

Blackstone-Millville Regional District School Committee
Frederick Hartnett Middle School
Minutes of Meeting
August 11, 2022
6:00 p.m.

Introduction of Members:

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

Mrs. Larkin was not present at the meeting.

Jason DeFalco EdD, Superintendent of Schools was also present.

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States was recited.

Motion: It was moved by Mrs. Lemieux, seconded by Mrs. Gaudette and unanimously voted to approve Consent Agenda A which includes Warrants and Minutes of July 11, 2022.

There were no items for the **Public Forum**.

Report of the Superintendent

There are 3 positions that have been talked about for some time. Dr. DeFalco placed update in packets that outlines where we are with these positions.

Interim Business Manager:

Since the July 11th School Committee meeting, the job has been reposted and three candidates were screened and had a preliminary interview. One was moved forward to a subsection of the Assistant Superintendent Screening and Searching Committee. The smaller committee forwarded the candidate back to meet with Dr. DeFalco. On Monday, 8/8 he had a chance to meet with the finalist to follow up on a few interview questions and discuss the terms of the position. They were able to determine some clear next steps. They are as follows:

- Friday, 8/19 @ 12:00 p.m. meeting with the candidate, again, to review a variety of district financial documents and contracts.

- Monday, 8/22 she will be joining part of the District Leadership team retreat followed by a meeting with the School Committee Chair and Vice Char.
- If all goes as planned, on Thursday, 8/25 we will have a contract for the School Committee to review and the candidate present at the 8/25 meeting.
- We are hoping for an official start on Monday, 8/29.

Lead Coach:

- On Tuesday, 8/9 we had six applicants and interviewed two candidates. We interviewed the finalist for the District Lead Coach on 8/9. We will have an update at the 8/25 meeting.

Middle School Principal:

- A screening and interview committee has been established ensuring stakeholders from a variety of our school community have a voice in the process.
- We have received ten applications. The committee screened in four based on the necessary criteria set forth for the new leader of the middle school.
- Interviews were held on Wednesday of this week.
- Finalists will be forwarded to me. We will schedule time for staff, and student and family question and answer sessions with each (as we have done with other searches). Each candidate will also have to complete a virtual lesson observation and feedback session, and data analysis activity.

There will be additional updates as we move our way through each process and a full update at the 8/25 meeting. However, anyone is welcome to reach out to Dr. DeFalco at any time regarding any of these positions.

The interim assistant superintendent will be offered a one year contract with an exit clause.

Start of the 22-23 School year

Save the dates:

- Monday, 8/22 and Tuesday 8/23 District Leadership Team Retreat 8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
- Thursday, 8/25 and Friday, 8/26 New Staff Orientation 8:00 am - 2:30 p.m.
- Monday, 8/29 and Tuesday, 8/30 Staff Orientation and Professional Development 8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
- First Day of the 22-23 school year grades 1-12 on 8/31 with Kindergarten starting on 9/1/22.

A bus tour will be taken by new staff to familiarize them with the Blackstone and Millville towns.

Think creatively on how to help the new staff and put together a variety of workshops for them above and beyond what they get from their mentors.

They will also be sending out a beginning of the 2022-23 school years events page to families.

\$173,000 grant for 21st Century Learning Center

Motion: It was moved by Mr. Keefe, seconded by Mr. Dunton and unanimously voted to increase the certified teacher hourly rate for the 21st CCLC program at the JFK/AFM Complex from \$35 to \$45 per hour for school year 22-23. The program is paid fully by the 21st century grant.

End of Cycle Evaluation for Dr. DeFalco:

Professional Practice Goal - Final Approved Blueprint 2.0 6/23/22
Working on launch to get information into the hands of our community.
Action Plans and Monitoring Committee are still being developed.

Academic Acceleration - Curriculum and Instruction
Hyperlinked evidence that shows the true work of our staff.
End of year data meetings held. It was run by teaching staff.

- The RTI blocks were a game changer. Intervention, progress monitoring and end check in.
- Teachers are learning deeper and better to adapt it to the students in front of them.
- Conferencing with parents a few times a year and giving them a quick check in.
- Schools have come together around their instructional practices.
- Balance between procedural work and applying it to problem solving.
- The district has come so far with all of this.

Only 1 student did not pass the recovery classes over the summer due to participation.

Mrs. Gaudette mentioned using the intervention groupings to push skills over the summer.

Equity and Inclusion - All Means All

All students feel they belong.

We need a reset at the Middle School and coming into a new opportunity with new leadership.

A survey was sent and will be shared with instructional leadership.

If you send out a survey you need to do something with the results.

Grade 9 Civics Project Summary

Dr. DeFalco told students he would share the information with the Committee members. Met with these students and had a conversation about the surveys they were working on. There was good debate in the class about the survey results.

In July he presented a resource guide in the mid-cycle evidence which is very important work and wants all students to know they are loved, they matter and belong here. Also, ran leadership training in another district around this work.

Facebook live had over 1600 views. He and the principals are sitting around talking about the work in a more relaxed setting. Gave the community an opportunity to see that they are real people and find out about their interests. They will continue to use this format in the future since it had such good results.

Capital Planning Goal

Short term capital planning projects in place.

Submit MSBA statement of interest. Dr. DeFalco received a call and we have advanced in the process to the senior study. They will come in to meet and look at the school. They want to see the systems and structures. They want to also hear about what the school is creating. We have not been chosen yet but this is a good step forward.

Student Learning Goal

Throughout the evidence he cites a certain piece of evidence but at the end of the day they need really good writers, readers, mathematicians and scientists.

Our meeting and exceeding Star Results in ELA have grown in a positive way. Grade 6 and Grade 8 went up 11% from the beginning to end.

Their new math program was actually built by a group of middle school teachers. Math results are not as strong collectively. You will see more peaks and valleys. You are looking for more of a consistent trend and less peaks and valleys.

Even the not meeting in ELA shows progress in most cases.

Student Growth Percentile - growth rate was very good. From the winter to spring in 6th grades they did tutoring, etc. and it helped.

Students with special needs - the growth that the students made is very good. The achievement needs improving but the growth is wonderful.

Next Steps were reviewed with the Committee

Professional Practice Goal - Strategic Plan with the steering committee taking the lead, we will complete our future focused, Portrait of a Graduate anchored, Blueprint 2.0 - Complete and in place.

District Improvement/Student Learning Goal - Accelerated Learning

Continue to support and adjust learning outcomes through classroom visits, data cycle, targeted student supports and interventions, and professional development. Complete for SY 21-22.

Purchase and begin training on the new math program PK -12 - Complete and in place.

District Improvement Goal Diversity, Equity and Inclusion - All Means All

Complete bridge session with Teachers 21 and layout DEI expansion to instructional Leadership Teams and one on one coaching - complete and in place.

District Improvement Goal - Capital Planning

Submit statement of interest and continue to work with community around next steps. Complete and in place.

Business Office Report

Expenditures and Revenues - wait until August 25th in order to finalize it all. Trying to work on the budgetsense line item report system generated.

If you need to see the long report now he will certainly provide it for you.

A Personnel Report was provided to the Committee.

Provided the Committee with resignations and retirements.

Current **Vacancies** by school:

BMRHS:

Science Teacher

Computer Science teacher

Technology Teacher

Spanish Teacher

Paraprofessional

HMS:

Science Team 7 purple
Math Interventionist
School Adjustment Counselor shared with HS
Spanish Teacher

JFK/AFM:

Reading Specialist

MES

No vacancies

Facilities Projects Update

MSBA project - moved on to the next phase - They will be coming to the High School on Sept. 14th at 1:00 p.m. Small group of our team will be present and ready for their visit. Communicate and give update to the Capital Planning group to get ideas. Many are our sitting board members in our Towns and it is good to keep them in the loop.

Dr. DeFalco will also write something on this for the Blackstone Enlightener.

High School:

- Asbestos work began on 7/5/22 and was completed on 7/30/22. We are currently waiting for a final inspection with Universal Environmental Consultants and MA Dept. of Labor Standards.
All areas have passed the air quality test with no concerns.
- Blackstone Green Communities LED lighting project has started and is slated to be completed by the start of the school year.
- Sand for the long jump pits have been replaced.
- We purchased two 10x20 foot metal storage containers for athletic equipment. They will be delivered on 8/12/22.
- The circulator pump for the heating system was replaced on 8/3/22.

HMS:

- Brien Paving began working on the driveway on 8/8/22 and will be completed by 8/19/22.
- Confirmed with the owner of Brien Paving that the work will not interfere with the meal pickup times on Wednesday.

JFK/AFM:

- Playground: Probuilt has been out to do some sight work and at our request they have come up with a plan to move some of the equipment to make the playground more condensed.

- Reached out to Ultiplay to get a second quote/opinion on all the playgrounds. Ultiplay is still working on the quotes.
- The Blackstone Green Communities LED Project is near completion.

MES:

- We are awaiting a second quote and opinion on which direction to go with the playground, but Ultiplay also stated that these two playgrounds would require the least amount of time and money. Mainly, just cleaning up around the field playground by raking the wood chips back into place and applying a fresh layer.
- The Pre-K playground will require removing all the peestone and applying the appropriate amount of processed wood fiber chips, and relocating a section of fencing to bring the slide into compliance.
- Sidewalk work and the new walkway to the auditorium was completed on 7/15/22.

Mrs. Vinacco was contacted by the parent organization and they are asking us to get quotes for poured in place rubber surface in place of wood chips. Mr. Hebert will get a quote on this.

Mrs. Vinacco believes we need to do our due diligence on this and have the options in front of us.

They will do this for all of the playgrounds.

The Committee and Mr. Hebert discussed the logistics of the equipment, wood chips and peestone.

When it becomes a certain dollar amount it would be brought to town meeting for capital expenses.

Mr. Keefe feels the playgrounds are open to the townspeople in both communities. He feels that if they use the rubber surface they would go to town meeting to request funding.

Mr. Novio is questioning the usability of the football field if this drought continues and they can't keep ahead of it there may need to be conversations with other schools who may have a turf field. He feels one game played on the field could be detrimental to the field.

Mr. Dunton mentioned the sidewalk on the corner of Mendon Street and Lincoln street near the playground needs to be replaced and could be a hazard. He feels there should be a plan in place to put sidewalks in certain locations. He also feels the gazebo could use a bit of carpentry work on the corner of Mendon and Lincoln Street.

Mrs. Lemieux stated the sidewalks have not been pushed since all students are bused to school.

Mr. Hebert stated they cleaned up the cross country trails.

Mr. Hebert met with a company to line the fields.

There were no items for **School Committee Forum**.

Cook out at band camp Saturday evening at 5:00 p.m. They will have a mini show at 7:00 p.m.

The next meeting will be held on August 25th at 6:00 p.m.

Motion: It was moved by Mrs. Vinacco to adjourn the meeting and enter into Executive Session at 8:05 p.m. 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

