

**TOWN OF MILLVILLE
BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

MINUTES OF JANUARY 16, 2008

JOINT MEETING BETWEEN THE MILLVILLE AND BLACKSTONE BOARDS OF SELECTMEN AND FINANCE COMMITTEES WITH THE BLACKSTONE-MILLVILLE REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE, SUPERINTENDENT HERBERT LEVINE AND ASST. SUPERINTENDENT KATHLEEN MONTAGANO.

Millville Board Members Present: Vice Chairman Paul Savage, Selectman Tom Petrowicz and Selectman Charlie Poulin

Other Millville Officials Present: Executive Secretary Helen Coffin and Finance Committee Member Steve Tringali

School Committee Member Ann Lesperance calls the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

The School Committee takes any questions relating to the package of information requested by Blackstone that was recently distributed. Any further questions should be forwarded to the School Committee.

A question is raised concerning the impact of students leaving the District to attend BVT and Norfolk Aggie. Dr. Levine explains that a survey was sent out to the 39 parents of 9th grade students who attend those schools asking why they found those schools more attractive than BMR. The results of the survey indicated that the reasons were solely related to the students' interests in a trade. Dr. Levine further explained that the School Committee will be looking into adding more extra-curricular activities as he feels these need to be added to make the BMR High School more attractive to students.

Brief discussion takes place regarding a question about introducing an Industrial Arts program to the High School, including automotive repair, to entice the students to stay. Dr. Levine advises that most High Schools that now offer trades at a high school facility are the newer built schools that received funding from the State to assist with the costs of including a vocational curriculum in the high school. The School Committee explained that they have added the "Construction Zone" program at the High School which includes classes in some of the trades.

The School Committee will be considering implementing a full-day kindergarten program. Dr. Levine spoke at length regarding this initiative which includes adding 3 teachers and all new reading materials and reading programs. The reason for looking into this program is to address the reading challenges that are present according to the 3rd grade testing scores. Millville has done poorly with the AYP (Adequate Yearly Progress) scores for the past three years. The full-day kindergarten would eliminate the kindergarten busses and the bus monitors for a savings of at least \$90,000. Additionally, with the children attending full-day, the Chapter 70 funds would increase by

approximately \$200,000. There are two grants available: a planning grant to assist with the initial planning of the curriculum; and an implementation grant to assist with the actual starting of the program. The state currently offers continuation grants and Dr. Levine feels these will continue. He also feels that full-day kindergarten will be a state mandate within the next 10 years. The specific numbers and information concerning the proposed program will be sent to the Towns once it is finalized and presented to the School Committee.

Fred Hartnett discussed the status of the remaining Middle School building funds. The legislature has approved using the funds for use on other properties that the District owns (High School). The School Committee is considering using the funds on a new freezer, parking lot repairs, technology advances, loading dock improvements, an athletic fields design plan, a new handicap access to the auditorium and a new handicap lavatory. The specific list will be sent to the Towns once it has been finalized and presented to the School Committee.

Brief discussion follows regarding applying for and the availability of Homeland Security Grants to assist with the furnishing of security equipment for the school facilities.

Brief discussion takes place concerning capital requests and the recommendation that the agreements between the District and Towns be amended with respect to the elementary schools. The dollar amount relating to capital items should be increased to \$25,000 rather than the current \$5,000. Blackstone will contact Millville once they work out the specific language with the attorneys.

The School Committee gives a brief update on the administration situation at the JFK/AFM complex. They will re-evaluate the situation as it pertains to the principal and assistant principal positions to determine if they will continue it the same next year.

The School Committee advises that the Superintendent position was advertised in newspapers and career journals with the application deadline January 31, 2008. The ad states a competitive salary is offered; Dr. Levine estimates at \$120,000-\$150,000.

The next joint meeting is scheduled for Tuesday evening, March 11, 2008 at 7:00pm. The budget meeting between the Millville FinCom and BMR School Committee is rescheduled from March 19th at 7:00pm to Wednesday, April 2nd at 7:00pm.

The Meeting adjourned at approximately 9:10 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Helen M. Coffin

Paul Savage, Vice Chairman

Tom Petrowicz, Selectman

Charlie Poulin, Selectman

APPROVED AND SIGNED 1/22/08