

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

*September 11, 2008*

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:

Toni M. Harvey, Chairperson  
Ann M. Lesperance, Vice Chairperson  
Lynn M. Landry, District Treasurer  
Catherine A. Robinson, Asst. District Treasurer  
Michael J. Buckley, 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, Student Representative Lindsay Poirier, MetLife Representative James DiLibero, MES Principal Eileen M. Tetreault, JFK/AFM Principal Everett B. Campbell, and other interested parties.

Following the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the US, Dr. Tyrie requested a moment of silence for Mrs. Claire Sawyer, mother-in-law of JFK Secretary Suzanne Sawyer; Mr. Thomas Faulkner, father-in-law of MES Teacher Edie Faulkner; Mrs. Therese Bacon, mother of high school custodians Wilfred and Paul Bacon; and for the seventh anniversary of 9/11.

***APPOINTMENTS***

**James DiLibero**

Mr. DiLibero reviewed the new laws regarding 403(b). He stated that this is mandated through the country effective January 1<sup>st</sup>.

Dr. Tyrie informed members that District Counsel will review the Agreement with MetLife before we sign it in November. Mr. DiLibero will be at the high school on September 17<sup>th</sup> and at the complex on September 24<sup>th</sup> to answer questions from staff.

Chairperson Harvey asked that the committee be kept up to date on the progress of the 403(b).

**Eileen M. Tetreault and Everett B. Campbell**

Mrs. Tetreault gave a report on the opening of school. The Millville Elementary School had 27 enrollments during the summer while only seven transferred out of the school. Grade one had a growth of 10 students. Mrs. Tetreault reviewed new staff members, transfers and resignations. She also reported that the new reading series is under way. Teachers attended a training session this afternoon.

Mr. Campbell also reported on the opening of school. The JFK/AFM Complex had 48 new enrollments in grades one through five; twenty of them were first grade students. Mr. Campbell also reviewed new staff members, transfers and resignations as well as activities that are planned at the Complex for the upcoming school year.

Mrs. Tetreault introduced Mrs. Cynthia Jolicoeur who helped review the third goal of the Millville Elementary School. The third goal is the ENERGY STAR CHALLENGE. This is an EPA program that challenges buildings to cut their energy by 20%. National Grid has conducted two audits and they will provide action plans after the audits are complete. Mrs. Tetreault and Mrs. Jolicoeur will return to a school committee meeting with an estimate of the costs.

This program will engage the staff and students. The teachers are having contests and games to involve the students. MESPAs also wants to be involved with this program. They have started at-home activities which includes a monthly newsletter that will give families tips on how to save energy at home.

The campaign kick off will be held on Wednesday, October 1<sup>st</sup> at 7:00 PM at the Millville Elementary School. There will be a presentation and art show by the students, energy efficiency experts from National Grid will be available to speak with and a special presentation about Energy Saving & Climate Change by Dr. Stephen Nodvin, Regional Director of The Climate Project.

Ms. Shaver-Hood would like this audit to take place at other schools in the district.

Mrs. Tetreault stated that The Telegram/Gazette will follow this program until the end which will be positive press for the district.

Mrs. Tetreault and Mr. Campbell reviewed the new reading program and the goals they have set for the students in the elementary schools.

Mr. Monroe reviewed the technology portion of the goals set for the students.

Mr. Campbell also has a goal of getting the community more involved in education. He would like to reach out to more than elementary parents. Mr. Campbell will try to get more activities on local cable and distribute the monthly newsletters to the town halls to be posted.

## ***PUBLIC FORUM***

BEPO President, Kerri Olsen, informed members that they are planning to have a fall festival this year. They are working with Blackstone Parks and Recreation; they want to make it a fun community event. They are also interested in adding to the playground on the AFM side of the Complex. Chairperson Harvey suggested they meet with Mr. Campbell then the Town of Blackstone. Mrs. Olsen also stated that they would like to put a sign in front of the complex. Mr. Campbell stated that this was attempted in the past but because the septic system being in the front of the complex it caused a problem. BEPO will look into this matter.

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

**Title 1**

Dr. Tyrie stated that we are receiving close scrutiny on our Title 1 grant and we may have to look at not funding pre-school in favor of funding schools that demonstrate higher needs.

**Expenditure Report**

An expenditure report could not be provided to members due to a problem with Harper's but Dr. Tyrie will have one at the next meeting.

**Joint Meeting**

Dr. Tyrie met with Mr. Bianchi to review the joint meeting that is scheduled for Wednesday, September 17<sup>th</sup> at the middle school.

**Citizenship**

Dr. Tyrie shared her idea of a district wide goal of citizenship. She would like to adopt a country and do activities such as a multi cultural fair, pen pals, etc. Dr. Tyrie has had positive feedback from staff.

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

**Fuel**

Ms. Shaver-Hood stated that on September 4<sup>th</sup> she and Mrs. Landry met with members of French River Collaborative to bid on fuel. They were given three different options to purchase fuel. Ms. Shaver-Hood exercised the option to lock in at \$3.31/gallon for 100,000 gallons.

**Sewer Project**

The area at Early Village has been reseeded. They have hit some ledge at the high school but they are moving along. Generators will be here on November 1<sup>st</sup> and the completion date is the middle to late November.

**Doors**

Ms. Shaver-Hood thanked the Town of Blackstone for their help with the bid process to purchase doors for the complex. The doors have been ordered. The handicap ramp at the high school is nearly complete and the freezers at the high school are complete and running.

**Sewerage**

Ms. Shaver-Hood reported that District Counsel Harold D. Gould, Jr. has resolved the situation regarding the disposal of septage collected from the schools.

**Committee**

Dr. Tyrie stated that members of the school councils will be invited to form a committee to help publicize the schools in a positive way. Dr. Tyrie and Ms. Shaver-Hood want to build a community news release for *The Enlightener*.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Consideration of Additional First Grade Teacher at JFK**

Dr. Tyrie reviewed her concerns with the number of students in the first grade at JFK. Ms. Shaver-hood also reviewed how this will effect the budget.

Dr. Tyrie stated that there have been many discussions regarding the need for an additional teacher. She also stated that the district could fund this additional teacher from E & D because it is an unforeseen cost.

Following a discussion regarding hiring an additional first grade teacher, Chairperson Harvey asked members if there would be any objections to commit to this and look into funding later because it is critical.

**Motion:** It was moved by Mr. Buckley, seconded by Mrs. Lesperance and **unanimously voted** to allow Mr. Campbell to move forward to appoint a new first grade teacher and if possible to keep the salary at Step 3 or below.

**BICO**

Dr. Tyrie stated that the Town of Easton would like to be a member of BICO and a vote is required by each member town.

**Motion:** It was moved by Mr. Singleton, seconded by Mrs. Landry and **unanimously voted** to allow the Town of Easton to join BICO.

### **Redesign of Central Office/School Committee Webpage**

Dr. Tyrie stated that a student from the senior class is working on redesigning the webpage. He is doing this as an internship.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

Dr. Tyrie reviewed the Consent Agenda which included the minutes of the meeting of August 21, 2008, warrants, a student teaching request, a home schooling request and several field trip requests.

**Motion:** It was moved by Mrs. Lesperance, seconded by Mrs. Landry and **unanimously voted** to approve Items A, B, C and E of the Consent Agenda.

**Motion:** It was moved by Mrs. Landry and seconded by Mrs. Robinson to approve Item D (home schooling request) of the Consent Agenda. **The vote was 7 in favor, 1 opposed (Mr. Buckley)**

## **DISTRICT COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **Policy**

Mrs. Landry reported that the policy subcommittee has reviewed Policy KF-R, *Community Use of School Facilities*. This policy will be reviewed at the meeting of October 8<sup>th</sup>.

## Facilities

Ms. Shaver-Hood stated that the facilities subcommittee members are working on five year plans for the buildings and fields. They are also working on the district crisis plan.

### ***Student Representative – Lindsay Poirier***

Lindsay reported on activities the members of Student Council worked on during the summer including a car wash and the lock-out. They are working on the homecoming that will be held on October 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>. NHS worked on community service hours during the summer. They also volunteered at "Meet the Teacher Night". SADD will have their first meeting next week and the FBLA store will be opening next week. Lindsay also reviewed sports and band activities.

### ***COMMITTEE FORUM***

Mr. Singleton asked the status of the surplus materials and old books. Dr. Tyrie will provide answers at the next meeting.

Mr. Buckley stated that the MASS/MASC Joint Conference will be held in Hyannis November 19 – 22, 2008 and encouraged new members to attend. The deadline for registration is November 12<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Buckley also stated that there is some discussion on the listserv regarding Chapter 70 reform. Mr. Buckley is working with several members of the Association and will keep members informed on the progress.

Chairperson Harvey encouraged members to attend the Joint Meeting with the Boards of Selectmen and Finance Committees on September 17<sup>th</sup>. She also stated that members are invited to the John Eldridge Show on Monday, September 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Mr. Buckley will report on the Regional Agreement at the next meeting.

**Motion:** At 9:55 p.m., it was moved by Mr. Buckley, seconded by Mrs. Lesperance, to go into executive session for the purpose of litigation 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 10:25 p.m., it was moved by Mrs. Landry, seconded by Mr. Singleton and ***unanimously voted*** to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia A. Robinson  
Recording Secretary

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
Michael J. Buckley, District Secretary