

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

*September 25, 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  
Charles K. Singleton  
Steven J. Tringali

*Diane Robin was not present.*

Also in attendance were Superintendent Christine D. Tyrie, Ed., D., Assistant Superintendent of Schools Kimberly B. Shaver-Hood, Student Representative Lindsay Poirier, FWH Middle School Principal Gabrielle T. Abrams, BMR High School Principal Richard A. Porter and other interested parties.

**APPOINTMENTS**

**Gabrielle T. Abrams**

Mrs. Abrams talked about the start of school and the goals they have set for this school year. (*See attached goals.*) She also discussed the Parent/Teacher Night that was held Wednesday evening. There was some concern about the math programs that will be used at the middle school. She will work on the feedback from her survey on the next professional development day. Mrs. Abrams voiced her concerns about the lack of physical education for students.

Mr. Juelis explained his plans to help students improve their skills for MCAS.

**Richard A. Porter**

Mr. Porter reviewed the opening of school for the high school and he reviewed some of the student activities that are planned for this year.

Mr. Porter introduced Team Chair Jill Pilla-Gallerani and Life Skills teacher Amy Amaral. Ms. Pilla-Gallerani talked about their preparations for bringing the two new classes to the high school. She also reviewed the activities the students participate in and also the opening of the Bistro. Ms. Amaral reviewed the jobs that the students are doing within the school such as working in the cafeteria and library.

Mr. Porter had three suggestions for the wording for those students that cannot receive a diploma due to failing the MCAS. They were certificate of achievement, certificate of

attainment or certificate of completion. Committee members will meet to discuss this matter.

Mr. Porter also reviewed the goals for the high school for the 2008/2009 school year. (*See attached goals.*) Mr. Porter discussed the areas that he feels students are doing well. A company has been hired to come and look at the fields to see what the best options would be for our fields.

Ms. Shaver-Hood also stated that the members of the Facilities Committee have visited all the buildings and will now ask the principals to prepare a list of projects they feel need to be looked at in their schools.

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

**Community**

The first community update will be aired this Friday on Blackstone Cable. The video will be shown before and after the school committee meetings. The video is an interview of Dr. Tyrie and Curriculum Director Suzan Cullen.

**Budget**

Dr. Tyrie has been in contact with a gentleman from MARS who was a former business administrator and is willing to come and help work with us during the budget process. The warrants are not available as a PDF file because the software is not on the computer at this time.

**Accu Tech**

The District had to purchase a new containment cube because it was damaged by an employee of Accu Tech. The replacement fee will be deducted from their bill.

**Circuit Breaker**

The Department of Education released the Circuit Break funds. The district will receive \$351,833 and it will be applied to out of district tuition.

**Bids**

Dr. Tyrie will be present at the opening of the bids for the Intercom System at the Complex. They will be opened on October 17, 2008.

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

**Personnel Update**

The posting for the second grade position at JFK closed today. The postings for the fourth grade position at AFM and early childhood position at MVL will be posted in November. All openings are due to retirements.

**Sewerage**

Due to the construction an underground power cable was severed at Early Village. The district was notified and appropriate action was taken, including getting a generator in place to provide electricity. Ms. Shaver-Hood offered to have perishables brought to the high school.

## Energy Wind Grant

Ms. Shaver-Hood explained that the district is not eligible for this grant.

## Data Collecting

Members were shown a sample of a data book that is being worked on at this time and will be provided to members shortly. The book will include such information as tax bills for both Blackstone and Millville, a ranking of cities and towns, labor force, unemployment rate as well as revenues by sources. Information on the schools such as enrollment trends, MCAS scores, staffing, Highly Qualified Teachers, average teacher salaries, etc. will be included. If there is any information you would like to be included please contact Dr. Tyrie.

## Chapter 70

Mr. Buckley voiced his concerns about Chapter 70 funding. It was agreed that members should send a letter to Legislators.

**Motion:** It was moved by Mr. Buckley, seconded by Mrs. Lesperance and ***unanimously voted*** to draft a letter to Legislators regarding Chapter 70 funding.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

Mr. Singleton asked when it will be possible to pay for school lunches via the website. Ms. Shaver-Hood explained that the district does not have a way to be sure there is not a gap in time between making the payment and getting that information to the cafeteria. She will continue to look into this but is not comfortable moving forward at this time.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Dr. Tyrie commented that she was disappointed at the amount of feedback she received from the survey. The principals felt there was some valuable information from the results which is included in member's packets.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

Dr. Tyrie reviewed the Consent Agenda which included the minutes of the meeting of September 11, 2008, warrants, student teaching, home schooling and several field trip requests.

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

**Motion:** It was moved by Mr. Singleton and seconded by Mrs. Lesperance to approve Item C (home schooling requests) of the Consent Agenda. ***The vote was 6 in favor, 1 opposed (Mr. Buckley)***

## Use of Facilities

Waiver requests were reviewed by Chairperson Harvey and voted on by members.

## **DISTRICT COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **Policy**

Mrs. Landry distributed a copy of the revised community use policy. The policy subcommittee has recommended that #11 be eliminated because it conflicts with #12.

**Motion:** It was moved by Mrs. Lesperance, seconded by Mr. Singleton and ***unanimously voted*** to approve the revision. Members agreed to forego the three readings.

Mrs. Landry stated that the subcommittee is working on the MRSA and Bee Allergy policies.

### **Communication**

Mrs. Lesperance stated that updates were submitted to schools for their newsletters yesterday.

### **Regional Agreement**

Mr. Buckley requested volunteers to work with him on the Regional Agreement; Mr. Tringali and Mrs. Lesperance volunteered their services.

### **Lindsay Poirier**

Lindsay reported on the homecoming activities that will take place the week-end of October 17th and 18th. The Relay for Life will also be held that week-end with proceeds going to Children's Hospital. NHS will be doing *Character Counts* and a pie fundraiser before Thanksgiving; FBLA's store is open; band will be having Music Fest on Saturday, September 27<sup>th</sup>. Lindsay also reviewed the stats of the sports teams.

## **COMMITTEE FORUM**

Mr. Buckley stated that there will be a Chapter 70 work session on October 7<sup>th</sup> at Assabet Valley Regional Vocational High School. If anyone is interested in joining Mr. Buckley please contact him.

Chairperson Harvey thanked John Eldridge for inviting school committee members to his show to introduce Dr. Tyrie and Ms. Shaver-Hood.

The CoRE Meeting will be held on October 30<sup>th</sup> at the middle school.

**Motion:** At 9:25 p.m., it was moved by Mrs. Lesperance, seconded by Mrs. Robinson and ***unanimously voted*** to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia A. Robinson  
Recording Secretary

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