

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

May 14, 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
Lynn M. Landry, Treasurer
Catherine A. Robinson, Asst. Treasurer
Charles K. Singleton, District Secretary
John J. Eldridge
Diane C. Robin
Steven J. Tringali

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 William Sheehan, father of Chester Sheehan, custodian at the Millville Elementary School.

Consent Agenda

Mr. Buckley presented Consent Agenda "A" which included the minutes of the meetings of April 8 and 30, 2009, minutes of the CoRE meeting of April 16, 2009 and the warrants.

Motion: It was moved by Mrs. Lesperance, seconded by Mr. Singleton and ***voted seven in favor, one abstained (Mrs. Landry)*** to approve Consent Agenda "A".

Mr. Buckley presented Consent Agenda "B" which included a home schooling application.

Motion: It was moved by Mrs. Landry, seconded by Mrs. Lesperance and ***voted seven in favor, one opposed (Mr. Buckley)*** to approve a home schooling request from Mr. and Mrs. Timothy Laflin, 206 Main St., Blackstone to home school their children.

Chairman's Remarks

Mr. Buckley reported on "*Day on the Hill*" where he learned about plans to restore the funds by the Stimulus Act. Mr. Buckley explained that we have to adhere to bureaucratic red tape in order to receive our funds. He encouraged people to send Senator Moore an e-mail to ask him to help the districts to come up with a better solution to receive their money.

Public Forum

Mr. Buckley asked if there were any concerns for public forum.

First grade teacher Esther Cote reported that the after school theater club for grades 1 and 3 performed the play "Character Matters".

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

Ms. Shaver-Hood attended a meeting on May 6th to discuss the middle school being used as a shelter.

Ms. Shaver-Hood reported that there will be a 0% increase in health care for next year. This is also passed onto both towns as well. There was a meeting on May 12th to discuss changes in health insurance with retirees. There will be a meeting on Wednesday, May 20th to meet with active employees and retirees to discuss changes which are very minor.

Ms. Shaver-Hood reviewed the expense ledger. The estimated shortfall in revenue is \$25,876. The projected June 30, 2009 general fund balance, barring any unforeseen expenses, is \$73,555. Mr. Buckley would like details to find out if it's possible to have a higher surplus. Ms. Shaver-Hood reviewed accounts that have encumbered money including the deficit for the cafeteria, asbestos, summer work, etc.

The Food Service Director position closed yesterday. Ms. Shaver-Hood and Dr. Tyrie will be reviewing the applications.

Ms. Shaver-Hood reviewed the benefits we will receive as members of French River Education Center which includes discounted or free training for custodians, business personnel and classes for teachers.

Ms. Shaver-Hood showed a video that was made by student intern Kari Lukovics. In the video, seniors reflected on their favorite part of attending school at BMR.

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT – Christine D. Tyrie, Ed. D.

Dr. Tyrie reviewed changes she has made for the bulk mailer which will cost approximately \$700 to mail. Mr. Eldridge commended Dr. Tyrie on the letter but feels we should not spend that amount of money. He felt we could put it on the front desk at the municipal centers as well as sending it home with students and placing it on our website. Mr. Singleton suggested inserting it with tax bills and sharing the cost with the towns while Mr. Buckley suggested using CoRE e-mail list.

Following a short discussion, Dr. Tyrie agreed that we do not have to use the bulk mailing with all the other avenues we will be using.

Dr. Tyrie reported on the Thinkfinity Grant that was offered by Verizon. She and Mr. Monroe submitted a grant application called "Re-Thinking Social Studies". Verizon would like to use this grant in their press releases.

The asbestos abatement bids were received today. Attorney Gould will bring them to Tighe & Bond and a recommendation will be made at the meeting of June 11th.

Dr. Tyrie stated that the school committee of the Town of Walpole would like to become a member of BICO.

Motion: It was moved by Mr. Singleton, seconded by Mrs. Robinson and **unanimously voted** to amend the preamble of the existing Agreement of the Bi-County Collaborative to include the School Committee of the Town of Walpole, Massachusetts.

Old Business

Mr. Buckley assigned subcommittees for the 2009-2010 school year. They are as follows:

Communications – Mrs. Lesperance and Mr. Buckley
Policy – Mrs. Landry as Chair, Mrs. Robin and Dr. Tyrie
Regional Agreement – Mr. Tringali, Mr. Singleton and Mr. Eldridge
Facilities – Ms. Shaver-Hood as Chair, Mrs. Robinson and Mrs. Lesperance
Sick bank – Mrs. Lesperance, Mr. Tringali and Mr. Singleton as an alternate

The meeting schedule for 2009-2010 was reviewed and it was noted that two changes have to be made.

Motion: It was moved by Mrs. Landry, seconded by Mr. Singleton and **unanimously voted** to approve the 2009-2010 meeting schedule with changes stated.

Dr. Tyrie reviewed steps needed to complete the budget by June 30th. She would like to reduce the budget so we do not have to request additional contributions from towns. Mr. Singleton asked if we use stimulus funds for two years for a position if the towns have to pick it up for the third year. Dr. Tyrie did not think that was the case but will look into this.

Circuit Breaker, regional transportation and Chapter 70 have been cut which may involve reduction in force notifications.

Mr. Eldridge voiced his concerns about next year if we use stimulus money this year. He would like to know what we can do after the budget is completed to prepare for next year. Mr. Buckley feels that the state will force towns to regionalize.

New Business

Mr. Buckley asked to hold elementary handbooks until the next meeting.

Mr. Buckley stated that he received a letter from Mr. Kevin Maloney stating concerns he has with the high school cross country program. He would like to see some work done to build up a feeder program to get more kids to join cross country at the high school. Mr. Buckley and Mrs. Landry would like to talk to Mr. Maloney and Athletic Director Sharon Dupre to see if there is a way to get a new program started. Mr. Buckley would like to have this on the agenda for the next meeting.

District Committee Reports

Mrs. Landry reported that she will have the student activities account policy and hiring policy ready for the next meeting.

There were no updates for communications. Mrs. Lesperance stated that she hasn't seen any publicity from the middle school since January 25th.

Ms. Shaver-Hood stated that she has been talking to people at National Grid to change the transformer at the high school. She also stated that the summer music program will be moved to another school because of the asbestos work that will be done at the high school. She will look into whether or not band camp will be able to be held at the high school.

Lindsay Poirier reported that the senior citizen prom was held last Thursday and it went very well; Walk for Hunger was held on May 3rd; elections for class officers for next year are being held; NHS Induction Ceremony will be held on May 15th with 17 new members; she reported on several fundraisers taking place; gay/straight alliance had a day of silence. Lindsay also reported on band, sports and senior week.

Committee Forum

Mr. Singleton congratulated inductees to NHS.

Mr. Tringali suggested giving the MCAS schedule to Mr. Sergi. After Mr. Sergi was informed of the MCAS testing, he cancelled baseball games so it wouldn't interfere with the students.

Mr. Buckley stated that Virtual High School is available through Whitinsville Christian at approximately \$400 per student.

Mr. Eldridge asked if there was some place in the middle school to store their budget books rather than carrying them to every meeting. Mr. Buckley feels we are guests at the middle school and there is not a secure area. He also suggested a policy be written regarding this matter. Following a discussion Mr. Buckley stated that this will be taken under consideration.

Motion: At 9:05 p.m., it was moved by Mrs. Lesperance, seconded by Mr. Singleton, 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 Mr. Singleton, seconded by Mrs. Lesperance and ***unanimously voted*** to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia A. Robinson
Recording Secretary

ATTEST: _____
Charles K. Singleton, District Secretary