

School Committee Update April, 2011

At the March 10th meeting, the School Committee voted to schedule the snow & roof make up days, which was then approved by the teachers' union on March 16th. (Since the students' school year contained 183 days, 3 of the days do not have to be added to the calendar). Each school has a different amount of days to make up because of the snow on the roof: High School – 3 days, Middle School – 5 days, AFM and JFK – 6 days, and MES – 3 days. All our schools will have 3 days added to the end of the school year, making the last day June 22nd. In addition, AFM and JFK will make up 3 days during vacation; April 19, 20 and 21, and FWHMS will make up 2 days on April 19 and 20.

The School Committee presented the FY12 budget at the Open Hearing on March 16th, and then certified it at the meeting on March 24th. The budget, in the amount of \$22,470,000, reflects \$825,991 in reductions from its initial creation. The budget is not balanced, meaning funding for the entire amount is not in place. There is currently a deficit of \$1,189,139, which the School Committee and the Superintendent will be working on.

Please mark your calendars now for the annual town meetings: Millville on May 9th and Blackstone on May 31st.

School Committee Meetings: April 14th and 28th 7:00PM in the F. W. Hartnett Middle School Media Center

School Committee Update – March, 2011

We strongly urge all residents of Blackstone and Millville to attend the Open Hearing for the district's FY12 budget. The meeting is scheduled for March 16th at 7:00PM in the BMR High School Auditorium. Please attend to get the facts.

The School Committee is presently reviewing the options for when to make up the days cancelled because of snowfall and snow removal, and we will be sharing the plan in the very near future.

There will be 3 School Committee seats on the town election ballots, and two of them have no candidates. In Blackstone, Diane Robin, who is up for reelection, has returned her nomination papers for a 4 year term. A seat for a 1 year term is vacant, as Lisa Oliveira who was appointed last year will not run. She filled the seat which became open due to the resignation of Lynn Landry. In Millville, a 4 year term is available, as Ann Lesperance is not seeking re-election. If you are interested in serving on the committee, please contact School Committee Chairman Chuck Singleton at charlessingleton@bmrdsd.net or at 508-883-5771 (evenings) or 774-292-1686 (daytime).

School Committee Meetings: March 10th and 24th at 7:00PM in the F. W. Hartnett Middle School Media Center ~ March 16th at 7:00PM Opening Hearing for FY12 Budget in the BMR High School Auditorium.

School Committee Update – February, 2011

The School Committee Budget Subcommittee continues to meet in preparing the FY12 budget, and is currently meeting with all the district's administrators. This is in preparation for the Open Hearing meeting scheduled for March 16th at 7:00PM in the BMR High School Auditorium, followed by the certification of the budget on March 24th. In addition, the School Committee has invited the Boards of Selectmen and Finance Committees of both towns to a meeting tentatively scheduled for February 16th to discuss the finances.

The current contracts for the teachers' union and support personnel expire this year. Collective bargaining negotiations will soon begin with subcommittees of the Teachers Union and the School Committee, followed by negotiations with the support staff.

Our food service continues to improve its service and delivery, while meeting its financial goals. Overall sales remain even with 2009, but reimbursements are up. A Wellness Committee, headed by our Food Service Director, Jeanne Sheridan, has been formed which includes administrators, teachers and parents. They will bring recommendations forth this spring.

The district invested in technology for FY11, and has purchased smart boards for all regular classrooms, grades 1-12. Those not yet installed will be done over the February break. In addition, 40 Ipads were purchased for a Social Studies class at the high school as a pilot program.

School Committee Meetings: February 3rd and 17th at 7:00PM in the F. W. Hartnett Middle School Media Center ~ March 16th 7:00PM Opening Hearing for FY12 Budget in the BMR High School Auditorium

School Committee Update – December, 2010

The School Committee welcomes Lisa Oliveira as the new Blackstone representative. She was appointed to fill the vacancy left by the resignation of Lynn Landry. Lisa is the assistant principal at King Philip Middle School in Norfolk MA. She has two sons in elementary school, and is currently working on her Ed.D at Northeastern University.

Congratulations to the Marching Band for another great season! They finished with a gold medal at MICCA (Massachusetts Instrumental Conductors Choral Association), received 2nd place at the NESBA Championship (New England Scholastic Band Association), 1st place at the USSBA New England States Championships (United States Scholastic Band Association) and 2nd place at the USSBA National Championships. We are very proud of their accomplishments. In addition, we wish to thank all the members of the uniform fundraising committee, who raised over \$45,000 to outfit the marching band, chorus and jazz band with new uniforms. Quite a feat!

The School Committee met with the Blackstone and Millville Boards of Selectmen and Finance Committees on November 10th. The reason for the meeting was to review where we are with the current budget, where we expect to be at the end of the year and what we are looking at for the next fiscal year. We felt this meeting was necessary to enable the towns to fact find and gather information to prepare for the future. We are being told

from our friends on Beacon Hill that the funding for the next fiscal year is going to be less than it was this year and we should brace ourselves for a rocky road. The meeting was well attended and was praised for the openness and clarity of the presentation and we were encouraged to hold at least two more, one of which will take place before the budget hearings. Special thanks to Ms. Shaver-Hood and Mike Buckley for their efforts in preparing the PowerPoint presentation.

School Committee Meetings: December 16th, January 6th and 20th at 7:00PM in the F. W. Hartnett Middle School Media Center

School Committee Update – November, 2010

At the October 7th, Blackstone School Committee member Lynn Landry tendered her resignation. We thank Lynn for her 6 ½ years of service and wish her well. A resident of Blackstone can be appointed to fill the seat until the election, and then that person, if they chose to, would need to be elected to finish out the term, which is 1 year. If you are interested, please contact any School Committee member or the Superintendent of Schools. We urge you to get involved.

Our district has formed a committee comprised of parents, law enforcement, staff and administrators who will develop the model which the district schools will follow and enforce as we address bullying type behaviors. Time will be spent reviewing information about this growing national concern, looking at the MA State Model, and examining our school climate. We will be providing information to our school community regarding this important topic.

Did you know that we have twenty-five (25) middle school and high school students enrolled in virtual online courses? Virtual school is an online educational service which allows our students to take online courses which we do not currently offer in our schools. Our students work independently and complete the approved course work. Some of the courses which our students are enrolled in during this semester include: World War II; Technology Tools Using Open Office; The Teenage Brain and How It Works; Engineering Up, Up and Away; AP Psychology; and Animal Behavior and Zoology; Engineering for Sustainable Energy and Oceanography.

The Committee toured the JFK/AFM Elementary School complex prior to the meeting on October 21st. The Principal, Carol Costa and the Head Custodian, Chester Sheehan acted as the tour guides for the evening. The Committee visited various locations throughout the building including classrooms, gyms, kitchen, storage area and the boiler room. The John F. Kennedy School is the oldest of our schools with much of the original flooring and fixtures.

Please note that applications for free and reduced lunches can be filled out at any time during the school year. The form can be found on the district website (www.bmrds.net) under the parents section.

School Committee Meetings: November 18th and December 16th at 7:00PM in the F. W. Hartnett Middle School Media Center

School Committee Update – October, 2010

As the school year was just about to begin, we received additional money from the federal government. Because of this, we were able to hire staff for positions that had been cut. These include an elementary Music teacher, a .5 Reading teacher at MES, a Counselor at JFK/AFM, a Science teacher and an English/Social Studies teacher (combination) at the middle school, a .5 Adjustment Counselor. In addition, a number of extracurricular clubs were reinstated at the elementary level.

The district recently received a \$52,850 carbon reduction incentive grant from International Power. The grant money helped the District purchase and install two new high efficiency dual fuel burners for the boilers. The new burners will save the district money in heating costs and reduce emissions released into the environment. The remaining cost of the project was funded by a state grant.

The School Committee will meet with the members of the Boards of Selectmen and Finance Committees in both Blackstone and Millville in October. (A date is not yet confirmed.) This is in effort to share information and to ensure that regular communication occurs. This is the first of several such meetings which will occur during this school year.

Members of the School Committee will be visiting each of the school properties over the course of the next few weeks. Prior to the September 23rd meeting, members visited MES. The committee would like to thank all who hard to keep the school in such great shape. We could see there is a lot of hard work that goes into the upkeep of the building and appreciate the efforts of all involved.

All residents are invited to attend the school committee meetings and we urge you all to get involved.

School Committee Meetings: October 7th and 21st at 7:00PM in the F. W. Hartnett Middle School Media Center

School Committee Update – August/September, 2010

As we begin the new school year, the district welcomes several new administrators. As previously reported, two of those hired began their employment on July 1st. Carol Riccardi-Gahan was appointed as the new Student Service Director for the district. Ms. Riccardi-Gahan was previously the Special Education Director in Wrentham for grades K-5. Carol Costa took on the role of Principal at the John F. Kennedy/A. F. Maloney School complex. Ms. Costa was employed in the Hopkinton School District, serving the last two years as Assistant Principal.

Joining Ms. Costa as assistant principal at the complex is John Staples. Mr. Staples has served in the district for many years. He served previously as assistant principal at the middle school and as a district music teacher.

Mr. Cameron has left the position of assistant principal at the F. W. Hartnett Middle School to take another post. Rene Lafayette was hired to replace him. Mr. Lafayette

was previously a history teacher in Northbridge and most recently earned his administration certification.

Mrs. Abrams, the current principal of the F.W Hartnett Middle School, will be with the district until October 2nd, when she will begin her year-long maternity leave. Hired to fill the interim position is Warren White. Mr. White served as a principal for 16 years, and most recently retired as principal of Classical High School in Lynn.

School Committee Meetings: September 9th and 23rd at 7:00PM in the F. W. Hartnett Middle School Media Center.

School Committee Update – May, 2010

Michael Buckley of Blackstone and Catherine Robinson of Millville were both reelected to the School Committee in the April election. At the School Committee's reorganizational meeting on April 7th, the following officers were voted in: Charles Singleton, Chairman, Ann Lesperance, Vice-Chair, Steve Tringali, Secretary, Lynn Landry, Treasurer, and Catherine Robinson, Assistant Treasurer.

We are pleased to announce the appointment of Carol Riccardi-Gahan as the new Student Service Director for the district. Ms. Riccardi-Gahan is the Special Education Director in Wrentham for grades K-5. She will begin employment in the district on July 1st. Also joining the school district on July 1st is Carol Costa, who will take on the role of Principal at the John F. Kennedy/A. F. Maloney School complex. Ms. Costa is currently employed in the Hopkinton School District, serving the last two years as Assistant Principal.

As previously stated, the School Committee adopted a level service budget in March. Unfortunately, to reach the dollar amount necessary, 21 employees throughout the district will lose their jobs. Those notifications will take place this month. Dates to remember: May 10 – Millville Town Meeting May 25 – Blackstone Town Meeting

School Committee Meetings: May 13th and 27th at 7PM in the F.W. Hartnett Middle School Media Center.

School Committee Update – April, 2010

At the March 25th meeting, the School Committee certified its operating budget for FY11 in the amount of \$21,636,893.00. This is the same amount that was presented at the Open Hearing earlier in March. This amount may be reduced, but may not increase. We await more financial news from the state.

We are very proud and excited to be getting a Point of Sale Register System for all our schools this June. The main benefit is that we will no longer overtly identify which students are eligible for Free & Reduced Meals. This is known to increase participation by this population, which will in turn increase our Chapter 70 monies in future years. Parents will have the ability to pay for meals on-line. They may specify if money is to be used just for meals or if the student may purchase a snack. The system allows parents to view what their child is purchasing and it will also generate an email notifying parents

of 'low-balances'. The district will have the ability to set guidelines on the dollar amount students are allowed to 'charge' which will lessen the need for collection of monies owed and eliminate our past loss of revenue. The POS system allows for identification of any food or allergy concerns related to the child. Finally, our cash operations will be streamlined as all manual cash paperwork will be eliminated. All cash & checks will be easily accounted for & reconciled to the web-based cash reports.

Dates to remember: May 10 – Millville Town Meeting
May 25 – Blackstone Town Meeting

School Committee Meetings: April 7th and 29th at 7PM in the F.W. Hartnett Middle School Media Center

School Committee Update – March, 2010

On Feb. 11th, 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 11th 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 5th grade to the middle school. After initial investigation, there would be NO educational enhancement or savings, so the idea has been dropped. The 5th graders will remain housed at the A. F. Maloney and Millville Elementary Schools.

School Committee Meetings: March 11th and 25th 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 3rd. It is important that we keep each other updated and continue to work together for our children. The next meeting is scheduled for Feb. 11th.

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 26th.

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 17th, 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 3rd.

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 17th, 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 3rd.

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 8th, the following members were elected to fill the officer positions:

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| 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.

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 8th 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 7th 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 15th 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 11th, Blackstone – May 26th

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

School Committee Update – April, 2009

The March 25th 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 25th 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 16th 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 6th!

School Committee Meetings: April 7th and April 30th @ 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 12th 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 13th and Thurs., April 16th. 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 23rd, 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 9th. 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 31st, 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 30th 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 13th, the School Committee held the open hearing on the district's budget and on March 19th 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 10th.

After interviewing the candidates recommended by the superintendent search committee, the finalist for the position was presented at a forum on Tues., March 25th 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 6th, 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 11th, 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 13th, 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 19th, 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 10th 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 6th. Prior to that, the School Committee is inviting members of all School Councils to attend a CoRE meeting on Thursday, February 7th and members of the districts' parents group to attend on Wednesday, February 27th. Both meetings will begin at 7PM at the middle school.

On January 16th, 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 11th, 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 10th 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 6th 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 1st. 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 10th 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 10th and 13th. 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 18th will now be held on Thursday, November 1st 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 24th. 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 **Community Resources for Education** 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 18th 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 Juellis as the Assistant Principal at the F. W. Hartnett Middle School. Mr. Juellis previously served as a 7th 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 14th, the residents of Millville voted to approve the district's proposed operating budget, and on May 29th 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 6th 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 8th 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 3rd 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 6th 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 14th, and Blackstone's is on Tuesday, May 29th. 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 6th 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 6th 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 15th 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 25th. 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. 6th at 6:30PM in BMRHS Library for the Athletic Boosters and Music Association, Feb. 8th at 7:00PM in FWHMS Library for all School Councils, and Feb. 13th 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 16th. The next regularly scheduled CoRE meeting is March 8th 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

Automated **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 13th 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 30th, 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 19th 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 5th. 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 25th 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.bmrds.net).

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

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 5th, and for earning second place in the United States Scholastic Band Association finals in Annapolis on November 11th. 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, 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 **C**ommunity **R**esources for **E**ducation committee, open to all parents and citizens, held its first meeting on Thursday, October 19th. 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 30th from 7:00PM-9:00PM in the Frederick W. Hartnett Middle School library.

At the October 26th 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, 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 9th and 21st 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. 19th, 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 12th and 26th in the Hartnett Middle School library at 7:00PM - Check your local cable station for broadcasts of the meetings.
Submitted 9/25/06