation of the wet wells. The motion includes the addition of a low float at the cost of \$1585.43.

Ms. Shaver-Hood reviewed personnel updates including the appointments of Joanne Archetto as a library para-professional and Heidi Gambach as a part time kindergarten aide.

The Parent Teacher Conference Committee met on March 3rd to address Article 6, Section E of the Agreement. The committee would like to have additional time and dialogue between teachers and parents while not affecting time on learning. The committee would like to pilot the program in place of a portion of the Professional Development Day in the fall per contractual agreement with teachers. Dr. Tyrie feels it may not be beneficial to take away professional

development time from the teachers; professional development time should not be looked at as less valuable than parent teacher conferences.

Ms. Shaver-Hood stated that she had conferences in the afternoon as well as evening at the middle school last year and the afternoons were as successful as the evening.

The Consent Agenda was reviewed by the school committee. It was mentioned by Mrs. Harvey that she would like to have the Life Skills field trips listed for the entire year at the beginning of the next school year.

Motion: It was moved by Mr. Buckley, seconded by Mr. Singleton and *unanimously voted* to accept the Consent Agenda of March 5th 2009 including warrants, field trip requests for the life skills/language based class and a senior class trip to Six Flags on June 1, 2009.

Mrs. Landry spoke on District Policy. They are currently working on the student activity account policy.

Ms. Shaver-Hood reviewed the Use of Facilities policy placed in the member packets.

Mr. Buckley stated that there were no new items for Regional Agreement.

Under Committee Forum Mr. Singleton expressed his condolences for the loss of the Uxbridge Superintendent.

Mr. Singleton read a newsletter sent by Middle School Principal Mrs. Abrams where she talked about bullying in the school and how it is difficult to deal with.

The Subcommittee for diploma language met to discuss procedure of what will occur during high school graduation. The intent will be brought forth to the committee before the high school handbook is printed.

Motion: At 8:20 p.m., it was moved by Mr. Singleton and seconded by Mrs. Robinson 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*.

Respectfully submitted,

Monique F. Simard
Recording Secretary

ATTEST: _____
Michael J. Buckley, District Secretary