

Blackstone-Millville Regional District School Committee
Frederick Hartnett Middle School
Minutes of Meeting
August 25, 2022
6:00 p.m.

Introduction of Members:

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

Jason DeFalco EdD, Superintendent of Schools was also present.

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

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

Report of the Superintendent

Marching Band Request

BMMA Request - Lisa Gervais

Dr. DeFalco stated we received more in transportation funds this year and part of this would be to provide more support to the marching bands transportation costs during the season. This would allow the BMMA to use more fundraising money for the kids trip in the spring to Disney.

The District is able to offer \$6850.

Motion: It was moved by Mr. Keefe, seconded by Mrs. Lemieux and unanimously voted to move \$6,850 in the transportation line to provide help for the Marching Band transportation of equipment costs during the regular marching band season.

Typically the full amount is covered by BMMA fundraising and not by the District.

Mr. Dunton asked how often this assistance will occur for the marching band?

Dr. DeFalco stated we do cover the transportation costs for other athletics and he felt that since we had the additional reimbursement for regional transportation we were able to do this for the band.

Mr. Novio thinks it's a tough precedent to set. Will we cover busing for other sports as well?

Mrs. Vinacco stated that we made cuts in the past and either they were able to pick up the cost by fundraising or they didn't go to certain competitions.

Dr. DeFalco said if we had resources for other sports and activities they would help there as well. They want to keep everything working for all groups and help as many as they can.

Mrs. Lemieux feels that we do set a precedent when we do things outside of the budget.

The \$6850 covers the cost of moving the equipment to the shows during the regular year.

XPress Football request

Representatives were here to discuss the possibility of using the home backfield at the BMR soccer field. Xpress Football is the farm league of the BMR Football team. Many of the students that play for XPress Football amount to approximately 40% of blackstone students. They are able to feed the BMR Chargers program. They are only looking for the 4 Sundays of the season to play their games. They would love to find a home field. They have been putting bandaids on this. They have never caused damage in the 10 years they have been involved.

Motion: It was moved by Mrs. Lemieux, seconded by Mr. Keefe and unanimously voted to allow XPress football and cheer league to use the back field of the BMR soccer field for 4 football games on 9/2, 9/16, 9/23, 9/30 all day from 7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Mrs. Lemieux is in favor as long as the school district is able to use the field for whatever else they need it for.

They are in Group 3 at \$50/day.

Introduction of:

Deirdre Farrell Welch - Interim Business Manager

Mrs. Farrell-Welch has a vast amount of Public School Leadership and Administration Experience.

Deirdre Farrell-Welch - It's a pleasure to be in front of you tonight. It's been a joy to be in the district. Retired after 20 years in the commonwealth. She is constrained by the amount of time she can work but wants to help.

Motion: It was moved by Mrs. Larkin, seconded by Mr. Keefe and unanimously voted to approve the contract for Deirdre Farrell-Welch, Interim Business Manager from August 29,2022 - June 30, 2023.

Lead Coach Mary Colannino

Mrs. Colannino will offer direct support to our coaches.

Mrs. Colannino has vast experience as:

- A science teacher
- Adjunct professor at RI College instructing 1st year teachers in the Teach for America program.
- Curriculum consultant and mentor for Teacher of America
- Instructor for Institute for Labor Studies and Research

Middle School Principal Mary Cotillo

Mrs. Cotillo has served as Assistant Principal in the Mansfield Public Schools and Franklin Public Schools.

Food Service

Served over 3200 meals in the community this summer. The food service staff cares so much about our community and goes out of their way to help. Dr. Jenny Remka volunteered at each one of our Wednesday food box pick ups.

If there are families in need our family welcome center is here for that.

Updated student enrollment and student class size data table:

- MES - 370 students
- Complex - 360 students
- Middle School - 352 students
- High School - 400 students
- Total student enrollment - 1482 students

The Complex had a total of 35 withdrawals where 30 of those were because the family moved out of town. Only 1 was for school choice.

At MES - 24 families moved out of town out of 30 total withdrawals.

At the Middle School - 38 families chose BVT and Norfolk Agricultural School and 1 to Douglas Public school. There were 15 families that moved and 4 that left for Charter Schools and 3 left for homeschooling.

High School - 24 students moved out and 4 during the year to school choice and no charter and no new families for homeschooling.

Everyone is asking why are they leaving and the same question can be put back on the community: why are 30 families leaving the towns.

We want to look at what our school needs look like for the short and long term.

They are interested in seeing what our enrollment would look like if all students in the towns stayed here in our district.

Some families have moved out and then back to our District.

Mr. Keefe said that all class sizes are fair and the regionalization has done this.

Advanced Placement results - Mrs. Foulis

58 students took 88 exams
40 females and 18 males

AP literature has increased for next year.

Takeaways:

- Increase in our score of 5 from 2021
- All 2023 students scored 2 or higher
- 2022- 88 tests taken
- 2021 - 91 tests taken
- AP advertising prior to course selection
- English and Math scores align with MCAS results

During course selection the Counseling dept. will advertise the A.P. classes in the lunch rooms and teachers will go into feeder programs to advertise and try to recruit.

Next steps:

- Data Dive - Analyze the exam results. What do we notice? What do we wonder?
- AP institute Planning Report - Explore resources AP provides to support student learning.
- Department Discussion - How can we build the skills in the feeder classes to support.
- PD Utilize mass insight partnership for training and increase AP PD participation

What are we not doing in our feeder programs to miss the piece? Lets get intentional PD for teachers. New AP Chemistry teacher for 23 - 24.

Teachers do get an analysis of their students' scores.

Report of the Business Office - Dr. DeFalco

Tonight's Expenditure report is run straight out of our software budgetsense.

Being able to see this information in real time right out of our system is very important.

We can generate and look at this exact report for grants. Dr. DeFalco needs to re-code them in our account numbers and the actual revenue type needs to be changed so everyone knows what it is.

Salary lines instructional classroom and specialists - went through all function codes to be sure what is budgeted and what is charged actually match well with what we budgeted for. That is the largest and most variable part of our budget. Pleased with where we are. What you will see in the next school committee report is where payroll catches up to our salary expenditures. Pause and see if this makes sense to folks.

Some people may have been coded to the wrong line. This person should be charged in a different place. Our lead coach and content lead coach could be charged to the same place. If it wasn't originally in the right code we may see this for the entire year.

Facilities Report

High School

- Blackstone Green Communities LED lighting is completed. It has been requested that they install motion detectors on the gym lighting like we had prior to the project.
- The 2 10x20 foot metal storage containers for athletic equipment have been delivered.
- We are waiting for Industrial Burner to replace 2 heating coil units, one in the ceiling and one in a unit ventilator. Mr. Hebert checked with Industrial Burner and they are still waiting on the new coils to arrive.
- During our recertification inspection of the boilers it was brought to Mr. Hebert's attention that the 3 boilers pressure relief valves need to be replaced and plumbed to expel the water onto the floor in an emergency situation. Industrial boiler has quoted \$11,950 to replace the valves.

Hartnett Middle School

- Brien Paving has completed the paving on August 15, 2022.
- During our boiler recertification they requested that we install a carbon monoxide detector inside the boiler room.

Complex

- Playgrounds: Mr. Hebert has reached out to Pro-Built for quotes to do a poured in place rubber material at all playgrounds. See the quote.
- The Blackstone Green Communities project has been completed. Mr. Hebert is waiting for them to pick up the old materials.
- The boilers passed inspection with no issues. However, the new compressor was never issued a certificate number for recertification. We are in the process of submitting the paper work to resolve this issue.

Millville Elementary School

- Playgrounds: Mr. Hebert has reached out to Pro Built for quotes to do a poured in place rubber material at all playgrounds. See quote.
- The wooden retaining wall located at the rear of the building by the loading is deteriorating and is in need of replacement. Mr. Hebert is working on getting quotes but will also look at doing it in-house as well.
- Boilers passed inspection with no issues.

Surplus items MES and Complex -

Motion: It was moved by Mr. Keefe, seconded by Mrs. Larkin and unanimously voted to approve the Complex and MES surplus items (books, furniture).

Use of Facilities Requests

- BMRSD SEPAC - use of the BMRHS Parking Lot and Courtyard on 10/1/22 with a rain date of 10/2/22.
- BMR Music Dept./BMMA - BMRHS Cafeteria and Music Room for Craft Fair on 12/3/22.

Motion: It was moved by Mrs. Lemieux, seconded by Mrs. Zimmerman and unanimously voted to approve the Use of Facilities requests as outlined above.

School Committee Forum

Mrs. Larkin - Open door day 6th grade - She asked when the new registration forms would be online?

Dr. DeFalco said it would be next year before this is up and running.

Back to school ice cream truck on Monday and Tuesday.

Mr. Keefe said it was nice to meet new employees. It was a very positive experience.

Mrs. Vinacco said good luck to all.

Motion: It was moved by Mrs. Vinacco to close the regular meeting and enter into Executive Session at 8:10 p.m. and not to return to the regular meeting. This motion was followed by a roll call vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Monique F. Simard
Recording Secretary

ATTEST: _____
Tara L. Larkin, District Secretary