

### **School Committee Update – March, 2010**

On Feb. 11<sup>th</sup>, a joint meeting of the School Committee, Boards of Selectmen and Finance from Blackstone and Millville, as well as Senator Moore was held at the Millville Town Hall. Minimum contribution is expected to increase for both towns, Millville's by an additional \$60,000 and Blackstone's by \$110,000. Both the Senator and Representative urged caution when developing the budgets for the next two years. The governor's budget for FY11 uses federal stimulus money, which has not yet been appropriated and no stimulus money is expected to be available for FY12.

We are making great strides in keeping our budget transparent. The Open Hearing meeting for the District's FY11 budget will be held on Thurs., March 11<sup>th</sup> at 7PM in the Molony-Sullivan Auditorium at the High School. We urge you to attend. The Superintendent will present a level services budget.

The Superintendent has worked to save money wherever possible. One way was to utilize the resources of other towns by job sharing with Bellingham in two key positions: the Directors of Food Service and Curriculum. Another idea being explored was the possibility of moving the 5<sup>th</sup> grade to the middle school. After initial investigation, there would be NO educational enhancement or savings, so the idea has been dropped. The 5<sup>th</sup> graders will remain housed at the A. F. Maloney and Millville Elementary Schools.

School Committee Meetings: March 11<sup>th</sup> after the Open Hearing at BMR and March 25<sup>th</sup> at 7PM in the F. W. Hartnett Media Center

### **School Committee Update – February, 2010**

It's the beginning of budget time once again. While the Governor has promised to hold Chapter 70 money at the FY10 level, a real tightening of the belts must occur since many costs have increased. The Superintendent and her administration are developing 3 budgets for FY11: a level service budget, a budget with a 5% cut (over \$1million), and a one with a 10% cut (over \$2million). The School Committee has met with all principals and administrators to see how these budgets would impact the services we provide. We are looking at ways to both save and raise money.

To keep the lines of communication open, the School Committee will meet with the Boards of Selectmen and Finance from Blackstone and Millville on Thursday, Feb. 11th. A subcommittee of the School Committee has begun meeting with the Teachers Union Negotiation Team to come to agreement for another contract. The current contract expires on August 31, 2010.

A Principal Search Committee was formed to find Mr. Campbell's successor. As you know, Mr. Campbell will be retiring on June 30th as the principal of the John F. Kennedy and A. F. Maloney complex. The Search Committee conducted interviews the last week of January and will decide on which candidates to move forward to the final selection process.

In addition, a Search Committee is being formed to fill the position of Director of Special

Services. Patricia Connolly, a retiree, has filled in part-time for the past 18 months, as a viable full time person could not be found at the time.

School Committee Meetings: Feb. 4th and 25th at 7PM in the F. W. Hartnett Media Center.

### **School Committee Update – December/January, 2009**

It is with great pleasure that the School Committee announces the appointment of Kimberly B. Shaver-Hood as Superintendent of the Blackstone-Millville Regional School District, effective January 1, 2010. Ms. Shaver-Hood received her Bachelor's degree from Franklin College, her Master's in Secondary Education from Indiana University, her Master's in School Counseling from Butler University and her Master's in Educational Administration from Weidner University. She is currently working on her Doctorate degree at Northeastern University. Prior to coming to the district, Ms. Shaver-Hood was an Assistant Principal in Pennsylvania.

Ms. Shaver-Hood came to our district in March, 2003 to become the principal of the new Frederick W. Hartnett Middle School, a position she served for five years. In July, 2008, she was appointed the Assistant Superintendent of Schools. After the sudden departure of the then Superintendent, Ms. Shaver-Hood was appointed Interim Superintendent on July 24, 2009. With the current appointment, Ms. Shaver-Hood has entered into a three year contract with the district. We have every confidence that she will continue to move this district forward. Her vision is to work collaboratively with all members of the school community to provide a safe, well-rounded, and academically challenging environment for all students. Her focus is to provide a quality program for our number one priority – STUDENTS!

The School Committee held its second quarterly meeting with the Boards of Selectmen and Finance Committees in both towns on December 3<sup>rd</sup>. It is important that we keep each other updated and continue to work together for our children. The next meeting is scheduled for Feb. 11<sup>th</sup>.

School Committee Meetings: Jan. 7 and 21 @ 7PM in FWHMS Media Center

### **School Committee Update – November, 2009**

The School Committee is now entering the beginning of a very busy season. And with this busy season, many changes continue to come to BMR!

Recently, Everett B. Campbell, the present Principal of the JFK/AFM Complex announced his intention to retire at the end of this current School Year. Mr. Campbell was first hired on April 2, 1973 to serve as a Special Needs teacher in the Blackstone Elementary System. Everett's 37-year career in addition to his Student Services start has included being the district's first Technology/Computer teacher, as well as longtime Principal of Longfellow School and the first principal of the Millville Elementary School. Mr. Campbell also served as Assistant Superintendent and the Superintendent. A remarkable career here at BMRSD! We wish continued good health and a very happy retirement to Everett, his wife Isabelle and his entire family.

Other changes in the district include Mr. Brad Monroe leaving his position as Assistant Principal in the complex to focus his efforts on technology, grants, and Title I as well as other related Central Office duties. A familiar face has returned to the complex to take over Mr. Monroe's duties as well as assist Mr. Campbell. John Pilibosian has been hired to be the part time Assistant to the Principal at the JFK/AFM Complex. His first day in the district was October 26<sup>th</sup>.

The committee voted at its' meeting on October 22, 2009 to begin the process of examining and planning for updates to the Regional High School. This year marks the fortieth year of operation of our High School. The first step in this process is to inform the State of our intention to renovate and modernize the facility at 175 Lincoln Street. In the coming months we hope to report to you in more detail about this process, and what it will mean for the students of our Communities.

There are many other activities underway by the School Committee as we prepare for contract negotiations as well as preparation of the 2011 budget.

School Committee Meetings: Nov. 12 and Dec. 10 @ 7PM in FWHMS Media Center

### **School Committee Update – October, 2009**

We welcome Senior Amanda Chamberlin and Junior Luke Perreault as our new School Committee Student Representatives. They will keep us updated on student activities and we look forward to their input.

On September 17<sup>th</sup>, the School Committee met with the Boards of Selectmen and Finance Committee Members from both towns in an effort to share information. The next meeting is scheduled for December 3<sup>rd</sup>.

School Committee Meetings: October 8 and 22 @ 7PM in FWHMS Media Center

### **School Committee Update – September, October, 2009**

Welcome to the 2009-10 school year! A few personnel changes occurred in the district's administration:

- Kim Shaver-Hood was named Interim Superintendent when Dr. Tyrie left the district on July 24. The Assistant Superintendent position remains vacant.
- Jeanne Sheridan is the Director of Food Services, a position we are sharing with Bellingham.
- Justin Cameron was hired as the Assistant Principal at the Frederick W. Hartnett Middle School after Mr. Juelis left for another position.
- Library Media Director Jack Carroll retired and this administrative position was not filled.
- Sue Cullen, Curriculum Director, became Assistant Superintendent in another district, and this position also was not filled.

We welcome Senior Amanda Chamberlin and Junior Luke Perreault as our new School Committee Student Representatives. They will keep us updated on student activities and we look forward to their input.

Some of the money saved from having only one administrator in central office for this year was used to restore items cut from the budget: extra-curricular elementary programs, additional money needed for the High School Marching Band's trip to finals, High School guidance counselor from half time to full time, High School consumer science teacher from .8 to full time, and a floating district nurse from half time to full time. This amount totaled \$76,624.00.

On September 17<sup>th</sup>, the School Committee met with the Boards of Selectmen and Finance Committee Members from both towns in an effort to share information. The next meeting is scheduled for December 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Congratulations to the Millville Elementary School for being chosen to receive the Worcester Business Journal's Central Mass Green Award for the "Power to Save" campaign. The award will be presented during their energy summit on Oct. 15.

School Committee Meetings: October 8 and 22 @ 7PM in FWHMS Media Center

### **School Committee Update – May, 2009**

The School Committee congratulates Steve Tringali of Millville for his reelection to the board and welcomes John Eldridge to fill the Blackstone seat. During the reorganizational meeting of April 8<sup>th</sup>, the following members were elected to fill the officer positions:

Michael Buckley, Chairman	Ann Lesperance, Vice-chair
Charles Singleton, Secretary	Lynn Landry, Treasurer
Catherine Robinson, Asst. Treasurer	

During the past several months, the School Committee and administrators have carefully crafted a budget that reflects the difficult financial times that we are currently experiencing. Our main goal in the budget development was to maintain a level service operation. Recently, we have seen the Legislative budget proposal which differs considerably from the budget proposed by the Governor. The budget that will be debated includes significant cuts to not only the towns of Blackstone and Millville, but also to the Regional District as well. There are several amendments to the budget being drafted to lessen the impact to the schools and towns. We urge you to contact Representative Callahan and ask her to consider these amendments. Her email address is [Jennifer.Callahan@state.ma.us](mailto:Jennifer.Callahan@state.ma.us).

The music department continues on its march of success with a number of recent awards. The winter guard won first place in the NESBA championship and the winter percussion took third in their division. At MICCA, the high school Wind Ensemble and the 8<sup>th</sup> grade band earned gold medals. All gold medalists played at Symphony Hall the last two Saturdays in April. In addition, the high school Concert Band and the 7<sup>th</sup> grade band won silver medals at the MICCA competitions. Congratulations to all involved!

Congratulations to the Millville Elementary School for being chosen to receive a Certificate of Merit in the 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Secretary's Awards for Excellence in Energy and Environmental Education for the "Power to Save" campaign. Accepting the award at the State House were Mrs. Katelyn Aguiar, Mrs. Cindy Jolicoeur and Lily Jolicoeur.

Town Meetings: Millville – May 11<sup>th</sup>, Blackstone – May 26<sup>th</sup>

School Committee Meetings: May 14 and 28 @ 7PM in FWHMS Media Center

### **School Committee Update – April, 2009**

The March 25<sup>th</sup> School Committee meeting was the last meeting for Chair Toni Harvey, who chose not to run for another term. Our thanks to Toni for 12 years of dedicated service to the children and the district. She will be sorely missed!

At the March 25<sup>th</sup> meeting, the School Committee certified a budget of \$21,407,455 for FY10. This is a level service budget, with only the addition of full day kindergarten.

The Community Resources for Education meeting on April 16<sup>th</sup> will be dedicated to budgetary information. Please come to get the information right from the source: hear the facts and figures and ask questions. The meeting will be held from 7PM to 9PM in the F. W. Hartnett Middle School Media Center.

A new feature has been added to the BMR website homepage. It is the Community Bulletin Board. Flyers from organizations outside of the school will no longer be sent home with students, but will be posted on this page on the website. It looks like a yellow post it note at the very top of the page.

Please remember to vote on Monday, April 6<sup>th</sup>!

School Committee Meetings: April 7<sup>th</sup> and April 30<sup>th</sup> @ 7PM in FWHMS Media Center

### **School Committee Update – March, 2009**

The School Committee added a new policy for the district relating to MRSA and/or health issues that need to be reported; file JLCCB. It gives the plan to be used in the case of a health emergency. The Committee also adopted a “Community Use of School Facilities Fee Schedule”, file KF-E, which will determine appropriate fees charged, if any, to groups using any of our facilities. Copies of both policies may be obtained from your building principal.

The Committee, along with the Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent, will present the FY10 district budget in the annual Open Hearing on Thursday, March 12<sup>th</sup> at 7:00PM in the BMR Auditorium. A level service budget is being presented, with the addition of full day kindergarten. Please come to hear the facts and figures, and to ask questions.

Congratulations to the Class of 2009 for successfully passing the MCAS tests. This means that if students pass the BMR requirements, they will receive a high school diploma at graduation.

School Committee Meetings: March 12 @ 7PM – Open Hearing – BMR HS Auditorium  
March 25 @ 7PM – Certification of Budget – FWHMS Media Center

### **School Committee Update – December, 2008**

As part of the District’s ongoing review of operations and policies, the School Committee has appointed a subcommittee to review all aspects of the current Regional School Agreement that governs the operation of the Blackstone-Millville Regional School District. This agreement, first adopted by the towns on March 15, 1967, has undergone several reviews and revisions over the past forty years. While the School Committee does not see any major changes in the agreement, we feel that this is a good time to conduct such a review. The subcommittee of Michael Buckley and Steven Tringali will be reporting back to the full School Committee by early spring.

We have set the next two dates for the Community Resources for Education meetings. They are Tues., January 13<sup>th</sup> and Thurs., April 16<sup>th</sup>. Both meetings will be held at the F.W. Hartnett Middle School from 7PM-9PM. Come and learn more about the school district!

Congratulations to the members of our senior class who have recently been recognized for academic achievement. Six have earned the title of AP scholar: Daniel Ariel, Ariana Bevilacqua, Kate Buckley, Eric Matejka, Lindsay Poirier and Stephanie Robin. Forty members of the class have earned the John & Abigail Adams Scholarship, a state scholarship based on MCAS proficiency in ELA and Math.

School Committee Meetings: December 4 and 17 at 7PM in the media center of the F. W. Hartnett Middle School.

### **School Committee Update – November, 2008**

At the meeting of October 23<sup>rd</sup>, the School Committee voted to implement full day kindergarten in the Blackstone-Millville School District next year, subject to the ability to financially support it, along with all of our other programs in the district. Under the leadership of our Curriculum Director, Suzan Cullen, the subcommittee researched all aspects of the concept: benefits, negatives, scheduling, classroom setup, curriculum, and financial aspects, and made their final presentation to the school committee on October 9<sup>th</sup>. Last year, we received the Full Day K Transition Grant of \$105,000 from the state. This purchased materials (furniture and curriculum) for 7 classrooms, professional development for Kindergarten teachers (speakers in house and conference attendance), stipends for the committee as well as subs for coverage of classrooms for out of district visits to operating Full Day K programs.

The next grant that we will be eligible for is the Quality Full Day K grant, which, as it currently stands, will be another \$105,000. This will be used to operate the program.

The project to hook the high school into the town sewer system is ongoing. As of October 31<sup>st</sup>, the project will reach 70% completion with the completion date during the first part of December. We are waiting for the pumps and generators, which will be the final phase. The district is very grateful to the work that A. Tetreault and Sons, Inc. are doing in the project, as well as the cooperation of the people at Early Village.

The agenda of the **Community Resources for Education** October 30<sup>th</sup> meeting included: the introduction of Dr. Christine Tyrie and Ms. Kim Shaver-Hood, information on question #1 of the state's ballot, the additional first grade class at JFK, the full day kindergarten program, subcommittee updates and a review of the district's budget.

School Committee Meetings: November 6 and 20 at 7PM in the media center of the F. W. Hartnett Middle School.

### **School Committee Update – June, 2008**

The School Committee would like to thank the residents of Blackstone and Millville for supporting the school budget. We truly worked to bring forth a budget based on the ability of what each community could pay. Our focus was to look seriously at the limited financial resources available to us and our critical need to maintain a level of education for our students, their academic achievement and overall successes as students in our communities.

We offer our congratulations to the BMR Class of 2008, as they receive their diplomas on June 6th. Another class with 100% passing of the MCAS tests!

We offer our thanks to Dr. Herb Levine and Dr. Kathy Montagano for their service to the district, as they move on to other ventures on June 30th. We wish them well.

School Committee Meetings: June 12 and 26, July 15 at 7PM in the media center of the F. W. Hartnett Middle School.

### **School Committee Update – May, 2008**

It is with great pleasure that the Blackstone-Millville Regional District School Committee announces the appointment of Dr. Christine Tyrie as the next Superintendent of the district, and Ms. Kimberly Shaver-Hood as the next Assistant Superintendent. Both appointments become effective July 1. Dr. Tyrie is a current Superintendent in New Hampshire, and is responsible for a district that encompasses 4 towns, 4 school committees and 5 schools with a student population of just under 3,000. She has a strong background in finance and is eager to move to the area.

We feel she will be a good match with our school district. Ms. Shaver-Hood is the current principal of our Hartnett Middle School, and was responsible for open the building 5 years ago. Her past experience includes serving as a teacher, Director of Guidance and Assistant Principal. She has a great knowledge of the district and the community.

Important dates to remember:

- May 7 Millville Finance Committee Public Hearing at 7PM at Millville Town Hall
- May 8 CoRE meeting at 7PM at the Millville Elementary School
- May 12 Millville Town Meeting at 7PM at the Millville Elementary School
- May 12 Blackstone Finance Committee Public Hearing at 7PM at Blackstone Town Hall
- May 27 Blackstone Town Meeting at 7PM at Blackstone-Millville Regional High School

School Committee Meetings: May 1, 15, and 29 at 7PM in the media center of the F. W. Hartnett Middle School.

### **School Committee Update – April, 2008**

On March 13<sup>th</sup>, the School Committee held the open hearing on the district's budget and on March 19<sup>th</sup> certified the budget of \$21,040,287. This represents an increase of 4.05%. This increase amounts to a decrease of \$72,205. from last year for the town of Blackstone and an increase of \$15,627. from last year for the town of Millville. In order to balance the proposed budget, the School Committee must reduce it by another \$331,389. The School Committee continues to work with the officials from both towns in presenting a reasonable school budget at the annual town meetings. The next joint meeting is scheduled for April 10<sup>th</sup>.

After interviewing the candidates recommended by the superintendent search committee, the finalist for the position was presented at a forum on Tues., March 25<sup>th</sup> to give the public the opportunity to meet her and ask questions.

In addition, our Assistant Superintendent, Dr. Kathleen Montagano, has accepted a Superintendent's position in Dighton-Rehoboth. We wish Dr. Montagano much success in this new position and thank her for her three years of service here at BMR. The district will be posting for her replacement immediately.

School Committee Meetings: April 3 and 17 at 7PM in the media center of the F. W. Hartnett Middle School.

### **School Committee Update – March, 2008**

The month of March brings a busy meeting schedule for the School Committee. We continue to work diligently on the school budget, in order to bring a budget to the towns that is both reasonable and meets the needs of the district. On Thursday, March 6<sup>th</sup>, our next **Community Resources for Education Meeting** will be held beginning at the **A.F. Maloney School cafeteria** at 7:00PM. This is the next stop on the road tour as we visit the schools in the district to see their capital needs.

On Tuesday, March 11<sup>th</sup>, a joint meeting of the School Committee and members of the Blackstone and Millville Boards of Selectmen and Finance Committees will be held. Senator Moore and Representative Callahan have been invited to this meeting.

On Thursday, March 13<sup>th</sup>, the School Committee will hold the open hearing on the budget in the BMR High School auditorium beginning at 7:00PM. We encourage all residents to attend this meeting and ask questions on next year's proposed budget. On Wednesday, March 19<sup>th</sup>, at the F.W. Hartnett Middle School we will meet at 7:00PM to certify the budget and to hold a regular meeting.

In addition to the budget process and contract negotiations, the Committee is moving forth with the hiring of a new Superintendent. Dr. Levine was hired last year as a 1 year interim Superintendent, and so now we must look for a permanent replacement. A committee of 13 members was formed as the search committee, which include parents, teachers, a student, a principal, an administrator and four School Committee members. This committee will review the 22 applications and interview potential candidates. They will then send their recommendations of top candidates to the School Committee. The full School Committee will interview the top candidates, introduce the semi-finalists to the community and then make its final selection. We hope to have the entire process completed by the end of the month.

School Committee Meetings: CoRE Meeting on March 6 at the A.F. Maloney cafeteria, March 13 in the BMR auditorium and March 19 in the library at the F. W. Hartnett Middle School.

### **School Committee Update – February, 2008**

The month of January was a busy one for the School Committee. In addition to three regular meetings, the committee began contract negotiations with the teacher's union. These meetings will continue through the next few months until an agreement is reached.

The **Community Resources for Education** meeting on Thursday, January 10<sup>th</sup> was held at the high school, so that the capital needs of this building would be identified. The committee reviewed the **proposed** district programs for 2008-09, which include: a new reading program, full day kindergarten, new special education program at the high school, added library hours and an elementary level technology program. In addition, attendees were updated on items from the November meeting. The next regular CoRE meeting will be held on Thursday, March 6<sup>th</sup>. Prior to that, the School Committee is inviting members of all School Councils to attend a CoRE meeting on Thursday, February 7<sup>th</sup> and members of the districts' parents group to attend on Wednesday, February 27<sup>th</sup>. Both meetings will begin at 7PM at the middle school.

On January 16<sup>th</sup>, the School Committee invited the members of the Blackstone and Millville Boards of Selectmen and Finance Committees to meet with us. The purpose of this meeting was to provide information on the needs of the district, which include the proposed programs as stated above, an update on the athletic field subcommittee, an update on the capital projects for the high school, and information on the search for a permanent Superintendent. The next joint meeting has been scheduled for Tuesday, March 11<sup>th</sup>, and our Senator and Representative will be invited.

School Committee Meetings: February 13 and 28 in the library at the F. W. Hartnett Middle School.

### **School Committee Update – January, 2008**

The next **Community Resources for Education** meeting is **Thursday, January 10<sup>th</sup> at 7PM at the High School**, beginning in the library/media center. We encourage all residents to join us and to ask questions to be better informed.

Four policies were revised, with the third and final readings at the December 6<sup>th</sup> meeting. They are "Community Use of School Facilities", "Community Use of School Facilities Fee Schedule", "Discrimination" and "Nondiscrimination Complaint Procedure". Copies of all policies are available at each of the schools.

School Committee Meetings: January 3, 17 and 31 in the library at the F. W. Hartnett Middle School.

### **School Committee Update – December, 2007**

The first **Community Resources for Education** meeting was held on Thursday, November 1<sup>st</sup>. Following the introduction of Dr. Levine, Superintendent, the committee gave an update on the district's budget with information of programs, personnel and class sizes. Next on the agenda was the School Committee and District's focus for 2007-08. These include the sewer project, the athletic fields, CPR compliances, a subcommittee to review possible full time kindergarten, contract negotiations, and capital improvements. So that all community members may see some of the capital improvements being discussed, the CoRE meetings will be held at different schools in the district. **The next meeting is Thursday, January 10<sup>th</sup> at 7PM at the High School, beginning in the library/media center.** We encourage all residents to join us and to ask questions to be better informed.

The budget process for FY09 is under way. The administrators will be making presentations to the School Committee on December 10<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>. In addition, meetings with officials from both towns are being scheduled, so that everyone has a clear picture of the districts' needs.

School Committee Meetings: December 6 and 20 in the library at the F. W. Hartnett Middle School.

### **School Committee Update – November, 2007**

The School Committee welcomed Student Representative, Lindsay Poirier to the committee. Lindsay, a junior, is very involved in activities at BMR, including marching band, Student Council, and National Honor Society. We look forward to her participation in our meetings.

The "Non-Member District Students" policy (File JFA) was passed on September 27 after three readings. It states "It is the policy of the Blackstone-Millville Regional School District that students who choose to become members of other school districts through school choice, vocational education, charter schools, etc. will not be granted access to sports, music, or extra-curricula activities offered by the Blackstone-Millville School District."

The **Community Resources for Education** meeting originally scheduled for October 18<sup>th</sup> will now be held on Thursday, November 1<sup>st</sup> at 7:00PM in the library at the F. W. Hartnett Middle School.

Community Reading Day was held at the elementary schools in the district on Wednesday, October 24<sup>th</sup>. Many local officials and National Honor Society students read for the students in preschool to grade 5. Our thanks to Mr. Jack Carroll, Media Director, and the Millville Elementary School Parents Association for planning this event.

School Committee Meetings: November 8 and 20 in the library at the F. W. Hartnett Middle School.

### **School Committee Update – October, 2007**

The School Committee is committed to listening and responding to questions and ideas from the community about education in the district and will again sponsor **C**ommunity **R**esources for **E**ducation meetings. Last school year, the School Committee met outside the regular twice a month schedule with interested parties in the towns (such as parents, boosters, PTO's local civic groups). Many meetings were held throughout the school year to discuss ideas and provide information. These meetings brought community ideas and concerns to the school committee and attendees brought information back to their neighbors. With the **CoRE** group in place, the School Committee was more aware and responsive to community concerns and that citizens were better informed about the districts goals, operations and challenges. The first **CoRE** meeting will be held on Thursday, October 18<sup>th</sup> from 7:00PM to 9:00PM in the F. W. Hartnett Middle School. Please feel free to contact the school committee with items to discuss.

School Committee Meetings: October 11 and 25 at 7:00PM in the F. W. Hartnett Middle School Media Center.

### **School Committee Update – September, 2007**

The start of the school year will see a variety of administrative changes in the district. With the resignation of Patrick Lucier and Heather Reid Smith, the School Committee restructured the JFK/AFM complex administration to have one principal and an assistant principal to oversee both buildings. Mr. Everett Campbell, applied for and received the principal position, and Mr. Brad Monroe was named the assistant for this school year. (Brad will also continue his duties of Director of Technology, while housed at the complex.)

This change created a superintendent vacancy. Dr. Herb Levine, formerly of the Salem School System, was named Interim Superintendent. Dr. Levine retired as Superintendent of the Salem Public Schools in 2005, a position he held for 7 years. In the course of the year, he will work to assess the district's strengths and weaknesses, and will be communicating with staff, local officials and residents throughout the process.

With the retirement of Pauline Allaire-Adams, the district hired Suzan Cullen as Curriculum Director. She has taught elementary, special education, and reading. She has been a grant coordinator and consultant. Most recently she was the districtwide English Language Arts Coordinator, Title I Director, and English Language Learner Program Director for the Northbridge Public Schools.

Lastly, we welcome Mr. Craig Juelis as the Assistant Principal at the F. W. Hartnett Middle School. Mr. Juelis previously served as a 7<sup>th</sup> grade teacher and team leader in Mansfield. Former Vice-Principal John Staples wanted to return to teaching, and was hired as a music teacher at AFM.

### **School Committee Update – June, 2007**

On May 14<sup>th</sup>, the residents of Millville voted to approve the district's proposed operating budget, and on May 29<sup>th</sup> the Blackstone residents added their approval. Thanks to the voters for their support of education.

The School Committee would like to thank all the residents who were a part of the CoRE (Community Resources for Education) this year. We appreciated your input and help in getting additional Chapter 70 money. We will begin these meetings again in the fall and hope we can count on your participation.

Congratulations to our music director, Ronald "Buddy" Bibeault in being named Wal-Mart's Teacher of the Year!

Effective July 1, the John F. Kennedy and A. F. Maloney schools will have one principal and an assistant. They will remain as two separate schools under this administration. More information will be forthcoming in mid-June.

Best wishes to our district retirees: Pauline Allaire-Adams, Sandy Bourgerly, Michael Drake, Ann Marie Phipps, Lynn Price, Marion Seery, Pauline Winn, and George Zisiades. Thank you for your many years of service!

The June 6<sup>th</sup> meeting is the last for our student representative, Matthew Chamberlin. We wish Matt much success at Suffolk University and thank him for his service. The board enjoyed his reports.

Lastly, congratulations to the Class of 2007! The graduation ceremony is scheduled for Friday, June 8<sup>th</sup> at 6PM on the front steps of the high school.

School Committee Meetings: June 6 and 21 at 7PM in the Media Center at the F. W. Hartnett Middle School. Please check your local cable station for broadcasts of the meetings.

### **School Committee Update – May, 2007**

The School Committee, together with the Superintendent and Assistant, has been diligently working on the FY08 school budget. We have met with the Boards of Selectmen and Finance Committees of both towns to come up with a budget that addresses the needs of the district and its students and also takes into consideration the towns' ability to pay. We believe we have achieved our objective. We will share the latest information with you on the budget and the funding we will have to support that budget at the next CoRE meeting. This meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 3<sup>rd</sup> at 7PM at the F.W. Hartnett Middle School.

One important item to note is that the district did receive an additional \$232,000.00 in Chapter 70 money because of the efforts of Senator Moore and Representative Callahan. Both the legislators heard what was said at the March 6<sup>th</sup> meeting and pushed for additional funding. Your attendance at that meeting, followed by letters, demonstrated that people in our communities care deeply about the future of education of children in Blackstone and Millville. We thank Senator Moore and Representative Callahan and we encourage you to send them a letter expressing your appreciation as well.

Please remember that Millville's Annual Town Meeting is on Monday, May 14<sup>th</sup>, and Blackstone's is on Tuesday, May 29<sup>th</sup>. Your attendance at these meetings is critical.

School Committee Meetings: May 10 and 24 at 7PM in the Media Center at the F. W. Hartnett Middle School. Please check your local cable station for broadcasts of the meetings.

### **School Committee Update – April, 2007**

Over 200 people attended the latest CoRE meeting on Tuesday, March 6<sup>th</sup> with special guests Senator Richard Moore and Representative Jennifer Callahan. Thanks to all who attended on one of the coldest nights of the year. Also, we thank the National Honor Society and Student Council who provided babysitting in the gym.

According to the numbers released in the Governor's budget, the Blackstone-Millville Regional School District is slated to receive a 0.98% increase (yes, less than 1%) which is \$50.00 per student. This, according to Mr. Roger Hatch, Administrator of School Finance for the Department of Education, is based on a revised formula which has a targeted amount of what the local education share should be. Greater emphasis is placed on the wealth and value of a community through income reported and assessed valuations, as well as the number of students. Both Blackstone and Millville are above the target number, thus the reason for the minimal increase. Data is available on the DOE's website, "www.doe.mass.edu".

While Senator Moore and Representative Callahan hastened to add that the budget still must pass the Senate and House, there seems to be little hope of additional Chapter 70 funding. Both Senator Moore and Representative Callahan are part of a regional school caucus, so they hope that additional money might come from fully funding regional school transportation, in addition to increasing the funding on special education transportation costs and the special education circuit breaker. Senator Moore and Representative Callahan have co-sponsored a bill to assist regional school reimbursement, so hopefully this will become a reality. Senator Moore said, "Representative Callahan and I are committed to try to do as much as we can, to do more for public education, to get us back to the levels of the late '90's".

We encourage all residents to contact their legislators to solicit their assistance in gaining additional funds for education. The children are our future and they deserve a quality education.

School Committee Meetings: April 12 and 26 at 7PM in the Media Center at the F. W. Hartnett Middle School. Please check your local cable station for broadcasts of the meetings.

### **School Committee Update – March, 2007**

During the month of February, the School Committee met with parent groups in the district to continue the outreach of the **C**ommunity **R**esources for **E**ducation. We received many good suggestions and we thank all who attended. Our efforts will continue in March, with an important meeting on Tuesday, March 6<sup>th</sup> at 7PM at the F. W. Hartnett Middle School. Senator Moore and Representative Callahan are attending to hear from you, their constituents. Our legislators need to know your thoughts on education and state funding. Child care services will be provided by our high school students. Please make every effort to attend.

The Open Hearing on the school budget will be Thursday, March 15<sup>th</sup> at 7PM in the auditorium in the high school. The School Committee must certify a budget by the end of this month, so the Opening Hearing will be the opportunity to see what is initially being put forth. The budget may be reduced after its adoption, but may not be increased.

School Committee Meetings: March 1, 21, and 29 at 7PM in the Media Center at the F. W. Hartnett Middle School. Please check your local cable station for broadcasts of the meetings.

### **School Committee Update – February, 2007**

Our third **C**ommunity **R**esources for **E**ducation meeting was held on January 25<sup>th</sup>. The District presented their proposed overall goals for the District (FY 07 & FY 08) and a brief overview of the District's funding and spending trends over the last several years. This was done through a PowerPoint presentation prepared by Mark Almquist. The School Committee is working to set the course for FY08 and beyond and has set up additional meetings with specific groups to establish communication. They are: Feb. 6<sup>th</sup> at 6:30PM in BMRHS Library for the Athletic Boosters and Music Association, Feb. 8<sup>th</sup> at 7:00PM in FWHMS Library for all School Councils, and Feb. 13<sup>th</sup> at 7:00PM in AFM cafeteria for all parent organizations. In addition, the School Committee has invited the Seniors Citizens from Blackstone and Millville to a Luncheon at the FWHMS at 11:30 AM on Friday, March 16<sup>th</sup>. The next regularly scheduled CoRE meeting is March 8<sup>th</sup> at 7:00PM in the FWHMS Library. We hope to have Senator Moore and Representative Callahan at this meeting.

The Blackstone-Millville Regional School District is *extremely fortunate* to have parents and teachers who are involved in the lives of our children, and who actively serve as members of our various parent/teachers organizations. These organizations raise money to provide for items that are not possible in the district's budget. Following is a very brief synopsis of what these groups have provided this year:

- **B**lackstone **E**lementary **P**arents **O**rganization provides for one in school assembly for each grade, pays for field trip buses and nurses and a portion of the field trip admission, and has paid for Open Circle training for JFK teachers. In addition, the group has purchased equipment, such as 2 defibrillators, walkie talkies, basketball hoops, playground balls and playground apparatus. They have supplied prizes for the banking program, student planners and support after school programs.
- **B**lackstone-**M**illville **E**ducation **F**oundation recently awarded 17 grants totaling \$6,820.00 for a variety of programs throughout the district. Some of these include: Introduction to Robotics, Study Island-Reading, Literacy Skills Development, Electromagnetism, and an Author Visit.
- **B**lackstone-**M**illville **M**usic **A**ssociation keeps our music and marching band program afloat. They pay wages to specialized instructors to assist our children with color guard, percussion, jazz and marching technique and drill. They provide and maintain the marching band trailer and pay tractor rental and driver fees. They split the cost of the color guard uniforms and are purchasing drum cases. They also give \$5000. annually in senior and undergraduate scholarships, as well as donating to the JFK playground fund. BMMA also purchased a defibrillator for the high school this year, and gave \$2000. towards 2 Eagle Scout projects.
- Blackstone-Millville Regional Athletic Association purchased a defibrillator for the high school, a new track & field record board and uniforms for the Girls Varsity Soccer team and the Boys & Girls Tennis teams this year. Also, they give a duffle bag to each new varsity player and offer senior scholarships. They are in the process of raising money for new basketball scoreboards and are purchasing a generator for the softball pitching machine.
- Hartnett Middle School PTO hosts quarterly honor roll celebrations, sponsors after school clubs, pays for field trips buses and bottled water for the nurse's office, as well as assemblies and a storytelling festival. In addition, they sponsor social events and have formed a partnership with the staff in the Literacy Fund Drive to provide more books in the school. They also purchased a defibrillator for the middle school, where the pilot program took place.
- **M**illville **E**lementary **S**chool **P**arents **A**ssociation pays for all field trip buses, lunch with the principal, supplies and prizes for various school events and Open Circle training. In addition, they produce the MES yearbook and pay the stipends for their after school clubs and any supplies needed. They sponsor assemblies and social events, and have purchased equipment such as musical instruments, recess toys and smart boards.
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As you can see, our children greatly benefit from these organizations. We thank them for the countless hours they volunteer to support our children and these programs. Their generosity is astounding!

School Committee Meetings: February 1 and 15 in the Hartnett Middle School library at 7:00PM.

Submitted 1/26/07

### **School Committee Update - January, 2007**

**A**utomated **E**xternal **D**efibrillators will be placed in all of our schools very shortly. This project will be done at NO cost to the district, as it was done through the two year fundraising efforts of Judy Eisner and Ann Lesperance. There were many contributors, including our parent groups: Hartnett Middle School PTO, BEPO, Athletic Boosters and the Music Association, as well as many local businesses. Thanks to all for their generosity. A CPR/AED training session will be held on Sat., January 13<sup>th</sup> at the F. W. Hartnett Middle School beginning at 9:00AM at a cost of \$25.00 per person. All parents, coaches, teachers and residents are encouraged to sign up. There have been some changes to the CPR/AED recommendations, so those previously training are encouraged to be recertified. Please contact our AED coordinator, Beth Gadoury, at 508-876-0193, option 3 with any questions or to sign up for the training.

On November 30<sup>th</sup>, the School Committee held the second **C**ommunity **R**esources for **E**ducation meeting. The purpose of the meeting was to respond to questions from the October 19<sup>th</sup> meeting that needed research and to let the group know of what has transpired since that last meeting. Superintendent Campbell, Assistant Superintendent Montagano and School Committee Chair Harvey attended a meeting at Whitman-Hanson Regional High School to take part in a meeting with a group that has a similar focus as our CoRE group. They, like us, are focused on obtaining adequate, equitable and consistent funding as they move forward to FY08 and beyond. Our group is also seeking ways to lobby effectively with our local legislature and to reach beyond to Governor-elect Deval Patrick and his transition team. Superintendent Campbell attended one of the transition team meetings in Millbury on December 5<sup>th</sup>. In addition, the School Committee has established a communications tree to disseminate information throughout the community. Representatives from various groups have volunteered to be the contact person for their organization, and will forward information on to their members. The next CoRE meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 25<sup>th</sup> at 7:00PM in the Hartnett Middle School library. We invite all members of our communities to attend. We will post new information as it becomes available on the district's website ([www.bmrtd.net](http://www.bmrtd.net)).

School Committee Meetings: January 4<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> in the Hartnett Middle School library at 7:00PM. There will also be budget workshops with the administrators presenting their budgets on January 9<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>. -

Submitted 12/18/06

### **School Committee Update – December, 2006**

Congratulations to the BMR Marching Band for placing first in the New England Scholastic Band Association finals in Lowell on November 5<sup>th</sup>, and for earning second place in the United States Scholastic Band Association finals in Annapolis on November 11<sup>th</sup>. You have made us very proud!

The District has been under an Administrative Consent Order issued by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection in 1999 to connect the Blackstone-Millville Regional High School to the town's sewer system due to an earlier failure. The District School Committee has looked for the most feasible and economical way for the communities to reach this end. With the cooperation of the Blackstone Housing Corporation, an agreement has been reached enabling

the District to connect with their system and then to the sewer connection on lower Blackstone St. without excavating Blackstone St. The committee thanks Adam Tellier and the other board members of the BHC for their assistance resulting in a win-win-win situation for the District, the BHC and the towns. The project will be completed next summer.

Minutes for the School Committee meetings are now posted on the district website. Go to [www.bmrtd.net](http://www.bmrtd.net), and click on "School Committee" on the left side of the page.

School Committee Meetings: December 7 and 20 in the Hartnett Middle School library at 7:00PM - Check your local cable station for broadcasts of the meetings.

Submitted 11/22/06

### **School Committee Update – November, 2006**

The School Committee announced in mid-October that the district received a one time grant of \$174,000.00 from the state. We applied for the Foundation Reserve Award and received it due to the increase in transportation costs and declining enrollment. The money will be used to restore programs, such as extracurricular activities for all schools, compliance issues, transportation and safety issues. Of the \$62,141.00 approved for expenditure to date, \$53,835.00 will go directly to Student Services.

The **Community Resources for Education** committee, open to all parents and citizens, held its first meeting on Thursday, October 19<sup>th</sup>. The goal was and is to inform the community on what is needed to attain student achievement for *all* our students, as well as for input and hopefully assistance from the community. This two hour interactive meeting was very productive, and yielded many questions. In order to better address the need for adequate funding for the school budget, another meeting will be held on Thursday, November 30<sup>th</sup> from 7:00PM-9:00PM in the Frederick W. Hartnett Middle School library.

At the October 26<sup>th</sup> meeting, the School Committee approved the "Managing Severe and Life Threatening Allergies" policy. The policy may be viewed online by going to the district website, [www.bmrtd.net](http://www.bmrtd.net), and clicking on either the scroll or *Student Handbooks* in the right column. It is posted under addenda. It may also be found in the policy handbook, and each building principal and the superintendent have a copy.

Nurse substitutes are still desperately needed in our school district. If you are a Registered Nurse and are interested in adding your name to the substitute list, please contact Assistant Superintendent Kathleen Montagano at 508-876-0137.

School Committee Meetings: November 9<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> in the Hartnett Middle School library at 7:00PM - Check your local cable station for broadcasts of the meetings.

Submitted 10/27/06

### **School Committee Update – October, 2006**

Nurse substitutes are desperately needed in our school district. If you are a Registered Nurse and are interested in adding your name to the substitute list, please contact Assistant Superintendent Kathleen Montagano at 508-876-0137.

The School Committee has formed a new committee, **Community Resources for Education**, to keep parents and citizens informed of the programs in our schools. Input from members will help the School Committee as we make decisions that will directly impact the children in our district.

Please join us for the first of our quarterly meetings, on Thursday, Oct. 19<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00PM at the Frederick W. Hartnett Middle School. Our goal is to conclude these meetings by 9:00PM. The School Committee is pleased to inform the citizens of Blackstone and Millville of recent actions which have resulted in the retirement of \$17,720,488 of the original \$21,400,000 approved by the voters for the construction of the Frederick W. Hartnett Middle School which opened in 2003. This early reduction of the financial obligation will benefit the long term conditions of the two communities as well as their financial stability.

Our high school has been fully accredited by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges and has been removed from warning status. This is important to all our students in the district, pre-school through high school.

School Committee Meetings: October 12<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> in the Hartnett Middle School library at 7:00PM - Check your local cable station for broadcasts of the meetings.

Submitted 9/25/06