

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

October 22, 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
Charles K. Singleton, District Secretary
John J. Eldridge
Catherine A. Robinson
Steven J. Tringali

Diane C. Robin was not present.

Also in attendance were Interim Superintendent Kimberly B. Shaver-Hood, Student Representatives Amanda Chamberlin and Luke Perreault, District Counsel Harold D. Gould, Jr., FWHMS Student Council Advisor Kevin McCourt and representatives 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. Chairman Buckley requested a moment of silence in memory of Mrs. Jeanne Masse, mother of cafeteria worker Paula Sullivan.

CONSENT AGENDA

Mr. Buckley presented Consent Agenda "A", which included the minutes of the meeting of October 8, 2009, several field trip requests, a request to declare material as surplus and the warrants.

Motion: It was moved by Mr. Singleton, seconded by Mrs. Lesperance and ***unanimously voted*** to hold the minutes of the school committee meeting of October 8, 2009 and approve the remaining items of Consent Agenda "A".

Motion: It was moved by Mrs. Lesperance and seconded by Mr. Singleton to approve the minutes of the school committee meeting of October 8, 2009. ***The vote was five in favor and two abstentions (Mrs. Robinson and Mr. Eldridge).***

Mr. Buckley presented Consent Agenda "B" which included two requests for home schooling. Ms. Barbara Lonergan, 29 Chestnut Street, Blackstone to home school her daughter Jennifer (grade 8); Mrs. Abrams approved the educational plan. Mr. and Mrs. Eric Fontaine, 148 Lakeshore Drive, Blackstone to home school their son Nathan (kindergarten); Mr. Campbell approved their educational plan.

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

Chairman’s Remarks

Mr. Buckley would like to focus on early childhood programs for three and four year old children by expanding the pre-school program that is at the Millville Elementary School. He is aware that the State has money available for this. He asked Ms. Shaver-Hood to look into this matter.

Student Representatives

Amanda Chamberlin reported that NHS is having “*Character Counts*” week at the high school this week and each grade voted for a teacher that displays good character. Students voted for Mrs. Waterman, Mr. Curran, Mr. Bibeault and Mr. Slate. Teachers also voted on students showing good character and they were Mariah Monson, Damien Cranshaw, Kirsten Hull and Tyler Plante.

Amanda also updated members on sports, including the intra mural volleyball program for girls; work for the new yearbook has started and the senior class is having a fundraiser with hypnotist Frank Santos.

Luke Perreault updated members on student council and the elementary Halloween dance they will have; the marching band went to Cranston East on Saturday and on Sunday there was an indoor show in Lowell and the band received 5 stars across the board. MICCA finals are this Sunday and NESBA finals are the following Sunday.

Luke also reported that the junior class met with the guidance department where they found out their class ranks.

Appointments

District Counsel Harold D. Gould, Jr. updated members on the sewer extension project. He informed members that the district will receive the Certificate of Compliance after the project is closed with the Department of Environmental Protection.

Motion: It was moved by Mr. Singleton, seconded by Mrs. Lesperance and ***unanimously voted*** that Michael J. Buckley, Chairman of the District School Committee, be and is hereby authorized, empowered and directed to execute and deliver to the Department of Environmental Protection of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, for and on behalf of the Regional School District, BRP WP Compliance Certification for the Blackstone-Millville Regional High School Sewer Extension Project.

Mr. Buckley welcomed Mr. Kevin McCourt, advisor to the FWHMS Student Council and members Kristen Carlisle, Kayla Carlisle, Lily Rielly and Samantha Sadwin.

Mr. McCourt stated that there are 78 members in Student Council this year. Mr. McCourt and the members reported on the many activities that they have been involved with as well as the activities they have planned for the upcoming months.

The Student Council members sponsored a breakfast for new students; purchased two iPods for Mrs. Abrams to raffle off at the Holiday party; they will sell snacks after school and also stay after school to help teachers.

Mrs. Lesperance welcomed Dan Bourgerly and Bob Laren of the Blackstone Adult Basketball League to discuss the use of facilities fee.

Following a discussion it was agreed that the basketball league would be assessed a fee of \$35 per night rather than \$70 per night because they do not have a definite number of players each week; it is a pick-up league.

Motion: It was moved by Mr. Singleton, seconded by Mrs. Robinson and **unanimously voted** to waive the fee for September and October and beginning in November institute a fee of \$35 per night. If the gymnasium is not used for a night they do not have to pay for that particular night.

Public Forum

Mrs. Lesperance asked if there were any issues for the public forum; there was no response.

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

Ms. Shaver-Hood informed members that the budget is frozen.

Ms. Shaver-Hood has been in touch with both Boards of Health regarding the H1N1 vaccines which have not arrived yet. She is reviewing the attendance daily.

Ms. Shaver-Hood stated that the district will be conducting a self study in the Special Education Department which will take approximately five days. The purpose of this self study is to find out if the district is spending money wisely in the area of special education; if IEP's are written correctly and if the district is offering services that our students need.

Ms. Shaver-Hood requested approval from the members to submit a Statement of Interest to the Massachusetts School Building Authority for renovation projects at the high school.

Motion: It was moved by Mr. Eldridge, seconded by Mr. Singleton and unanimously voted that: resolved: having convened in an open meeting on October 22, 2009, the Blackstone-Millville Regional District School Committee, in accordance with its charter, by-laws, and ordinances, has voted to authorize the Superintendent to submit to the Massachusetts School Building Authority the Statement of Interest Project Goals dated October 22, 2009 for the Blackstone-Millville Regional High School (BMRHS) located at 175 Lincoln Street, Blackstone, Massachusetts which describes and explains the following deficiencies and the priority category(s) for which the Regional School District may be invited to apply to the Massachusetts School Building Authority in the future:

Priority 5 Replacement, renovation or modernization of the heating system in any schoolhouse to increase energy conservation and decrease energy related costs in the schoolhouse, as determined in the judgment of the Authority;

Proposed upgrades to the existing facility will likely include:

Replacement of the existing 40 year-old steam boiler plant with a high efficiency dual-fuel hot water plant

Installation of variable-speed drive pumps

Replacement of the existing pneumatic automatic temperature control system with a Direct Digital Control energy management system

Cleaning and repair of existing exhaust and ventilation ductwork

Repairing or replacing classroom unit ventilators and adding CO2 demand ventilation controls

Installation of heat recovery units in the locker room ventilation systems

Installation of a new rooftop exhaust fan and make-up air unit to serve the kitchen hood

Priority 7 Replacement of, RENOVATION or addition to obsolete buildings in order to provide a full range of programs consistent with state and approved local requirements, as determined in the judgment of the Authority;

BMRHS's 40 year old science classroom/labs are inadequate to teach twenty-first century science to students who are being prepared to compete successfully in life. The district proposes a total renovation of the science area including infrastructure, equipment, furnishings and support systems.

And hereby further specifically acknowledges that by submitting this Statement of Interest, the Massachusetts School Building Authority in no way guarantees the acceptance or the approval of an application, the awarding of a grant or any other funding commitment from the Massachusetts School Building Authority, or commits the Regional School District to filing an application for funding with the Massachusetts School Building Authority.

Request for waiver

Ms. Shaver-Hood reviewed several requests for waivers for the use of facilities from the Blackstone Millville Youth Soccer Organization.

Motion: It was moved by Mrs. Lesperance and seconded by Mr. Tringali to approve two waiver requests from the Blackstone Millville Youth Soccer Organization. ***The vote was five in favor, two opposed (Mrs. Landry and Mr. Buckley).***

Ms. Shaver-Hood informed members that she received a letter from Mr. Campbell indicating his intent to retire on June 30, 2010.

Committee Forum

Mrs. Lesperance asked Ms. Shaver Hood to check on the “all staff” e-mail; she doesn’t think school committee members are receiving them.

Mrs. Lesperance asked for suggestions for the communication update; please e-mail them to her.

Mrs. Landry voiced her concerns with home schooling. She suggested one person approves home schooling requests rather than different principals. She also suggested looking into test results of students that are home schooled.

Mr. Buckley asked to defer this subject until a later date.

Mr. Singleton stated that 38 students will receive the Abigail Adams Scholarship.

Motion: At 8:25 p.m., it was moved by Mrs. Lesperance and seconded by Mrs. Landry to go into executive session for the purpose of meeting with Director of Student Services Patricia Connolly, 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 9:00. p.m., it was moved by Mrs. Landry, seconded by Mr. Tringali and **unanimously voted** to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia A. Robinson
Recording Secretary

ATTEST: _____
Charles K. Singleton, District Secretary