

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

April 8, 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:

Michael J. Buckley, Chairperson
Ann M. Lesperance, Vice Chairperson
Catherine A. Robinson, Assistant District Treasurer
Charles Singleton, District Secretary
Steven Tringali, Member
Diane Robin, Member

Lynn Landry and John Eldridge were not present.

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

Dr. Tyrie reviewed with committee members the procedure of the reorganizational meeting. She indicated the floor was open to nominations for the office of Chair of the Regional School Committee.

Motion: It was moved by Mrs. Lesperance, seconded by Mr. Singleton and *unanimously voted* to nominate Michael J. Buckley for the position of School Committee Chairperson.

Motion: It was moved by Mr. Tringali, seconded by Mrs. Robinson and *unanimously voted* to nominate Lynn M. Landry for the position of School Committee Chairperson.

Paper ballots were distributed and thereupon a written ballot was taken and Michael J. Buckley was elected Chairman of the Blackstone-Millville Regional District Committee for the year 2009-2010. Results of the written ballots were *5 votes for Mr. Buckley and one vote for Mrs. Landry* (six voting members present).

Chairman Buckley indicated he would entertain nominations for appointment to the office of Vice Chair of the Regional District School Committee.

Motion: It was moved by Mr. Singleton, seconded by Mrs. Robinson and *unanimously voted* to nominate Ann M. Lesperance to the position of School Committee Vice Chairperson.

Paper ballots were distributed and thereupon a written ballot was taken and Ann M. Lesperance was elected Vice Chairperson of the Blackstone-Millville Regional District Committee for the year 2009-2010. Results of the written ballots were **6 votes for Mrs. Lesperance**

Motion: It was moved by Mrs. Lesperance, seconded by Mr. Tringali and **unanimously voted** to appoint Charles Singleton as District Secretary of the Blackstone-Millville Regional District School Committee for the year 2009-2010.

Motion: It was moved by Mrs. Lesperance, seconded by Mrs. Robinson and **unanimously voted** to appoint Lynn M. Landry as the District Treasurer of the Blackstone-Millville Regional District School Committee for the year 2009-2010.

Motion: It was moved by Mrs. Lesperance, seconded by Mr. Tringali and **unanimously voted** to appoint Catherine Robinson as the Assistant District Treasurer of the Blackstone-Millville Regional District School Committee for the year 2009-2010.

Motion: It was moved by Mrs. Lesperance, seconded by Mr. Singleton and **unanimously voted** to appoint Donna M. Scungio as the Treasurer of the Blackstone-Millville Regional School District for the year 2009-2010.

Motion: It was moved by Mr. Singleton, seconded by Mrs. Lesperance and **unanimously voted** to appoint Harold D. Gould, Jr. as the District Counsel of the Blackstone-Millville Regional School District for the year 2009-2010.

At 7:15 p.m. Mr. Ronald “Buddy” Bibeault, Band Director, along with Samantha Carney spoke about the recent NESBA Championships. He stated that this is the 3rd year in a row that the Winter Guard has won the championship. Members were able to view the show on two flat screen televisions.

Ms. Shaver-Hood stated that a letter of recognition was being sent to all of the Winter Guard Participants and they will also receive new jackets.

Maureen Vasquez addressed the Committee with Mr. Bibeault. She stated that the 8th grade band and high school wind ensemble received gold medals at MICA. The 8th grade band will perform at Symphony Hall on April 18th and the High School Wind Ensemble will perform on April 25th.

Mrs. Vasquez stated that the music association would like to hold a car wash/yard sale at the high school on Saturday, May 30th from 9:00 to 2:00. There will be concession stands and games available. There will be a charge of \$5 per person or \$20 per family. The proceeds will be used for Project Music which is currently raising money for new uniforms. Project Music has raised \$13,150 so far and has been able to purchase new chorus uniforms.

Motion: It was moved by Mr. Singleton, seconded by Mrs. Lesperance and **unanimously voted** to approve the car wash/yard sale on Saturday, May 30th at the high school.

There were no items for Public Forum.

At 7:40 p.m. Dr. Tyrie gave the Report of the Superintendent.

Dr. Tyrie updated members on her meeting with Attorney Gibson regarding our obligation to show that the asbestos is being properly managed in the District.

Dr. Tyrie also gave an update on Strategic Planning. The committee has been meeting and discussing the educational vision for education in the district.

Dr. Tyrie stated that the Millville Elementary School celebrated *Earth Day* by having a door decorating contest. All involved did a great job and it was quite difficult to choose a winner.

Dr. Tyrie stated that the Town of Blackstone is asking faculty members to accept a wage freeze for FY10. She stated that the District is its own entity and not part of the town's budget. She stated that the Committee should take this under advisement but we will manage our resources through the District School Committee. We have signed contracts which our Unions have provided and undergo appropriate negotiations with these groups.

Dr. Tyrie was invited on the John Eldridge Show on April 20th. She has expressed her concerns to Mr. Eldridge about doing this as he is now going to be a member of the School Committee.

Mr. Buckley will check with our attorney on this matter.

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

She spoke on the expenditure ledger and stated that professional development still has a large sum of money because they have been using grant funds to pay for professional development to this point. Ms. Shaver-Hood will be meeting with school principals to review ways to free up any encumbered money.

Ms. Shaver-Hood spoke on the POS system for the cafeteria. They are interested in putting this equipment in our schools to boost revenue. There are vending machines that could offer breakfast for all students. She is also looking at labor costs and where we can be more fiscally responsible in food services. The District could commit to a POS system for \$24,000 which would include 7 days of training. By doing this they will buy prepackaged items which are less expensive and will generate more cafeteria revenue. They are not looking to replace personnel.

Ms. Shaver-Hood has been approached by the Red Cross to have our schools available as emergency shelters. Mr. Buckley stated that he would take it under advisement and vote on this at the April 30th meeting. Mr. Buckley is concerned that the District may incur added costs by allowing the schools in the District to be used as emergency shelters.

Ms. Shaver-Hood stated that the sewer project at the high school is almost complete. Mr. Bacon found a large pool of water where the tank used to be. JV baseball has been temporarily banned from the field until it is reseeded and the problem corrected.

Under new business Dr. Tyrie stated that the School District is looking to acquire a Chinese teacher from FY10. Ms. Shaver-Hood is going to China from June 22 – 30. If the teacher comes to the District from China it will cost the District about \$10,000. They are in need

of a family to host this teacher. Mrs. Abrams, Middle School Principal, has agreed to the idea. They will start the program at the middle school and possibly move it to the high school eventually.

Dr. Tyrie spoke on the Special Education Proposal and Stimulus Funding. She would like to appoint a special education director. Dr. Tyrie doesn't feel that any of the recent candidates could take over the position at this time. Dr. Tyrie would like to appoint Pat Connolly to a .8 special education director for two years. She is hopeful that someone in our District will be interested in becoming the Special Education Director following the two years.

Motion: It was moved by Mr. Singleton, seconded by Mrs. Lesperance and *unanimously voted* to pursue Ms. Connolly as a .8 Special Education Director for a 2 year period with approval of waivers.

Motion: It was moved by Mrs. Lesperance, seconded by Mr. Singleton and *unanimously voted* to search for one person to split their time as half time chairperson and half time early childhood coordinator using stimulus funds for the Millville Elementary School.

Dr. Tyrie stated that she is encouraging one of the recent candidates for Special Education Director to apply for the position of half time team chairperson and half time early childhood coordinator.

Motion: It was moved by Mr. Singleton, seconded by Mrs. Lesperance and *unanimously voted* to use stimulus funds to offer professional development to the special education educators and support staff.

Dr. Tyrie stated that by using the stimulus funds to pay for the special education director position it will free up funds to possibly put Brad Monroe back as full time technology director and give the District the ability to hire a new Assistant Principal for the JFK/AFM Complex.

Dr. Tyrie stated that Jill Pilla-Gallerani has agreed to be the Out of District Coordinator in FY10 for an agreed upon stipend in addition to her current position as Team Chairperson at the high school.

Ms. Shaver-Hood spoke on piloting the Parent/Teacher Conference Proposal for one year. The high school and middle school will have fall conferences and two hour spring conferences. The elementary schools will have fall conferences from 4:30 – 7:30 p.m. and one afternoon from 1:00 -5:00 p.m. On this day the elementary students would be sent home at 12:00 p.m.

Motion: It was moved by Mr. Singleton, seconded by Mrs. Robinson and *unanimously voted* to approve the Parent Teacher Conference Proposal as presented by Ms. Shaver-Hood for FY10.

Dr. Tyrie spoke on *going green* and the possibility of making the school committee meetings paperless. Some of the school committee members have voiced concerns over this. They would like to have something that could be downloaded to their home computers. Mr.

Buckley would like to take it under consideration and review all of their options. Mrs. Robin believes that having it organized by agenda by month would be beneficial.

Motion: It was moved by Mrs. Lesperance, seconded by Mrs. Robinson and *unanimously voted* to accept the Consent Agenda which included minutes of the meetings of March 5th and 25th as well as warrants and field trip requests. It should be noted that Mr. Singleton accepted the agenda contingent upon a change to the minutes of March 5th where he abstained from the vote as his son was taking part in this activity.

Mrs. Lesperance stated that the CoRE meeting will be held on April 16th.

Lindsay Poirier gave her report. Lindsay stated that student council will sponsor Crafty Readers at JFK and MES on April 29th and 30th; Walk for Hunger will be held on May 3rd; the talent show will be held on April 30th; Senior Citizens Prom will be held on May 7th; NHS Induction Ceremony will be held on May 15th; Step Up Day on April 12th and 14th; the prom on April 23rd at Kirkbrae Country Club; Semi-Formal Dance on May 8th; a new club has been formed, the Vegetarian Club; SADD has placed a car outside the high school.

Mr. Tringali stated that MESPA is sponsoring a variety show at the Millville Elementary School on May 1st and 2nd at 7:00 p.m.

Mr. Buckley stated that the Chorus Cabaret will be held on May 2nd. It should be considered that they waive the custodial fee of \$137.05 since students from the school district are participating in this cabaret.

Motion: It was moved by Mr. Singleton, seconded by Mrs. Lesperance and *unanimously voted* to waive the custodial fee of \$137.05 for the Chorus Cabaret to be held on May 2nd provided they submit a letter of request.

Mrs. Lesperance stated that she has not received any press release items from the high school or middle school since January 25th. They should submit these twice a month on the 2nd and 4th Friday of every month.

Motion: It was moved by Mr. Singleton, seconded by Mrs. Lesperance to enter into executive session for the purpose of contract negotiations and the Committee would come out of executive session for the purpose of adjournment. The motion was followed by a roll call vote that resulted in a *unanimous vote*.

Respectfully submitted,

Monique Simard
Recording Secretary

ATTEST: _____
Charles Singleton, District Secretary