

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

February 25, 2010

The Blackstone-Millville Regional District School Committee met in the library/media center of the Blackstone-Millville Regional High School commencing at 7:00 p.m. with the following members present:

Michael J. Buckley, Chairman
Ann M. Lesperance, Vice Chairperson
Charles K. Singleton, District Secretary
Lynn M. Landry, District Treasurer
Catherine A. Robinson, Assistant District Treasurer
Steven J. Tringali, Member (arrived late)
John J. Eldridge, Member
Diane C. Robin, Member

Also in attendance at the meeting was Kimberly B. Shaver-Hood, Superintendent of Schools.

Consent Agenda

Mr. Buckley presented the Consent Agenda which included Minutes of Meeting of February 4, 2010 and Warrants.

Motion: It was moved by Mr. Eldridge, seconded by Mr. Singleton and **unanimously voted** to approve the Consent Agenda A.

Mr. Buckley discussed the home schooling request on Consent Agenda B and is wondering why we are getting this request in February. Mr. Campbell approved this request but Superintendent Shaver-Hood will get more information for the School Committee. Mr. Buckley feels that home schooling requests should be submitted to the Superintendent's Office within the first six weeks of the school year. There should be a rule that they will not accept them after Columbus Day. Mr. Buckley and the members of the School Committee decided to table item A. of Consent Agenda B.

Motion: It was moved by Mr. Eldridge, seconded by Mrs. Lesperance and **unanimously voted** to table item A. of Consent Agenda B. (home schooling for Riley Blake).

Mr. Buckley stated that the papers were not sent in on time for the election of the Millville School Committee opening for Mrs. Robinson's post. Her name will not appear on the Blackstone ballot.

Student Representatives

Luke Perreault stated that the empty bowl project was going on at the time of the School Committee Meeting. This is where Amanda Chamberlin was working. The magic show was last night and drew a full house.

The Music Association Craft Fair will be held March 5, 6 and 7 at the BMR High School Cafeteria.

Spring sports tryouts will begin soon.

The Bandido concert will take place soon and Mr. BMR will be held on March 19th.

The Committee decided to move the School Committee meeting from 4/8/10 to 4/7/10 to accommodate those that would be attending the marching band trip to The Cherry Blossom Parade in Washington, DC.

Four seniors presented information to the members of the School Committee. They were Ethan Hardy, Steven Tata, Julie Signa and Kaitlyn Corriveau.

Ethan Hardy, senior class president stated that they will be holding their senior prom at Rafael's and they are finalizing plans for their senior trip.

Steven Tata, NHS president will be attending the West Point Academy in June. Steven was appointed recently by Congressman Patrick Neal. Steven plans to study Civil Engineering while at the academy.

Julie Signa is the historian of SADD. They will be stressing prom awareness and staging a mock accident to deter drinking and driving. Julie will be attending Rhode Island College next year and majoring in Music Education.

Kaitlyn Corriveau is the editor of the school yearbook and cheerleading captain. She will attend Rhode Island College next year and major in Graphic Design.

A concerned parent, Patrice Pickering had some concerns for the members of the School Committee. She is interested in knowing if the 5th grade classes will be moved to the Middle School.

Mr. Buckley stated that they are looking into this area but that it would need to be economically feasible and also still deliver the best education to the students.

Mr. Buckley stated that they are currently looking at the cost savings if they consolidate the 5th grade. They are just trying to give the students the best opportunities that they

deserve. He feels that we have a great student body and they have great respect for each other. If a parent feels that sending their child to Blackstone Valley Technical School is the best thing for the student then he does not have a problem with this. BVT is a very good school but so is Blackstone-Millville Regional High School. He has no tolerance for those who put down the School District.

Mrs. Pickering asked Mr. Buckley if he feels that over the last five years some of the key programs have been cut and that some students get short changed in the process. Mr. Buckley says no. He feels that the District as a whole tries very hard to balance it all out. They have added the Construction Zone, Woodshop and Mechanical as well as Food Services electives to try and meet the needs of the students in the vocational area. The School District has had to cut back but they have always taken great pride in trying to do it in a way that will not affect the education and well being of the students.

Mrs. Pickering asked if the contract for the teachers had been finalized yet. Mr. Buckley stated that the contract had not been finalized yet. The meetings held for teachers' contract negotiations becomes public document after the contract has been finalized.

Superintendent Shaver-Hood stated that when trying to decide on programs for the students they look globally throughout the District to see the wants and needs of all the students. They try to incorporate after school clubs as well as sports. She pointed out that a good school is not all academics. A well rounded program is the most beneficial to students.

Mrs. Pickering made note of the fact that band is always a full year program and she does not understand why Spanish is not.

Superintendent Shaver-Hood stated that in 8th grade the students can take a full year of Spanish. The School District weighs the financial piece and does what is best for the School District as a whole. The goal is to provide quality education and to make the transition from the Middle School to the High School as smooth as possible. She has seen great progress in the transition piece and believes that students as a whole are more actively engaged. This is not necessarily something you will see in surrounding school districts. Blackstone-Millville Regional is a school district on the move. We are on the cusp of doing great things for kids.

Mr. Buckley stated that the goal is to balance all areas to be most effective. They are always aiming to keep class sizes small and to be conservative in their approach to things without having to lay off staff.

Committee Forum

The next School Committee Meeting will be held on March 11th in the BMR High School Auditorium. The Budget Session will be held at 7:00 p.m. followed by the regular meeting at 8:00 p.m.

On March 25th the School Committee meeting will resume at the Hartnett Middle School Media Center.

The Middle School will be holding a workshop on Cyber Bullying to be held on Wednesday, March 10th @ 6:00 p.m. in the Media Center. All parents are welcome to attend, not only those with students who attend the Middle School.

Mr. Buckley commended Mrs. Landry for volunteering at several of the H1N1 flu clinics held at the Middle School. Mrs. Landry stated that all clinics were successful and well run.

Report of the Superintendent

Superintendent Shaver-Hood stated that Daniels Farm is requesting the use of the High School and JFK Complex parking lots to shuttle people to Daniels Farm for an event on June 19th and June 20th.

Motion: It was moved by Mr. Eldridge, seconded by Mrs. Lesperance and **unanimously voted** to permit Daniels Farm the use of the High School and JFK Complex parking lots on June 19th and 20th, 2010 for parking.

Superintendent Shaver-Hood stated that she sent an Expenditure Ledger to all School Committee members. She feels good about where we are now. They are looking at the possibility of some softening of next year's budget.

She stated that they are currently advertising again for the Student Services Director position. They will be advertising through March 15th but have not received any applications thus far. She is quite disappointed and feels the position may be tough to fill but she plans to be vigilant in her search.

Superintendent Shaver-Hood has recently received a draft of the Student Services Audit Report. She will be sharing this report with each school at their faculty meetings.

Ms. Shaver-Hood stated that if the FY11 Chapter 70 budget is level funded this would mean a loss below state average. Schools like Blackstone Valley Tech get more money from businesses. They also have a public relations and grant person. It is not as easy for us as a School District. It would greatly benefit the School District if we could get more out of tax dollars than we are getting now.

Ms. Shaver-Hood stated that there are a group of people looking at the boiler at the BMR High School. The School Committee has agreed to spend \$8800.00 to get a firm to put together a plan so that if we do acquire the funds to replace the boiler we will have a plan of action in place. Mr. Hartnett, Mr. Porter and the custodians are all involved. They want to be pro-active in this matter.

Motion: It was moved by Mr. Eldridge, seconded by Mrs. Lesperance and **unanimously voted** to have Superintendent Shaver-Hood enter into an agreement with a firm for no more than \$8800.00 to develop a plan for replacement of the BMR High School boiler.

Motion: It was moved by Mr. Eldridge, seconded by Mrs. Robinson and **unanimously voted** to allow Amanda Mowry (former student) who is currently attending CCRI to visit classrooms at the Millville Elementary School provided that she submits a CORI.

Jean Sheridan, cafeteria manager gave an update to Superintendent Shaver-Hood to distribute to the members of the Committee. They will invite Jean to speak to the Committee on March 11, 2010 on the cafeteria POS system.

Motion: It was moved by Mr. Eldridge, seconded by Mr. Singleton and **unanimously voted** to waive the fee of \$112.88 for the Andrew Bibeault Talent Show on Saturday, May 1 in the BMRHS Auditorium.

Motion: It was moved by Mr. Singleton, seconded by Mrs. Robinson and **unanimously voted** to waive the \$83.00 fee for the National Honor Society's use of the BMRHS Cafeteria on February 25th.

Mr. Buckley spoke on waiving the fee for the Craft Fair put on by the Blackstone-Millville Music Association on March 5th, 6th, and 7th. Other members of the Committee feel there is a policy in place that states that if there are any fees assessed to the District for kitchen help, police officer or custodial that the organization making the request must pay for them. Mr. Buckley feels that the funds raised here will go back directly to our students. He feels the Music Association is doing good things for the kids. They have not been charged for the last 25 years and this would be the first year they are charged. A somewhat heated discussion took place and at the end a vote was taken.

Mr. Singleton believes that anything that is town related and not tied to the school should be assessed fees and that any member of the school should not be charged if the funds will be going back to the students.

Mr. Eldridge cannot believe how the band has grown since its inception in 1974 with Mr. Hessney as the band director. He believes that without the BMR Music Association the program would be nil. He believes the policy should be revisited and the Committee should fix it. Mr. Eldridge feels he is a very conservative man but this needs to be addressed.

Mrs. Landry feels this is an expense and they should be charged.

Mrs. Robinson feels the policy should be looked at again.

Mr. Tringali feels that it is an expense and that they should be charged at this time but look at the policy for the future.

Motion: It was moved by Mr. Singleton, seconded by Mrs. Lesperance to waive the fee of \$1371.00 for the use of facilities by the Blackstone-Millville Music Association on March 5th, 6th, 7th for the BMR Craft Fair. The vote was five in favor and three opposed.

Motion: At 8:35 p.m. it was moved by Mrs. Lesperance, seconded by Mr. Singleton to go into Executive Session for the purpose of Negotiation Discussions 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 9:40 p.m. it was moved by Mrs. Lesperance, seconded by Mr. Singleton and **unanimously voted** to adjourn the School Committee Meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Monique F. Simard
Recording Secretary

ATTEST: _____
Charles K. Singleton, District Secretary