

Blackstone-Millville Regional District School Committee
Frederick Hartnett Middle School
Minutes of Meeting
October 13, 2022
6:00 p.m.

Introduction of Members:

Erin P. Vinacco, Chairperson
Tammy A. Lemieux, Vice Chairperson (arrived late)
Keri L. Gaudette, District Treasurer
Charles Dunton, Member
Daniel Keefe, Member
Erin Zimmerman, Member
Ted Novio, Member

Tara L. Larkin, District Secretary was absent from the meeting.

Jason DeFalco EdD, Superintendent of Schools and Deirdre Farrell-Welch Interim Business Manager were also present.

Moment of Silence - Robert Bowen - worked as the head custodian for over 20 years and lifelong resident of Millville.

Student Representatives were absent this evening.

Motion: It was moved by Mrs. Gaudette, seconded by Mr. Keefe and unanimously voted to approve Consent Agenda A which includes Warrants and Minutes of Sept. 15th and Workshop minutes of Sept. 29, 2022.

They will begin the meeting with guests in the audience this evening.

Updated Reproductive Health Curriculum

Mrs. Young and Mrs. Colannino

Frameworks were reviewed and those from 1999 are in the process of being revised. It started in 2019 and was stalled along the way.

Philosophy:

It is about decision making and life choices. We are not here to judge, you are free to make your own decisions based on your own beliefs, morals, and values. We simply want to give you the necessary information to help you understand concepts related to teen sexual health which will allow you to make informed decisions.

Key teachers worked on the curriculum over the summer to meet the state framework. They were Tracey Ducharme, Jill Cole and Josh Euglow.

Mary Colannino worked to update the frameworks.

The high school was teaching this but not the Middle School.

All grades will get a letter allowing parents to opt their student out of the curriculum.

The high school already sent this letter out.

Mrs. Vinacco feels this is very important and kids need the right information.

Motion: It was moved by Mrs. Zimmerman, seconded by Mr. Novio and unanimously voted to approve the updated reproductive health curriculum in the Blackstone-Millville Regional School District.

Spring 2022 MCAS Results

Dr. DeFalco, EdD.

Review of 2022 MCAS results went public a few weeks ago.

2021 exam was an abbreviated exam.

In 2022 they took the full exam.

We have been asked by the Dept. of Education not to compare the two exams.

To compare 2021 to 2022 is not completely reliable.

The 2019 results can be compared to the 2022 results.

Dr. DeFalco thanks the School Committee, community as a whole as well as teachers and support staff for these results.

He wants to draw to our communities attention to the following:

- We were 6th in the state with the most in person learning as possible throughout the Covid pandemic.
- We didn't do the deep clean day but had the kids in every day and cleaned as we normally would.
- They added 40 days of learning over other Districts.
- We did not see the huge step backwards that the state took in most cases.
- We were also on the forefront of in school testing with parental consent.
- Being able to turn the nursing offices into testing labs was huge.
- All of these efforts helped us to not step back the way the state averages saw.
- We saw 10% increases in some areas at the elementary level.
- The MS took a big step backwards. There is a lot of work to be done there.
- You will hear from the new MS principal and her team.
- If you look at averages, grades 3 through 8 decreased in ELA by 8%. The state average was 11%.
- At the High School in 2019 Dept. of Education shifted from MCAS Legacy to MCAS 2.0. On Legacy they were 99% proficient or advanced. They dropped dramatically to 56% when the new MCAS 2.0 was taken.
- We reduced our meeting and exceeding by 2% and the state by 3%.

- There were some Math gains from 2019 - 2022 but not in all places. The MS needs improvement here.
- We saw a 4% decrease in Math and the state average saw a 10% decrease.

In Science there is good news and some urgent messages.

- Grade 5, 8 and 10 are tested in Science
- We improved our outcomes overall
- The elementary school teachers did all of this while moving schools with their students every year.

Everyone has worked incredibly hard but he could not be more proud of the elementary team.

Major story to be told underneath our growth percentile.

Overall:

- Grade 4 ELA 50% Math 48%
- Grade 5 ELA 60% Math 70%
- Grade 6 ELA 47% Math 41%
- Grade 7 ELA 52% Math 54%
- Grade 8 ELA 45% Math 56%
- Grade 3-8 ELA 50% Math 53%
- Grade 10 ELA 56% Math 53%

Mrs. Vinacco -

How they rated Dr. DeFalco collectively as a Committee 2021-2022

- Standard 1 Instructional Leadership Exceeded
- Standard 1 Student Learning Exceeded
- Overall Rating **Standard 1 is Met**

- Management and Operation
- Met Environment standard
- Overall Rating **Standard 2 is Met**

- Standard 3 Engagement Exceeded
- Communication Exceeded
- Overall Rating **Standard 3 is Exceeded**

- 4 Cultural Performance Met
- Continuous learning Met
- Overall Rating **Standard 4 is Met**

- Prof. Practice Goal District Strategic Plan Blueprint 2.0 - **Exceeded**

- All students having access to instruction by student performance monitoring **met**
- Capital Planning which is an ongoing goal - **Met**
- Student Learning Goal - MCAS results **Some Progress but did not meet the 10%**
- Diversity Equity and Inclusion Goal - **Met**

They will move into Dr. DeFalco's new 2022-2023 goals.

At the end of the meeting the Committee will move into Executive Session to finalize Dr. DeFalco's contract. They will publicly announce the agreement at the next public meeting.

They were late for the wrap up of his 2021-2022 evaluation. They don't usually move into the new goals at the same meeting.

School Year 2022-2023 Superintendent Goals

When we focus on the what, the how the whole child and the community then we will develop students of **character** who can **communicate, collaborate** and think **critically** and are responsible and productive **citizens** in a diverse and competitive world.

Evaluation Focus Standards:

1. Instructional Leadership
2. Management and Operations
3. Family and Community Engagement
4. Professional Culture

Creating a System that works for all Students:

By June 2023 we will have made gains in building and the school district that works for all students. We will continue to build the collective capacity of our school community around diversity, equity, inclusion, and equitable practices within our work. We will be moving towards improving outcomes within the four focus areas outlined below:

- Selecting Social studies curricula and materials - ensuring the materials we use reflect our community and those around us not reflected in our community.
- Strengthening our collective capacity in understanding the differences within our school community and identifying the strengths that bring us together, while helping our students be their best versions of themselves.
- Creating a safe place in our schools for all students, one where all students feel valued, welcomed and where they fit, and where they have opportunities to engage in clubs, music and athletic programs.

- Promoting our school community strengths by highlighting the work our students and staff.

Have your kids engage in clubs and activities. If kids don't participate it doesn't matter. They could not field a boys varsity soccer team. We have incredible opportunities but need to get kids interested. There were no younger kids that came out for the football camp this summer. Adults are willing and ready. Dr. DeFalco does not want to come to the Committee again to say they can't field a team.

Cultivating our Team

By June 2023 the district will show improvement in the staff supports that are in place to assist ALL employees in meeting their potential in each respective position. This will be done through the creation of new professional development opportunities, a revised mentor program for new staff, additional time to meet with staff mentors, coaches, and administrators, and more time to celebrate successes.

New design for mentoring program, new design for Professional Development, etc.

Nurses are working on a new nursing staff orientation guide.
Blueprint monitoring and implementation team. Pre K - 12 bringing parents, teachers and staff together.

Creation of new PD opportunities and optional PD modules, the new design for the mentoring program, implementation of the new Unit C evaluation system and end of the year staff survey results.

Long Range and Short Term Facilities Plan

By June 2023 we will have in place both a long range and short term capital outlay plan for the school district. This plan may include more immediate school facility reorganization opportunities for the district. This plan will also include either an acceptance into the MSBA school building project pipeline or a plan for resubmission.

We have buildings running at ½ capacity and are running too many buildings.
At the direction of the Committee Dr. DeFalco can start doing the research on this work.
He needs to have this analysis done before January when they are in the weeds of the new FY24 budget.

Learning Acceleration goal implementing our new Math program with Integrity for Pre-K through 12 and to select a new Social Studies program.

By the end of the school year, all of our schools will show evidence of improved teaching and learning through core classroom and intervention practices as measured by Star, MCAS 2.0 and RTI student performance monitoring.

- Remaining focused on data cycles.
- Our percent of kids not meeting grade level standards is very low.
- We have a ton of work to do to get kids to close the gap.
- Focus on students at partially meeting
- Need to do work with boys around literacy. 30% of boys on average are at grade level with literacy.
- Students with Special Needs remain the focus.

Student Learning Goal

The ultimate goal for the District is for all students to show progress in ELA, Math and Science on state assessments.

By the end of the school year grades 3-10 will see an increase of at least 5% in meeting/exceeding expectations from 2022 MCAS results on the ELA, Math, Science MCAS 2.0 assessments. All students, across all subgroups will move to at least the 50th percentile in ELA, math on statewide student growth in all grade levels where applicable grades 4-10.

Motion: It was moved by Mr. Keede, seconded by Mrs. Gaudette and unanimously voted to approve Dr. DeFalco's School Year 2022-2023 Superintendent Goals as presented this evening.

Blackstone Valley Career Pathways - remind the community about the high school opportunities at no cost to take courses for credit after school. We at BMR are running the course, Food for Thought about the integration of food with Mrs. Conti. Dr. DeFalco would like to open this up to our alumni as well.

Unit A Bargaining unit requests

Content Lead teachers are at the high school. The middle school has team leaders already. The elementary level is interested in having grade level team leaders. Focused work around teaching and learning data. Middle School to reorganize the positions.

Motion: It was moved by Mrs. Vinacco, seconded by Mrs. Lemieux to allow Dr. DeFalco to enter into negotiations with the Unit A teachers union around having grade level elementary team leaders.

Mrs. Lemieux feels that a leader at every level is excessive.

It's only Pre-K - 5th grade that do not have it. They don't have a formal teacher leadership structure.

It would probably be about 2 hours per month outside of school, 20 hours of work during the year and maybe 2 days in the summer.

This would mean 7 additional stipends for the elementary level.

Mrs. Vinacco and Mrs. Lemieux retracted their motion to allow Mr. Keefe to make the motion as follows:

Motion: It was moved by Mr. Keefe, seconded by Mrs. Zimmerman with 6 in favor and 1 opposed - Mrs. Lemieux to enter into discussion with Unit A with regards to the team leader stipends and return to the School Committee to vote on moving forward.

Mrs. Zimmeramn wants to know why we need this leader in Pre-K and Kindergarten?
She wants a breakdown of the current leader structure in our buildings.

Dr. DeFalco wants to focus in at an early age.

Footwear Cafeteria Employees

Mrs. Gonsalves is asking for the District to purchase comfortable, safe footwear for the cafeteria ladies. They purchase their own shoes to date. They would use the cafeteria funds.

Motion: It was moved by Mr. Dunton, seconded by Mr. Keefe and unanimously voted to approve the purchase of footwear for the cafeteria staff paid from the cafeteria funds.

Field Trip Request

Mrs. Cotillo is requesting a class trip for 8th grade students to go to Washington, D.C. from June 5th - June 7thm 2023. The trip supports the 8th grade civics curriculum. The cost per student is \$625. Fundraising is ready to be implemented. Mrs. Cotillo is just waiting for official approval. Going through Capital Tours with 40 persons per bus.

Mrs. Vinacco would like the chaperones to be more teacher based than parent based.

Motion: It was moved by Mr. Novio, seconded by Mrs. Lemieux and unanimously voted to approve the field trip request for 8th grade students to go to Washington, D.C. from June 5 - 7, 2023 using Capital Tours at a cost of \$625 per person.

A copy of the itinerary will be sent to the School Committee and Mrs. Cotillo will try to entice teachers to chaperone.

Additional Field Trip Requests.

Field trip to see a Christmas Carol by Mr. Sullivan for High School students at 10:00 a.m. on 12/9/22.

Motion: It was moved by Mrs. Lemieux, seconded by Mrs. Gaudette and unanimously voted to approve the field trip request by Mr. Sullivan for High School students to attend the Christmas Carol play at the Stadium Theatre at 10:00 a.m. on 12/9/22.

Report of the Business Office

Deirdre Farrell-Welch

Mrs. Farrell-Welch has been working with Auditors on FY21 and FY22 and working with staff 1 on 1 to work on goals.

Identify procurement issues with auditors.

Come up with an action plan on the results of the audit reports.

Mr. Hebert will work on his facilities budget.

Of the \$26,000 deficit on the School Committee line \$22,500 is used to audit FY22 and FY21 year.

Awaiting reimbursements for the technology lines.

Salaries - we encumber them and recalculate encumbrances during the course of the school year.

Maintenance - SRO in all 4 schools now causing a deficit.

Mrs. Lemieux wants to know how long the balancing of salaries will take.

Seems like more negative is on this report than the last report.

Mrs. Farrell-Welch - Some of the grant funds may need to be encumbered.

Some may be deficits in the salary lines that they will need to figure out where the funds will come from. It will always look like a negative until we balance out.

Mrs. Lemieux - snow removal hasn't started yet and we are in a negative here.

Mrs. Farrell-Welch - work has been paid out of this year for last year due to rollover issues and it has been taken care of by the auditors.

Mrs. Zimmerman - we are still negative \$10,000 on this line after the auditors handle the rollover issues.

Mrs. Farrell-Welch and Mr. Hebert will be trying to bid out fuel oil and look at consultants to try and save you the utility money. Mr. Hebert as facilities manager will be the central person where the custodians come to for purchase orders, etc.

Dr. DeFalco - the goal is to have everything system generated and get off of the spreadsheets.

The bottom line balance is not a negative number per Mrs. Vinacco. She doesn't feel there should be cause for panic.

Personnel Changes are in the packets.

Facilities Report:

Scott Hebert

High School:

- Industrial Burner has received the pressure relief valves needed for the three boilers; they are in the process of scheduling a technician to come and make the necessary repairs as required by the Commonwealth of MA.
- Craig Casavant (our electrician) has installed a remote boiler shutdown switch inside the boiler room adjacent to an exterior door as required by the Commonwealth of MA.

HMS:

- On October 5th the building called for heat and the boilers failed to start up. Mr. Hebert discovered that the Variable Speed Drive controller (VFD) had failed sending a failed alarm to the Building Automation System. Craig Casavant has ordered a replacement Drive Controller which should arrive on October 13th. In the meantime we are able to run the heating system manually.

JFK/AFM

- Playgrounds: It has been determined that we will move forward with ordering the Processed Wood Chips and having our custodial staff do the work on the AFM playground.
- The JFK playground we will be holding off on until we can get a more detailed plan in place.

MES

- August 20th after a power outage smoke was discovered coming out of the Air Handler #8 from a transformer on that unit. Since that day it has been discovered that six other Air handlers had suffered a similar fate in which the circuit boards had been damaged. Much like the Middle School we can run 6 of the 8 air handlers in a manual position.
- Playgrounds: We are moving forward with having the custodial staff regrade, spread and compact the processed wood chips.
- We will be removing the pea stone in the Pre -K play area and replacing it with the processed wood chips.

MES Surplus:

Various items from the classrooms such as a storage cabinet, tables and magnetic boards are being looked at as possible surplus items.

Motion: It was moved by Mrs. Lemieux, seconded by Mrs. Gaudette and unanimously voted to approve the items from MES as surplus.

Use of Facilities Requests

There is a use of facilities request by the BMEPTO to use the Complex for Trunk or Treat on 10/21/22 from 3:30 - 9:00 p.m.

There is a use of facilities request by the Girl Scout Troop 777 to use the Complex Cafeteria on Thursdays from 5:30 - 8:00 p.m.

Motion: It was moved by Mr. Keefe, seconded by Mr. Zimmerman and unanimously voted to approve the field requests as outlined above for BMEPTO and Girl Scout Troop 777.

School Committee Forum

Mr. Keefe - Told by town clerk they are having a trick or treat night at town hall. Offered to have the School Committee set up a table at the town call on Oct. 25th from 4:00 - 6:30 p.m.

Dr. DeFalco - Millville is also doing something like this as well.

Motion: It was moved by Mrs. Lemieux, seconded by Mr. Keefe to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 p.m. and enter into Executive Session to conduct strategy with respect to collective bargaining and litigation and not to return to the regular meeting. A roll call vote was taken.

Respectfully submitted,

Monique F. Simard
Recording Secretary

ATTEST: _____
Tara L. Larkin, District Secretary

