

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

**January 21, 2010**

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, Assistant District Treasurer  
Charles K. Singleton, District Secretary  
Steven J. Tringali  
John J. Eldridge  
Diane C. Robin

Also in attendance at the meeting were Kimberly B. Shaver-Hood, Superintendent of Schools, Luke Perreault and Amanda Chamberlin, student representatives, Everett B. Campbell and Eileen Tetreault, Principals along with other interested parties.

A quorum being present, Chairman Buckley called the School Committee Meeting to order. The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America was recited.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Mr. Buckley presented Consent Agenda "A" which includes Minutes of Meeting of January 7, 2010, Warrants, Field Trip Requests, and Applications for Use of School Facilities.

**Motion:** It was moved by Mrs. Landry, seconded by Mrs. Lesperance and **unanimously voted** to approve Consent Agenda "A".

Mr. Buckley presented Consent Agenda "B" which includes a Home Schooling request by Mr. & Mrs. Kendall Demrest of 15 Summit Street, Millville for their son, Hayden Bouchard.

**Motion:** It was moved by Mrs. Lesperance, seconded by Mrs. Robinson to approve Consent Agenda "B" as presented. The vote was **six in favor, two opposed (Mr. Buckley and Mr. Singleton)**.

Mr. Buckley stated that he will always vote nay to a home schooling request since it is his personal belief that children benefit most from being in the school setting.

## **Chairman Remarks**

Mr. Buckley stated that Governor Patrick announced the State is not anticipating any cuts in Chapter 70 funds. He stated that if they do not cut Chapter 70 funds they cannot touch anything else. He will have more budget information to give as time goes on. Even though it will again be a difficult budget season he does not want to see it impact the education of our children.

The School District is considering bringing the 5<sup>th</sup> grade classes to the Middle School for next year. It is a possibility and they will see if it is economically feasible. They want to operate the District as efficiently as possible.

## **Student Representatives**

Luke Perrault spoke on the candy gram sale by the National Honor Society. He stated that the boy's varsity basketball team currently has two wins and eight losses. He attended the music Central Districts at Mechanics Hall in Worcester on January 16<sup>th</sup> along with other students. Luke showed the old band uniform in contrast to the new uniform. They will have the new uniform available for the trip to the Apple Blossom Parade in Washington, D.C. in April. Tonight they are holding another fundraiser at the BMR High School to try and reach their goal of \$35,000 for the new uniforms. They are currently \$5,000 short of their goal.

Amanda Chamberlin showed the new chorus uniform. Amanda stated that the popular band 508 Beats will play at the High School tonight with proceeds going to the uniform fundraiser. The senior class is holding a matchmaker survey which they do every year. Students complete a survey to see who they are most and least compatible with. It is a fun and popular fundraiser. They have also been collecting at lunches for the Haiti Relief fund.

## **Appointments**

Ms. Shaver-Hood presented Mrs. Faith Augat who will be retiring from the School District. Mrs. Augat began her career in 1972 in Natick, MA. In 1988 she came to Blackstone-Millville as a first grade teacher. She is described as a caring, dedicated and committed teacher. The District has donated a book of Mrs. Augat's choosing to the JFK/AFM library in her honor. The District thanks her for her dedication over the years.

Mrs. Augat feels that it has been a pleasure working for so many years with 1<sup>st</sup> graders. She will miss the children very much. She plans to spend time with her father in her retirement.

Mrs. Tetreault, MES principal spoke on the Full Day Kindergarten along with kindergarten teachers Mrs. Davia and Mrs. Olbrys. The program has been very successful since being implemented in September. Even parents who were skeptical at first are so pleased with how it has turned out. First grade students Sofie Jackson, Catherine Flanagan, Robyn Griffin and Cameron Stearman spoke on the reasons they enjoyed the all day Kindergarten so much. They are very interested in arts and crafts, physical education, and math. They presented some of their outstanding work to the members of the School Committee.

Mrs. Tetreault mentioned that in the full day program students have a chance to rest at some point and after this have time to do an activity of their own choosing.

Mrs. Davia stated that this gives the teachers the time to introduce so many things to the students. Mrs. Olbrys feels the students are able to write sooner and the day is much less stressful to the teachers and students. They are able to start and complete projects in one day.

A few parents spoke on the areas they liked most about the all day Kindergarten. The areas include better comprehension, ability to delve into things so much more and improved reading skills.

Mr. Buckley stated they are now looking into expansion of the Pre School Program.

At 7:45 p.m. the Committee took a break to have cake for retiree, Mrs. Augat.

At 8:00 p.m. the meeting resumed.

There were no items for Public Forum.

### **Report of the Superintendent – Kimberly B. Shaver-Hood**

Ms. Shaver-Hood discussed the budget books which were handed out to each member of the Committee this evening. Each administrator in the District built four possible budgets. Only three are in the budget books. They include a level funded budget, 5% reduction budget, and 10% reduction budget. They are currently waiting for the health care and dental costs. They should have these figures within a week. They will be holding a budget meeting at the BMR High School Library next Thursday evening. At this meeting Ms. Shaver-Hood will give the Committee a comparison to last year's budget. Ms. Shaver-Hood stated that even if they need to implement a level funded or reduced budget they are in dire need of additional technology in the District and will need to make improvements in this area.

Ms. Shaver-Hood met with the part time curriculum consultant and discussed tentative roles and responsibilities. She will be fine tuning a marriage between curriculum and technology. They must both work together.

Ms. Shaver-Hood mentioned the Race to the Top (The Memorandum of Understanding – MOU) which is an agreement between the School District, the Superintendent and the Teachers’ Union. This agreement was signed by all parties at the last school committee meeting and establishes a framework of collaboration, roles and responsibilities in support of Massachusetts in its implementation of an approved grant project. Currently three quarters of Massachusetts School Districts have signed. The State is now waiting to hear if they will receive this grant.

There are currently five individuals who will be interviewed for the JFK/AFM principal position. Interviews will take place next week.

The Director of Student Services posting closed yesterday. They are looking for a School Committee Member to be on this interview committee.

The Special Education audit is being wrapped up this week. A total of twenty four individuals were interviewed by Dr. Early of the Walker Institute, including special education teachers, parents, and administrators. Ms. Shaver-Hood and Director of Student Services, Mrs. Connolly will meet with Dr. Early for an exit report tomorrow afternoon at 3:15 p.m. Within three weeks he will submit a written report to the School District.

### **Committee Forum**

It was mentioned that a parent sent a letter requesting that her daughter be allowed to take the assessment test and possibly be granted permission to enter Kindergarten in September. Her child misses the cut off date by 13 days. The Committee has decided not to make an exception for any students who do not meet the current age requirements.

Mr. Eldridge feels the all day Kindergarten program is working and he was very impressed this evening with what he saw. It was a treat to see the students and how well they are doing.

**Motion:** At 8:15 p.m. it was moved by Mrs. Lesperance, seconded by Mr. Eldridge to go into Executive Session to discuss 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 8:47 p.m. it was move by Mrs. Lesperance, seconded by Mr. Singleton and **unanimously voted** to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

Monique F. Simard  
Recording Secretary

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
Charles K. Singleton, District Secretary

