

**Blackstone-Millville Regional
District School Committee
CoRE Meeting
Minutes of Meeting**

April 16, 2009

The Blackstone-Millville Regional District School Committee met in the library/media center of the FWH Middle School commencing at 7:00 p.m.

The following members were present as follows:

Michael J. Buckley, Chairman
Ann M. Lesperance, Vice Chairperson
Charles Singleton, District Secretary
Steven Tringali, Member
Diane C. Robin, Member

Lynn Landry, Catherine Robinson and John Eldridge were not present.

Also present at the meeting were Christine D. Tyrie, Ed. D., Superintendent of Schools and Kimberly B. Shaver-Hood, Assistant Superintendent of Schools, Denise Daignault, Karen McFarland, Esther Cote, Colleen Lettieri and Maureen Vasquez.

Dr. Tyrie spoke on the stark budget recommendations for FY10 released by the House Ways and Means Committee recently. The legislative budget proposal has differed considerably from the budget proposed by the Governor back in January. The budget that will be debated starting on April 27th includes significant cuts to not only the towns of Blackstone and Millville, but also to the Regional School District. The continued decline in state revenues and a growing reluctance to use one time federal stimulus funds are having an impact on state and local budgets.

Dr. Tyrie stated that transportation reimbursement could be cut in half. Special Education Circuit Breaker reimbursement could be cut to \$184.8 million which is a reduction of \$45 million from the original FY09 funding.

At a recent meeting Dr. Tyrie attended with Senator Moore it was stated that level funding would be unwise. The House Ways and Means Committee questioned Chapter 70 distribution. It was stated that the formula used had too high an inflation number in it. Class sizes may need to rise but education can survive.

According to Dr. Tyrie we do not know how things will unfold yet. The full day kindergarten grants were cut by 15%. At 13% free and reduced lunch we do not qualify for a high poverty area. The Circuit Breaker was cut to about 40%. Medicaid reimbursement has also been tightened. There seems to be an inequality in what some towns receive for funding.

Dr. Tyrie stated that the towns are cautioned against using stimulus funds for salaries. There is frustration over this as these funds cannot be used in the same way that Chapter 70 funds are used.

Dr. Tyrie stated that no one expected this to happen. It is going on all over in the state, towns, etc. Realistically we will not know how we are impacted until about Memorial Day. at this time, the state cannot tell the schools when they will readjust the Chapter 70 money. The District needs to have a plan in place for whichever scenario we could end up with.

Dr. Tyrie stated that if legislature attempts to pass the budget too soon they may not have the funds to cover everything.

The goal of the School Committee is to do all they can to minimize the impact on students. They may need to look at ways to do things in an innovative way.

Mr. Buckley urges the townspeople to contact Representative Callahan and Senator Moore as citizens and professionals to see what they can do for us. Now is the time for everyone to get involved in order to advocate for the children of the District. Representative Callahan can be emailed at Jennifer.Callahan@state.ma.us. There are several amendments to the budget being drafted to lessen the impact to schools and towns. He is asking that in your email you ask Representative Callahan to consider these amendments.

Respectfully submitted,

Monique Simard
Recording Secretary

ATTEST: _____
Charles Singleton, District Secretary