

Blackstone-Millville Regional District School Committee
Frederick Hartnett Middle School
Minutes of Meeting
June 23, 2022
6:00 p.m.

Introduction of Members:

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

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States was recited and a moment of silence followed for Mr. Aldo Cecchi, previous Superintendent of the Blackstone-Millville Regional School District.

Also in attendance was Jason DeFalco, EdD, Superintendent of Schools.

Motion: It was moved by Mr. Keefe, seconded by Mr. Novio and unanimously voted to approve Consent Agenda A which includes Warrants and Minutes of June 9, 2022.

There were no items for Public Forum.

Blueprint 2.0 guide for the work moving forward

In attendance: Mrs. Keane, Mrs. Chan-Remka, Mrs. Shafer, Mrs. Cote, Mrs. Foulis and Mrs. Purcell.

Dr. DeFalco is hoping for an approval so they can build the action plan and dive deeper into the plan itself.

The Charger Way - Every Blackstone Millville Regional School District student is prepared and empowered to be a responsible and productive citizen in a diverse and competitive world.

The 5 C's:

- Character
- Citizenship
- Collaboration
- Communication
- Critical Thinking

Our Promise - 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.

The work must all connect. They need to be busy being focused on one thing. It all points back to serving all students, all means all.

Our Goals are in Curriculum, Instruction, the Whole Child and The Community.

- Curriculum - Leverage high quality, rigorous, and equitable curricula, assessments, and educator professional development to ensure that all students are able to meet the expectations/demands of the MA Curriculum Framework and Portrait of a Graduate.
- Instruction - Engage and support all students by providing equitable access to purposeful and relevant learning that allows them to demonstrate their growth in multiple ways.
- The Whole Child - With the support of faculty, families, and community members, and our commitments to creating a welcoming and inclusive environment where everyone belongs, all students will be equipped with developmentally appropriate social emotional skills and empowered to use those skills to persevere so they may learn at their optimum ability.
- The Community - Cultivate a shared responsibility for all students' growth by strengthening partnerships across the Blackstone and Millville communities, seeing feedback from stakeholders, and encouraging active engagement between home, school and community.

Mrs. Lemieux sees the collaboration with the 5 C's. She would love to see some components of required service learning at the High School. Our kids should be volunteering to mentor the younger ones.

Motion: It was moved by Mr. Keefe, seconded by Mrs. Zimmerman and unanimously voted to approve the District Strategic Plan 2022-2025 Blueprint 2.0.

Consideration of the Wellness Policy/Policy ADF

Mrs. Gonsalves, Food Service Director was present.

Discussion on the new unpaid meals charges policy. Updated protocols and procedures were added to the School Committee packets.

As policy chairperson, Mrs. Lemieux brings this policy to the committee this evening.

Motion: It was moved by Mrs. Larkin, seconded by Mrs. Gaudette and unanimously voted to approve the updated Wellness Policy ADF as presented this evening.

The wellness protocols and procedures connect to the unpaid meal charge policy.

The Unpaid Meal Charge Policy was read by Mrs. Lemieux as follows:

All students will be provided a reimbursable meal, ala carte items are not allowable, regardless of unpaid meal balances. Any available funds will be applied to unpaid balances only and may not be used for ala carte items. Parents, rather than students, will be contacted directly regarding unpaid charges.

Motion: It was moved by Mr. Keefe, seconded by Mr. Dunton and unanimously voted to approve the Unpaid Meal Charge Policy and the protocols and procedures that connect to it.

School Safety Increase of School Resource Officer

Dr. DeFalco

Dr. DeFalco had discussions with the chiefs of police and they came up with models to discuss with the Committee.

Mr. Keefe feels they should go into Executive Session to discuss the options.

Motion: It was moved by Mr. Keefe, seconded by Mr. Dunton and unanimously voted to go to Executive Session to discuss the school resource officer options.

Dr. DeFalco will put together scenarios and have the chiefs of police and current resource officers present when they meet in Executive Session.

Report of the Superintendent

Dr. DeFalco

Ronald Pierre- Louis - Assistant Treasurer for the school committee who has been the brains behind the financial work since 2018 was in attendance.

He reconciles all cash accounts on a monthly basis and submits a cash report on a quarterly basis. He assists with the audit process and closing out the year. He drafts the DESE end of year report as well.

He will help out during the time while they are looking for a new assistant superintendent.

They are just beginning with the 2021 audit done by the external auditors, R.E. Brown. We give them financial statements and they look at the accuracy of those statements.

They make sure all policies and procedures are followed and issue an opinion on it.

Assistant Superintendent Search

They have had 25 applications to date. A committee headed by Mrs. Pilla-Gallerani has started the interviewing process.

There is currently one individual who has been moved forward to interview with Dr. DeFalco.

They reposted today to be sure the finance piece is stressed in the job description.

They are in no rush to fill the position until they find the right fit.

Summer Programming

Acceleration Academy - The Dept. of Education is sponsoring the Acceleration Academy again this summer. They are very clear on the grade levels to be focused on. The request will be from \$30,000 - \$35,000.

It is highly competitive this year. Dr. DeFalco feels we will have a lot of competition. A small team has started to write the grant for the program to be held from August 22- 26. It will focus on Kindergarten, 1st and 2nd grade literacy and 3rd, 4th, 8th and 10th grade math.

Athletic Clinic - form to send out to families. We now have soccer and volleyball. Still missing football. It will be sent to parents when they have this information. Heard awesome feedback from parents.

The upperclassmen are going to be teaching skills to the younger students.

Band will be offered this year to 4th graders.

Mr. Dunton talked about having the band play at football games, etc.

Mrs. Vinacco stated we have a marching band. We would need another stipend position to have the band play at the football games, etc.

It could also be some of the students we are not capturing in marching band.

Read Aloud

Each week this summer there will be an email sent to parents with a children's story being told by staff members at BMR.

Families can click on the link and their kids can hear the stories.

They are trying to find something for everyone and keep all connected.

Summer Busing

The credit recovery and enrichment programs all offer busing and are running shuttles between The Boys and Girls Club, the Complex and Millville Elementary. This does not include the athletic programs.

Backpack Drive

They are starting their school supply and back pack drive. They are generating a list for this.

This is being done in conjunction with the district social worker.

Report of the Business Office

Small Capital Projects.

Overview of the 3 projects they are looking to move forward with in this fiscal year.

Repair and Restore the 3 elementary playgrounds.

Scott Hebert stated they need to update the wood chips at the Complex. The issue for ADA can be that wheelchairs can't move on it.

Mrs. Vinacco says woodchips are ADA compliant.

They propose moving 2 tire swings no longer being used and build a retaining wall near the basketball court. They would remove concrete that is sticking out and put 12 inches of wood chips. They also want to remove the monkey bar dome.

They need wood chips, edging and a ramp at the A.F. Maloney playground.

The large Millville playground needs more wood chips.

At the Pre-K playground in Millville they would add wood chips and the slide needs to be dug up and moved or move the fence back. Any residential toys should be removed.

Motion: It was moved by Mr. Keefe, seconded by Mrs. Larkin and unanimously voted to approve an amount from FY22 not to exceed \$60,000 (\$25,000 for JFK, \$3,500 for AFM, \$21,000 for MES) for repairs and restoration of the JFK/AFM and Millville Elementary school playgrounds making sure the wood chips used are ADA compliant.

Mrs. Lemieux wants to be careful of what is removed from the Complex site. Much of that was donated by Andrew Bibeault Memorial funds.

Motion: It was moved by Mr. Keefe, seconded by Mrs. Larkin and unanimously voted to approve an amount from FY22 not to exceed \$100,000 to repave sections of the middle school driveway.

Mr. Hebert stated they will go straight up the driveway toward the soccer field. They are taking out the old and putting in new product.

Motion: It was moved by Mr. Keefe, seconded by Mrs. Gaudette and unanimously voted to approve an amount from FY22 not to exceed \$13,000 for repairs and restoration of the sidewalks at the Millville Elementary school.

Track and Field Improvements

Dr. DeFalco met Mr. Dunton to go through the shed at the High School and looked at the facility itself. They came up with a thorough list for track and field and a softball piece.

High Jump:

- Mats
- Cover
- Standards
- Crossbar

\$12,000

Hurdles:

- 2 sets of 20 with 2 hurdle carts

\$7500

Discus:

- 4 (2 male and 2 female)

\$600

Javelin:

- 6 (4 girls and middle school and 2 boys)

\$1,500

Starting Blocks:

- 1 set of 8 blocks with a block cart

\$3,800

Storage Sheds:

- 2 10ft. X 12 ft.

\$8,000

- Storage Materials for existing shed:

\$250

- Sand for Triple and Long Jump Pits:

\$3,000

Total: \$36,650

Softball Infield Replacement

- 3 inches of new infield sand

\$15,500

Grand total: \$52,150

Motion: It was moved by Mr. Keefe, seconded by Mrs. Zimmerman and unanimously voted to approve the above improvements to Track and Field and Softball for a grand total of \$52,150.

Facilities Update:

High School:

- Two heating coils have developed holes that will need repairing (one in the teachers' workroom located on the first floor and the other is on the 2nd floor in the Math/Science department storage room). We received a quote from Riverdale Plumbing and Heating for the sum of \$7,860. Update, Industrial Burner was in on June 3rd to survey the repairs needed. We will be receiving a quote shortly.

MES Surplus 2022 - damaged items

Motion: It was moved by Mr. Keefe, seconded by Mr. Dunton and unanimously voted to deem MES damaged items as surplus (list of items supplied to committee members.)

Health Office Surplus

There are currently four vision screeners in our health offices that no longer correctly function. Each is approximately ten years old and is in need of calibration. The nurses are moving back to manual vision screening and are no longer using the dated equipment. Some of the devices were purchased using grant funds.

Motion: It was moved by Mrs. Larkin, seconded by Mrs. Gaudette and unanimously voted to deem four vision screeners in our health offices as surplus.

School Committee Forum

Mrs. Vinacco - getting in touch with Mr. Shafer to see if there were needs for the band. Should we earmark funds before the next meeting to check into this. If we don't do it before June 30th the funds will roll over into E&D. She is recommending \$45,000.

Motion: It was moved by Mrs. Vinacco, seconded by Mrs. Gaudette to earmark \$45,000 for the music program for orders to be placed before June 30th, 2022. The items purchased would be requested by Mr. Shafer and approved through Dr. DeFalco.

Mrs. Gaudette is concerned that earmarking funds for a wishlist opens them up for wish list items for other departments.

Mr. Keefe may be able to offer advice that since it is not an agenda item and it may jam us up, the Superintendent can have a discussion with Mr. Shafer and they can schedule a meeting for next week to vote on this.

The requisition must be done and in our accounting system by June 30th.

Mrs. Lemieux said there were asks that we said no to at the beginning of the budget process by other departments.

Mr. Shafer probably already has a wishlist available.

Mrs. Vinacco and Mrs. Lemieux feel they are okay to make the motion here at tonight's meeting.

The motion on the floor was voted 6 in favor- 2 nay - Mr. Keefe and Mr. Novio.

Mrs. Lemieux feels the challenge is the timeline and trying to order items in such a short timeframe.

Mrs. Zimmerman - shoe collection boxes - there were no boxes put out in Millville - The board of selectmen in Millville voted yes and the boxes were put out at Town Hall and fire station 2 weeks ago. Looking into including Millville in the Autism police badge fundraiser.

Mr. Keefe -there will be a charger football golf tournament next Saturday at Crystal Lake.

Upcoming meeting - July 11th @ 6:00 p.m.

Motion: It was moved by Mr. Keefe, seconded by Mr. Novio and unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Monique F. Simard
Recording Secretary

ATTEST: _____
Tara L. Larkin, District Secretary

