

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

September 9, 2010

The Blackstone-Millville Regional District School Committee met in the School Committee Meeting Room of the Frederick W. Hartnett Middle School commencing at 7:00 p.m. with the following members present:

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

Absent from meeting was member Michael J. Buckley.

Also in attendance at the meeting were Kimberly B. Shaver-Hood, Superintendent of Schools and Student Representatives Luke Perreault and Alycia Dery.

Consent Agenda

Motion: It was moved by Mr. Eldridge, seconded by Mrs. Lesperance and **unanimously voted** to approve Consent Agenda A which includes Warrants and Minutes of Meeting of August 26, 2010.

Motion: It was moved by Mrs. Landry, seconded by Mr. Eldridge (**6 approve and 1 nay – Chairman Singleton**) to approve Consent Agenda B which includes Home Schooling requests for Matthew and Jenna Zenone, Cameron McKenna, Teresa, Sean, Catherine, Patrick and Mark Waclawik, Jared and Daniel Bissonnette, Mitchel and Robert McGonagle and Shaely Jean, Sarah Del and Carlie Sue Bentley.

Public Forum – There were no items for Public Forum.

Report of the Superintendent

Superintendent Shaver-Hood introduced the elementary staff. Mrs. Carol Costa is the new principal at the JFK/AFM Complex. She introduced her new staff as follows: Jessica Medeiros as a full time Title I Reading teacher and Anette Lefave as a full time Special Education teacher.

Mrs. Eileen Tetreault, Principal of the Millville Elementary School introduced her new staff as follows:

Jessica Boisvert as a full time Grade 1 teacher, Seth Woods as a 4th grade teacher, Kerri Hughes as an Integrated Pre-School teacher and Christine Gniadek as a full time elementary technology teacher to service JFK/AFM and MES schools.

Both Mrs. Landry and Mr. Eldridge were very impressed with the experience and education these new hires brought to the District.

They were all welcomed by Chairman Singleton.

Other new hires in the District include:

Jill Rondeau – Superintendent’s Secretary

Ann Marie Romano - .4 Speech/Lang. Pathologist District-wide

Lisa Boisvert – Team Chairperson (JFK,AFM,MES)

Kathleen Boucher – School Nurse District-wide

Joann Lanari – HS Guidance Counselor

Mark Allenson – HS English Teacher

Matthew Fletcher – MS 6th grade Special Education teacher

Scott Bodamer – 8th Grade Science teacher

Brenda Takessian – Complex cafeteria worker

Julie Kearnan – MES cafeteria worker

Student Representatives

Luke Perreault, returning representative stated that the marching band started practicing in June and steadily continued throughout the summer. They accomplished quite a bit during band camp. They will perform on Sept. 11th in their first parade and will perform at the BMR High School on September 18th with proceeds going to Project Music. The Band will sponsor their home show on September 25th at the Bellingham High School starting at 6:00 p.m.

Alicia Dery is a new representative. She is a class officer as well as a soccer, basketball and softball captain.

The Committee continued with the Report of the Superintendent. The Committee will take a building walk-through at the Millville Elementary School on September 23rd at 6:00 p.m. This is a great time of year to walk through since the custodial staff has recently finished the summer cleaning in the buildings. They will continue to meet each month at a different school until they have walked through each one.

Superintendent Shaver-Hood stated that we currently have 1960 students enrolled in the School District.

Superintendent Shaver-Hood asked for members of the School Committee to serve on a sub-committee on bullying. Chairman Singleton asked that volunteers step forward. If they do not get volunteers he will appoint members at the next meeting.

Superintendent Shaver-Hood recapped the discussion at the last meeting regarding the State Fiscal Stabilization Fund handout. The School District will use \$215,747.80 of the funds awarded the District to bring back staff in FY11. They will hold \$280,273.20 to be used by September 30, 2012 to offset the FY12 budget.

Due to the fact that the District did not ask for additional contributions from the towns of Blackstone and Millville for the last two years they were forced to reduce staff this year. With the Stabilization Funds they were able to bring back a good majority of the staff. The District is required to use the stabilization funds in a very specific way, mainly for staffing.

The School District will receive "Race to the Top" funds which will amount to roughly \$25,000 per year for four years. The School Committee will be asked for their input on how to disperse the funds.

Mr. Eldridge mentioned that on one of the local talk shows they mentioned the funds the School District is receiving. He suggests that they put together a document to be delivered to the Boards of Selectmen from Blackstone and Millville listing how the money was used so there will be no misunderstanding about where the District has allocated the funds.

Chairman Singleton wants to be open with The Board of Selectmen from both towns.

Motion: It was moved by Mrs. Lesperance, seconded by Mrs. Landry and **unanimously voted** to allow Superintendent Shaver-Hood to draft and submit a proposal for the Green Grant.

Motion: It was moved by Mrs. Landry, seconded by Mrs. Robinson and **unanimously voted** to restore the extra curricular activities for a total of \$7,866 at the elementary schools by using funds budgeted but not used when hiring new staff for the FY11 school year.

The School Committee gave their approval to hire a new English as Second Language teacher since there are 20 students who now need the ESL program. This position will be funded through the curriculum area.

Superintendent Shaver-Hood asked the Committee to review and vote on the Use of Facilities requests.

Motion: It was moved by Mr. Eldridge, seconded by Mrs. Lesperance and **unanimously voted** to allow the Blackstone-Millville Youth Basketball League the use of the JFK gymnasium on Thursday evenings for January and February from 6:00 – 9:00 p.m., the AFM gymnasium from Dec. – March from 6:00 – 9:00 p.m. and the Middle School gymnasium on Saturdays from Dec.- March from 9:00 – 4:00 p.m. and

Wednesdays from 6:00 – 9:00 p.m. The use will be free of charge on weekdays but custodial fees will be charged on the weekends.

Motion: It was moved by Mrs. Lesperance, seconded by Mr. Eldridge and **unanimously voted** to allow the Blackstone Masters the use of the Millville Elementary School gymnasium on Wednesday evenings from 6:00 – 8:30 p.m. during the school year for a fee of \$35.00 per night.

Motion: It was moved by Mrs. Lesperance, seconded by Mrs. Robinson and **unanimously voted** to allow the Blackstone-Millville Girl Scouts (Brownies) the use of the JFK cafeteria every other Monday evening from 4:30 – 6:00 p.m. with fees waived.

Motion: It was moved by Mr. Eldridge, seconded by Mrs. Lesperance and **unanimously voted** to allow the members of the Marching Band the use of the High School soccer field and parking lot on BMMA Band Day on Saturday, September 18th from 12:00 – 7:00 p.m., with fees waived.

Motion: It was moved by Mrs. Lesperance, seconded by Mrs. Landry and **unanimously voted** to allow the Hartnett PTO the use of the FWHMS Cafeteria on the 2nd Wednesday of the month at 7:00 p.m., with fees waived.

Attorney Harold Gould spoke regarding the Open Meeting Laws. He prepared a memorandum a few weeks ago which was reviewed by the School Committee members. He focused in on things he believed were of immediate concern to the Committee members. Attorney Gould asked if the members had any questions or concerns that he could try to clarify for them.

Mr. Eldridge believes that the Open Meeting Laws are not very clear at this point. He feels that some individuals could be out to get someone in trouble. The Committee needs to be fully aware of these laws. He believes that the eyes are on them now. If the Committee does not do what they are required to do it will go straight to the attorney general's office. Mr. Eldridge trusts that Attorney Gould will keep his eye on him (Mr. Eldridge) so he does not embarrass the School Committee.

Attorney Gould feels this has become a high visibility matter with final regulations to come out on or about November 1st. There are specific obligations imposed on the Chairman and the members of the School Committee that they will need to abide by. There will be severe penalties for intentional violations against the Open Meeting Laws.

Attorney Gould stated if there are any issues that arise to be sure you seek his advise. A supplemental memorandum will need to go out to the members. They will try to have a workshop to take a few hours and go through the Open Meeting Laws with Attorney Gould to give the members some peace of mind in this area.

Chairman Singleton stated that the Town of Millville has ordered an enclosed outdoor case to post all pertinent information. He stated that Blackstone has a case on order as

well. He has made arrangements with both Town Clerks that once they receive our School Committee agenda they will send an email back to him once it has been posted. The agenda will be on the BMR Website. He feels it is a good idea to pen a letter to the Towns of Blackstone and Millville as to how this will be handled. Attorney Gould feels the Attorney General's office will give local bodies some leeway in regard to the laws in the beginning, but not forever.

It was mentioned that all of the documents that are referenced in the Minutes of the School Committee Meetings need to be held onto. They do not need to be part of the minutes but they need to have them readily available if needed.

Committee Forum

Chairman Singleton stated that they have two new filing cabinets in the School Committee room. He has a set of keys for any member who would like one. He would like to have a sign off sheet drafted for members to sign and state that they will return the keys if they are no longer a School Committee member. Both Mrs. Lesperance and Mrs. Landry declined keys at this time.

Mr. Eldridge asked that a policy manual which will hold all Minutes of the Meetings be kept in the School Committee room for easy access if they should need it.

Mr. Singleton spoke with Margaret Carroll about televising the School Committee meetings on the Millville cable station.

Motion: It was moved by Mr. Eldridge, seconded by Mrs. Lesperance to enter into Executive Session at 8:30 p.m. and to 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 9:30 p.m. it was moved by Mr. Eldridge, seconded by Mrs. Lesperance and **unanimously voted** to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

Monique F. Simard
Recording Secretary

ATTEST: _____
Steven J. Tringali, District Secretary

