

**Blackstone-Millville Regional District School Committee**  
**Frederick Hartnett Middle School**  
**Minutes of Meeting**  
**October 27, 2022**  
**6:00 p.m.**

**Introduction of Members:**

Erin P. Vinacco, Chairperson  
Tammy A. Lemieux, Vice Chairperson - virtual  
Keri L. Gaudette, District Treasurer - arrived late  
Tara L. Larkin, District Secretary  
Daniel Keefe, Member  
Erin Zimmerman, Member  
Ted Novio, Member

Charles Dunton was absent from the meeting.

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

Report of the Student Representative:

- All athletic teams won games on homecoming and marching band won their competition.
- Varsity volleyball and field hockey tournaments held this weekend.
- Marching Band- new england championships coming up and nationals
- Costume parade for seniors on Halloween.
- NHS volunteer opportunities
- Drama Club fall play
- Magicians performed at BMR
- Trunk or Treats at the Elementary Level

**Motion:** It was moved by Mr. Keefe, seconded by Mrs. Larkin to approve Consent Agenda A which includes warrants.

**School Committee Items:**

**Student Recognition for MCAS**

Dr. DeFalco had the opportunity to honor our scholars who have worked so hard by giving them award certificates. They will be recognized for last year's MCAS work. We thank you and are so proud of all of you.

## **Middle School Improvement Plan**

Mrs. Cotillo and Mrs. Dudka

By looking at the MCAS scores Mrs. Cotillo realizes the Middle School has a lot of work to do.

6th grade coming in strong for STAR data but 7th and 8th grade pose challenges.

Time on learning current schedule has 2 periods per day that do not have instructional learning associated with them.

Mrs. Dudka - Curriculum Goals-

- Math curriculum implementation
- Small group skills based intervention in Math and ELA
- Participation in Social Studies curriculum review
- Engaging boys to encourage them to read more
- Increased opportunities for writing across the curriculum
- Clarified writing rubric used across the curriculum
- Targeted writing instruction

Build the stamina for students to have opportunities.

Directed study will be used for a literacy class instead. Build their identity as readers.

Identify a schedule that meets the academic needs of their kids.

### **Whole Child:**

- Looking for new and engaging extra curricular activities.
- Anticipating ongoing different opportunities for kids.
- BBST - recommit to that and have staff articulate the process.
- Work with 8th grade principal's advisory council.
- Identify the middle school Portrait of a Graduate.
- Give them the opportunity to be leaders, peers interact and share with the community.
- Participate in District outreach and public relation team. Involved in the community at large.
- Get our students into senior centers to bridge the educational gap.
- Professional Development - training and working with ILT team.
- Partner with teachers on English Language Learners.

Mrs. Lemieux - comment - Corroborate with Parks and Rec as well.

Mrs. Lemieux asked what will the students who are meeting and exceeding do during that time?

They are targeting intervention for warning level and on cusp.  
Students who are meeting/exceeding will continue in literacy classes full time versus those in warning levels who will have literacy classes half time.

Teachers have been involved in the schedule changes.

**Motion:** It was moved by Mr. Keefe, seconded by Mrs. Lemieux and unanimously voted to approve the Middle School Improvement Plan.

### **High School Improvement Plan**

#### **Mr. Roe and Mrs. Roberge**

Mr. Roe is the Math content leader at the High School

Mrs. Roberge is the English content leader at the High School

- Plan was made by ILT at the High School.
- Talked about where to begin and where to go from there.
- Portrait of a Graduate developed and revised over the last year.
- Students focus on supporting and explaining. Same skills at the next level.
- How we can align our teaching to what we want our students to learn.
- Career and College - get more opportunities for the kids and expose them to more to get better awareness of what's out there in the world.

#### **The What:**

- How are we meeting the needs of all of our students?
- They are using different curriculum programs in each area.
- Give students opportunities in all areas.
- Within PLC's how can we strengthen these things. Improve students' writing in English. Looking at students' work and seeing where we need to focus more.
- Align how everyone grades and criteria for grading.

#### **The How:**

- Implement news strategies and station rotations to engage students in learning more.
- Authentic Assessments with a focus on critical thinking and problem solving skills as well as communication collaboration pillars of a Portrait of a Graduate.
- Use PLC time to collaborate and strengthen student instruction.

#### **The whole child:**

- Advisory program is up and running. promote positive relationships throughout the year.
- Community building. Mentoring for students. One community to make all feel welcome.

## The Community:

- continue to educate families and the community about the Portrait of a Graduate skills students will have.
- Job fair being planned. Number of people from all walks of life in the cafeteria.
- Plan in the spring where juniors and seniors can visit 3 different colleges in one day on a field trip which is optional. See 3 different college environments.
- District Public relations team. Capture the moments to show the work they are doing.
- Good Stuff Smokehouse constantly has fundraisers for the school. How can the students give back to them? Look for ways to give back.

## Targeted Professional development:

- split up into groups and learn from each other.
- Strategic planning together.
- Look at MCAS and STARS data and time to review our curriculum.

Mrs. Vinacco can feel the collaboration that is coming through with this.

**Motion:** It was moved by Mr. Zimmerman, seconded by Mr. Keefe and unanimously voted to approve the High School School Improvement Plan.

## **JFK/AFM School Improvement Plan**

### **Dr. Chan-Remka**

- MCAS Math huge growth in this area.
- MCAS Reading they have some work to do.
- MCAS Science huge growth.
- Student growth percentile: They are better than 71% of the state.
- They need to find ways to incorporate Science in other areas.
- The Discrepancy is large between males and females in ELA between grades 3 and 4.
- They identified the areas of need. Teachers are given the time to do that and to form a plan.
- Portrait of a Graduate - brought it into fruition over the summer and worked hard on it.
- Made student friendly I can statements.  
Character, Citizenship, Collaboration, Communication and Critical thinking.

## **The What:**

Digging into evaluating curriculum.

Focus in on the writing. Why are they not scoring? Decide what they need to do. Decompose the questions to be sure students understand what they are being asked.

**The How:**

Implement acceleration of growth for all students. Even the highest level students still have target areas that need to be focused on .

They collaborate with the after school program.

Total of 92 children are in this program. They are trying to make the program an extension of their learning during the day. They are using a math program. Kids don't even realize they are doing math and they love it. Incorporate fun activities for boys around reading.

STEM, Cake decorating, Science, P.E.

**The whole child:**

Tied the whole child to a Portrait of a Graduate. Self regulating strategies and problem solving skills.

Champion program. Some kids don't feel they belong. They have identified 22 students that the champions spend about 20 minutes a week with each of these students.

Reset, reflect and restore. Every action has a consequence. Don't want students to see punishments as a negative. Restore the relationship.

**The community** - pull in all stakeholders and be welcoming to all. Their homelife, ethnic background, culture and views. What can we do to bring in these cultures in our schools? Hang flags in the hallways. Remove the unconscious bias.

**PD Plan**

Make sure all staff are on the same page.

Protocols for all grade levels.

Into Math training and Waggle Training. Targeted refreshed on Goal Setting.

Team members attend MASS REDI an DEIB Intro to Restorative Practice.

They will bring their champions to a meeting.

**Motion:** It was moved by Mrs. Zimmerman, seconded by Mrs. Gaudette and unanimously voted to approve the Complex School Improvement Plan.

**Millville Elementary School Improvement Plan**

**Mrs. Shafer**

**ELA**

48% of students at or above grade level in Kindergarten

61% of students are at/above grade level in 1

32% of students are at above grade level in 2

**Math**

11% of students at or above grade level in Kindergarten

35% of students at or above grade level in 1

36% of students at or above grade level in 2

It is tricky when the students have not used the laptops.

**What:**

Early Literacy Grant from DESE. Math instruction is meeting the learning needs of every PK-2 student.

Get all students ready to go the complex in reading and writing.

Social Studies instruction to meet the learning needs of every K-2 student.

**How:**

That all students have access to the curriculum materials and evidence based strategies that enable them to show their growth in a variety of ways.

**Motion:** It was moved by Mr. Novio, seconded by Mr. Keefe and unanimously voted to approve the Millville School Improvement Plan.

**Mary Colannino speaks on Blueprint 2.0**

Mrs. Colannino is the chair of the Implementation Monitoring Team.

District Blueprint 2.0

Long term goals and supporting action steps

Monitoring team meets monthly. Want to be sure the work is being done and done right.

All school improvement plans align to the blueprint.

Portrait of a Graduate is partially finished. Finished at HS and Complex, working on HMS and MES.

### **Business office reorganization**

Proposing for school year 23 - 24.

This year we have an interim business manager for 22-23

In 21-22 we had an Assistant Superintendent and he had an Assistant for a total spent of \$180,500.

\$15,000 applied to the lead coach role.

In 23-24 not seeking Asst. Superintendent position but looking for a Director of Finance and Operations.

We are in a different place now from where we were when we had an Assistant Superintendent.

We now have a Director of Facilities and a Lead Coach.

The Assistant Superintendent would have earned \$140,000 in FY23.

We feel the Director of Finance and Operations would earn approximately \$120,000.

Looking for support to the Admin. Assistant. to the Superintendent for this year.

Looking for a part time clerk for next year to do Accounts Receivable at \$20,000.

We have someone now doing work to balance out the fiscal work this year working 15 hours per week.

Grants stipend additional dollars to compensate the financial assistant doing the work with Mrs. Farrell-Welch at \$6,500.

Spent \$180,000 in 21-22

Propose spending \$161,500 in 23-24.

Mrs. Farrell-Welch apologized for appropriating the engagement of the Auditors without the approval of the School Committee.

**Motion:** It was moved by Mrs. Larkin, seconded by Mr. Novio and unanimously voted to approve the job description for Director Of Finance and Operations for FY24.

**Motion:** It was moved by Mr. Keefe, seconded by Mrs. Gaudette and unanimously voted to approve the Business Office reorganization positions and salary ranges as outlined above.

### **Facilities Update**

#### **Mr. 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.
- Update: We are still waiting on Industrial Burner to do the work. In the meantime, we have submitted a grant application through MIIA for up to \$10,000 toward the repairs.
- Extra bleachers have been placed on the track field for the remainder of the football season.
- Softball infield mix to be delivered by Friday, 10/28/22.

## **HMS:**

- On October 5th, the building called for heat and boilers failed to start up. He discovered that the Variable Speed Drive controller (VFD) had failed.

Update: The new VFD drive came in damaged and we had to send it back. We are still waiting on a new VFD drive to arrive.

## **JFK/AFM:**

- Playgrounds: It has been determined that we will move forward with ordering the processed wood chips and have our custodial staff do the work on the AFM playground. Update: The processed wood chips are delivered, work to be completed by Thursday.

## **MES:**

- Building Automation System remains the top priority. Dr. DeFalco and Mr. Hebert met with the Millville Board of Selectmen on Monday, October 24th and will be scheduling another meeting this coming week for further discussion to answer the additional questions raised.

## **Use of Facilities**

### HMSPTO

Monthly Meetings using the Conference Room at the HMS on Tuesdays from 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

### The Dance Company

Use of the HS Auditorium, Cafe and teachers cafe on 12/8, 12/9, 12/10 and 12/11.

Covid Clinic requested by the Town of Blackstone Board of Health.

**Motion:** It was moved by Mrs. Keefe, seconded by Mrs. Gaudette and unanimously voted to approve the HMSPTO monthly meetings request and the Covid Clinic requested by the Blackstone Board of Health.

**Motion:** It was moved by Mrs. Gaudette, seconded by Mrs. Larkin and unanimously voted to approve the Use of Facilities Request by the Dance Company for 12/8 - 12/9 provided the dates are approved on the school calendar.

## **School Committee Forum**

Mrs. Gaudette wants to congratulate the field hockey teams win on their final game of the season. One of our seniors scored one of the goals during the shoot out.

Mrs. Larkin mentioned that 11/4 says proposed p.d. day on the school calendar but we are in school that day.



Mrs. Zimmerman - spoke about the pumpkin contest in Millville with awards to be won for guessing the weight of the pumpkin.

Mrs. Vinacco stated marching band has New England state championships, NESBA and the National Championship in NY coming up. She wishes them well.

The next meeting will be held on November 17th at 6:00 p.m. where they will announce Dr. DeFalco's contract publicly.

**Motion:** It was moved by Mr. Keefe, seconded by Mrs. Gaudette to enter into Executive Session at 8:30 p.m. to conduct strategy with respect to collective bargaining or 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