

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

April 30, 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:

Michael J. Buckley, Chairman
Ann M. Lesperance, Vice Chairperson
Catherine A. Robinson, Asst. Treasurer
Charles K. Singleton, District Secretary
John J. Eldridge
Diane C. Robin
Steven J. Tringali

Lynn M. Landry 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, Chairman Buckley called the meeting to order which was followed by the pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States and a moment of silence for the father of JFK teacher Linda Taintor, and also for John Sitnik.

Consent Agenda

Dr. Tyrie presented the Consent Agenda which included the minutes of the meeting of March 5, 2009, field trip requests, and the warrants.

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

Chairman's Remarks

Chairman Buckley welcomed John Eldridge to the District School Committee. He also voiced his displeasure with the towns finance committees. He asked members to meet next Thursday, May 7th, at the middle school with both boards of selectmen and finance committees to explain their situation and answer any questions they may have regarding the budget. Mr. Eldridge suggested meeting with the boards quarterly.

Public Forum

Chairman Buckley asked if there were any concerns for public forum; there was no response.

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

Ms. Shaver-Hood received a call from National Grid regarding an energy audit for the high school, JFK and AFM next week. National Grid indicated they have some money available to help with the cost of the audit.

Millville Elementary School received several awards for their *Power to Save Campaign*. Ms. Shaver-Hood has noticed a change in the electric bill.

Cameras will be installed at the Millville Elementary School in early spring. The police department received a grant to help defray the cost.

The bridge on upper Main Street in Blackstone will be closed on Monday and Tuesday of next week; this will affect a couple of buses.

Rubbish bids have been sent out; a recommendation will be submitted to members at the end of May for approval.

Two applications have been received for the position of Food Service Director. Ms. Shaver-Hood will be conducting interviews in mid-May.

Ms. Shaver-Hood will meet with members of the Educators' Association to begin step negotiations. There will be three school committee members and three association members. The meeting will be held on May 7th at 3:30 p.m. in the library/media center at the high school.

Ms. Shaver-Hood reviewed the expenditure ledger including expenses for athletics.

Report of the Superintendent – Christine D. Tyrie, Ed. D.

Dr. Tyrie reviewed the most recent revenue situation including cuts in circuit breaker and regional transportation. When Dr. Tyrie learns more about the stimulus money she will notify members.

The article for the stabilization fund has been removed from the warrants for Blackstone and Millville.

Dr. Tyrie explained Arbour Counseling Services to members. Arbour Counseling provides staff on-site to work with students at the middle and high schools. It would be our responsibility to set up the initial referral and provide a space for the therapist to meet with the student. This service would be provided through the family's health insurance.

Dr. Tyrie and Mrs. Robin met with approximately 30 community members to discuss strategic planning. They received a lot of feedback regarding the mission statement and strengths and weaknesses of the district. The school committee will be involved with this process some time in May.

A letter was sent home with students and placed on the website regarding the swine flu.

Enrollment for incoming 9th grade students at BVT is 32 students; none are special needs students. Mrs. Robin asked Dr. Tyrie to find out how many special needs students applied.

Dr. Tyrie reviewed Virtual High School. We would be able to offer on-line courses for our students. We would have 10 seats per semester available and it would cost approximately \$10,000.

Dr. Tyrie spoke with Mr. Porter and Mr. Ducharme about graduation. They discussed making several changes. A discussion followed regarding the diplomas and who should hand them to the students.

Old Business

Chairman Buckley stated that he would like to make appointments of sub-committee assignments at the next meeting. Sub-committees include policy, communications, facilities and regional agreement.

New Business

The meeting schedule for 2009/2010 was reviewed. It was agreed to make several changes. The schedule will be voted on at the next meeting.

Dr. Tyrie planned to send out a mass mailing to residents in Blackstone and Millville regarding the budget during the first week of May. Mr. Eldridge feels that we will hear negative feedback because of the cost. He agrees with her but not by spending more money and suggested using Cable 8 and our website. Mrs. Robin felt the cost would be worth it since it will go to all residents.

District Committee Reports

Communications: Mrs. Lesperance stated that the last update has been submitted to the schools for their newsletters.

Facilities: Ms. Shaver-Hood presented the following waiver requests:

Motion: It was moved by Mrs. Lesperance, seconded by Mr. Eldridge and ***unanimously voted*** to waive the fee for *BMAA Tee Ball & Division A Clinics* at the Millville Elementary School provided there is not a fee charged.

Motion: It was moved by Mrs. Lesperance, seconded by Mr. Eldridge and ***unanimously voted*** to charge Tim Johnson \$25.00 per week instead of \$50.00 per day for the use of the tennis courts.

Student Representative Lindsay Poirier reviewed activities for the month of April. The talent show will be held tonight with nine participants; *Walk For Hunger* is May 3rd; senior citizen prom is May 7th; Craig Scott, survivor from the Columbine shooting, will be a guest speaker on May 15th; officers have been elected for Student Council; the prom

will be April 23rd; juniors will be receiving their senior shirts; May 8th is the semi formal; and awards night for band will be May 5th. Lindsay also updated members on sports.

Committee Forum

Mr. Singleton commended Mrs. Tetreault and Mrs. Jolicouer for all the work they have done with *Power to Saver*.

Mr. Singleton asked if there is a plan to get information that is known by Curriculum Director Suzan Cullen. Dr. Tyrie stated that Mr. Monroe attended a two-day workshop this week and that all administrators can go to workshops to learn about curriculum.

Motion: At 9:15 p.m., it was moved by Mr. Singleton, 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 workshop. 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. Lesperance, seconded by Mr. Tringali and ***unanimously voted*** to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia A. Robinson
Recording Secretary

ATTEST: _____
Charles K. Singleton, District Secretary