

The Millville Area School Board held their regular meeting on Monday, February 14, 2022, in the high school library. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

The following Board members answered roll call: William Berger, Brynn Clark, Susan Farr, Michael Farrell, Greg Hemsarh, Heather Mausteller, Susan Myers, Deborah Price, and Jessica Whitmoyer.

Also present were Joseph Rasmus, Ed Sanders, Dee Davis, Alicia Differ, Jim Hess, Noah Adams, Whitney Holloway, and Kathy Musselman.

GUEST RECOGNITION AND COMMENTS

Rachel Allbeck: Current bus driver for Rhinard transportation. Prior to COVID, transporting non-school age children on the bus was not an issue. Safety is in place and distraction is not a problem. Handling distraction is part of being a bus driver. Requesting approval to reinstate transporting non-school age children. If not, drivers may not be able to continue to drive busses. The number of bus drivers is down.

Kaylee Berleth: Mrs. Berleth read a statement to the board. Nine years ago a friend suggested she become a school bus driver. At that time, a benefit was that she could bring her child on the bus. It is difficult to find other options for childcare. Driving bus requires skills. She is dedicated not only protecting her own children but those students riding her bus.

Audrey Reifendifer: Current driver of bus 11. Her children are grown but she does have a foster child. Due to the mandates and clearances of being a foster parent, coverage to watch her foster child is limited. If she doesn't stay home to watch the child, her husband, a truck driver has to stay home at a loss of \$1,000.

Renae Faus: Has been driving bus for seventeen years. Her son was on the bus at 3 months old. She is the guardian to her grandchildren. Back-up childcare is her eighty-four year old mother-in-law and she cares for her father-in-law who has Parkinson's. On occasion, she has had to pull her son early from school to watch the baby. It would be a huge thing for all if transportation of non-school age children would be reinstated.

Nelly Swisher is interested in becoming a substitute bus driver. Praised the bus drivers and thanked them for coming out to the meeting.

Heather Mausteller asked if the busses are equipped with seatbelts.

Renae Faus: Glen Rhinard will install seatbelts allowing the car seat to be strapped and secured.

Michael Farrell thanked the bus drivers, stating they do a remarkable job and referred to them as "Bus Warriors".

Jessica Whitmoyer: The drivers could go elsewhere and make more money. You have to make them want to stay.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

2021-2022 MASD Health and Safety Plan Revisions

Mr. Rasmus provided a power point detailing the proposed changes for board consideration to support one, all, or none of the suggested changes.

The suggestions for consideration are to eliminate contract tracing, desk divider shields, and Sunday sanitation. Cleaning and sanitizing to occur as needed. If the transmission rates increase, the district would need to reconsider and re-implement mitigation strategies removed from the plan.

Black History Month

February is Black History Month. Lessons have been communicated regarding black individuals and what they have brought to society. The district has received inquiries addressing those lessons. We are teaching diversity and fostering tolerance; they are no different from us. We are not teaching Critical Race Theory. We are an inclusive school and everyone is welcome.

BUSINESS MANAGERS REPORT

Mrs. Holloway submitted a written report.

APPROVE BOARD MEETING MINUTES

A motion by Greg Hemsarth and seconded by Susan Farr that the Millville Area School Board consider and approve January 24, 2022 meeting minutes.

The motion carried by voice vote. 9 Yea; 0 Nay; 0 Absent

EXPENDITURE APPROVAL

A motion by Heather Mausteller and seconded by Greg Hemsarth that the Millville Area School Board consider and approve February 14, 2022 general expenditures in the amount of \$242,743.86; athletic expenditures in the amount of \$2,283; and cafeteria expenditures in the amount of \$2,389.77.

The motion carried by roll call vote. 9 Yes; 0 No; 0 Absent

2021-2022 MASD HEALTH AND SAFETY PLAN REVISIONS

A motion by Brynn Clark and seconded by William Berger that the Millville Area School Board consider and approve revisions to the 2021-2022 MASD Health and Safety Plan based upon administrative recommendations.

Greg Hemsarth: Is the nurse test-to-stay screening?

Mr. Rasmus: No, testing-to-stay not executed.

Sue Farr: If the desk dividers come down and we need to put them back up it's not something that can happen overnight. Suggested to keep the dividers in place for another 2 – 3 weeks.

Brynn Clark: Her children did not like the desk shields and favored the masks over the shields.

Mr. Rasmus: The desk dividers are a distraction especially someone of small stature.

Heather Mausteller was strongly against doing away with the Sunday sanitizing. We have ESSERS funding to take care of the cost.

Mr. Rasmus: Sunday sanitation is a work around to not cancel school on Monday and allowing us to keep our transmission rates low. Sometimes administration will receive a call Saturday or Sunday from a parent that their child is COVID positive. On Sunday, full cleaning and sanitizing with Fulsan sanitizer is completed, including the gym, bleachers, and bathrooms.

Sam Faus: As a student, he can attest that the shields obstruct view especially for someone sitting further towards the back of the room. The corners are taped with opaque tape making it difficult to see and hear the teacher. The shields are easily knocked down. Many clips have been broken and the shields are then taped in place.

Mr. Rasmus stated the board has the option to change the motion if they choose to do so.

After discussion, a motion by William Berger and seconded by Brynn Clark that the Millville Area School Board consider and approve revisions to the 2021-2022 MASD Health and Safety Plan to include eliminating contact tracing, eliminating desk divider shields, and for a period of thirty days continue Sunday sanitation before reexamining. If the transmission rates increase, the district would need to reconsider and re-implement mitigation strategies removed from the plan.

The motion carried by roll call vote. 9 Yes; 0 No; 0 Absent

2021-2022 SCHOOL CALENDAR REVISIONS

A motion by Greg Hemsarth and seconded by Susan Farr that the Millville Area School Board consider and approve the following revisions to the 2021-2022 school calendar: November 4, 2021 with a make-up day of February 17, 2022; January 7, 2022 with a make-up day of February 18, 2022; January 24, 2022 with an elementary make-up day March 14, 2022, as an elementary Act 80 day – No school for high school faculty, staff, or students, and no school for elementary students; February 4, 2022 with a make-up day March 15, 2022.

The motion carried by roll call vote. 9 Yes; 0 No; 0 Absent

CSIU BOARD REAPPOINTMENT

A motion by Heather Mausteller and seconded by Michael Farrell that the Millville Area School Board consider and approve the re-appointment of Deborah Price, to serve another three-year term on the CSIU Board from July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2025.

The motion carried by roll call vote. 8 Yes; 0 No; 0 Absent; 1 Abstention (Deborah Price)

TRANSPORTING NON-SCHOOL AGE CHILDREN

A motion by Jessica Whitmoyer and seconded by Michael Farrell that the Millville Area School Board consider and approve allowing transportation bus operators to bring and transport their non-school age children upon the bus they are operating.

Several board members questioned insurance and liability.

Mr. Rasmus stated he spoke with Lanny Diltz, Yoder Insurance and Ben Pratt, solicitor. Liability would fall first to the parent's auto insurance. If they had no insurance then the liability would fall to the transportation contractor and then to the district. Our solicitor indicated this is not best practice, however, the decision to allow or not would become a local decision.

Mrs. Mausteller asked if a waiver form could be submitted to not hold the district liable. She is an advocate of the taxpayers and would not want the district held liable.

Mr. Berger favored the idea of a waiver.

Mr. Rasmus stated a waiver form may make everyone feel better but will not hold up in court.

Greg Hemsarth would not want to see these four ladies walk off the job.

Mrs. Myers: Worked in insurance and a waiver is not allowable. She is concerned with legal issues. Suppose they are in a hurry, have an accident and are cited by police.

Has known Glen a long time. He does a great job. The market is tough. Would like to support but can't.

Mrs. Farr appreciates the job the bus drivers do but the liability is too great for her to support.

Mrs. Whitmoyer: It takes a while to get a CDL. If you don't have drivers you don't have a bus company.

Mr. Farrell: Many schools allow this practice. We need quality drivers to transport our students.

Mr. Rasmus: Other districts handle in varied ways. Not only was the practice stopped by the pandemic but being new to the district, he had concerns, as well.

Mr. Berger would support own children.

Mrs. Johnson: What about her grandchildren that she cares for?

Mrs. Price: How does Glen Rhinard feel?

Mr. Rasmus: Mr. Rhinard supports the drivers and their needs. He has reached out to Mr. Rasmus and confirmed his support. Mr. Rhinard has been a good partner. Call with a transportation change and he does what he can to make it happen.

In district, childcare may be offered next school year for pre and afterschool care. The details have not been worked out, but may be an option.

After discussion the motion carried by roll call vote. 7 Yes; 2 No (Susan Farr and Susan Myers); 0 Absent

DONATION ACCEPTANCE

A motion by Brynn Clark and seconded by Michael Farrell that the Millville Area School Board consider and approve accepting a donation of scrap material pieces from Kawneer to complete materials testing for a lesson in Manufacturing 2, in the classroom of Mrs. Jistine Myers.

The motion carried by roll call vote. 9 Yes; 0 No; 0 Absent

BASEBALL OPEN GYMS

A motion by William Berger and seconded by Michael Farrell that the Millville Area School Board consider and approve baseball open gyms from 2:00 p.m. until 4:00 p.m., Sundays starting February 20th through March 13th, 2022.

Heather Mausteller is not in favor of Sundays. Past practice is not to have the buildings open on Sunday, now we are setting a precedence and will need to allow others Sunday times.

Ms. Differ: The reason for Sunday is coach availability. Some of the same students are in other sports and Sunday works well in their schedule. The day of the week is determined by availability, for example, Mrs. Pell has open gyms scheduled on Wednesdays. Anytime the kids can come together in a positive way is beneficial. Millville is a small community with not a lot of activities and things to do. It is an opportunity to condition and improve their skills.

Greg Hemsarth: Open for baseball because of the time of year. The weather is not favorable to be outside. Felt certain times of the year should be allowable for open gym.

Michael Farrell: Time they can burn off energy is valuable any time. They are also building their skill set.

Susan Farr and Susan Myers were concerned with custodial availability and the need to adjust cleaning times.

After discussion the motion carried by roll call vote. 5 Yes; 4 No (Susan Farr, Heather Mausteller, Susan Myers, Deborah Price); 0 Absent

BOOSTER CLUB FUNDRAISER

A motion by Brynn Clark and seconded by William Berger that the Millville Area School Board consider and approve a booster club gun raffle fundraiser to be held off campus.

Heather Mausteller had questions she needed answered before she would approve. Where off campus will the event be held? Will they pull winning tickets or will guns be onsite? Sometimes a meal is provided with the ticket purchase. What sport will benefit from the fundraiser?

Mr. Rasmus said he thought the venue was the American Legion in Bloomsburg. We have a unified booster club and the fundraiser would benefit all sports. Other schools have had success with this type of fundraiser.

Ms. Differ stated she would email Mr. Albertson to receive answers to the questions posed.

Mrs. Farr has been involved with similar raffles through the fire company. Money is made but feels it is not a "good look" for the school.

Mr. Sanders was recently involved in this type of raffle with a considerable amount of funding offered to several schools to provide scholarships in his late nephew's memory.

After discussion, a motion by William Berger and seconded by Heather Mausteller that the Millville Area School Board consider and approve tabling the motion to approve a booster club gun raffle fundraiser. The motion to table carried by roll call vote. 5 Yes; 4 No (Brynn Clark, Michael Farrell, Greg Hemsarh, Jessica Whitmoyer); 0 Absent

FITNESS EQUIPMENT

A motion by William Berger and seconded by Heather Mausteller that the Millville Area School Board consider and approve Fitness Headquarters (Costars Vendor) to provide the MASD with Cardiovascular Fitness Equipment for the Millville Area Elementary School and Millville Jr/Sr High School, in the amount of \$34,440.

Mr. Berger stated we discussed this purchase in the Buildings and Grounds Committee Meeting. It was not understandable how our previous equipment was in poor condition and not useable while having a maintenance agreement with Fitness Headquarters.

Upon request, the maintenance reports were provided. With multiple transitions in the athletic department, the reports fell between the cracks. Moving forward, the maintenance reports will be filed in the Superintendent's office.

The motion carried by roll call vote. 9 Yes; 0 No; 0 Absent

AGRICULTURAL FIELD TRIPS, BU MATHEMATICS COMPETITION, BU TRANSITION, PMEA REGION IV BAND

A motion by Greg Hemsarh and seconded by William Berger that the Millville Area School Board consider and approve the following field trips:

Agricultural Field Trips: Columbia County Area Public Speaking Contest, Stillwater Christian Church, February 25, 2022/snow date March 4, 2022, open to all qualifying agriculture students; State Legislative Leadership Conference, March 14, 2022, open to junior and senior agriculture students; Penn College Earth and Science Center, Allenwood, for the Norther region Public Speaking Contest, April 21, 2022, open to all agriculture students with an interest in agriculture policy; PA FFA State Activities Week, June 7-9, 2022, open to all agriculture students.

BU Mathematics Competition: Bloomsburg University Mathematics Competition, March 29, 2022, for one or two teams, depending on interest of advanced math students.

BU Transition: Bloomsburg University Transition Conference for select students, March 30, 2022.

PMEA Regional IV Band: PMEA Region IV Band Festival at Wyoming Valley West High School, March 10 and 11, 2022, for one student and Mrs. Sweeney.

The motion carried by roll call vote. 9 Yes; 0 No; 0 Absent

BERKSHIRE SYSTEMS GROUP FIRE ALARM INSPECTION MAINTENANCE CONTRACT

A motion by Greg Hemsarh and seconded by Heather Mausteller that the Millville Area School Board consider and approve using Berkshire Systems Group, Inc. for fire alarm system inspection and testing at an annual cost of \$2,880.

The motion carried by roll call vote. 9 Yes; 0 No; 0 Absent

ILLUMINATED INTEGRATIONS MAINTENANCE CONTRACT

A motion by Michael Farrell and seconded by Heather Mausteller that the Millville Area School Board consider and approve using Illuminated Integrations for programming and commissioning the rigging system in the auditorium for annual service and inspection at an annual cost of \$1,332.

The motion carried by roll call vote. 9 Yes; 0 No; 0 Absent

ENERGY AND SUSTAINABILITY SERVICES PERFORMANCE AGREEMENT

A motion by Jessica Whitmoyer and seconded by William Berger that the Millville Area School Board consider and approve entering into an Energy and Sustainability Service Performance Agreement with Schneider Electric whereby Schneider Electric will collaborate with the MASD to identify opportunities for efficiency and facility improvements through a guaranteed energy savings project under the regulation of the PAPUC with no financial obligation to the district.

The motion carried by roll call vote. 9 Yes; 0 No; 0 Absent

DEVELOPMENT OF A TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

A motion by Brynn Clark and seconded by Jessica Whitmoyer that the Millville Area School Board consider and approve development of a Transportation Committee.

The motion carried by roll call vote. 9 Yes; 0 No; 0 Absent

GIRLS VOLLEYBALL CO-OP WITH BASD

A motion by Brynn Clark and seconded by Jessica Whitmoyer that the Millville Area School Board consider and approve the MASD to enter into a Cooperative Agreement with Berwick Area School District (BASD) for Girl's JV and Varsity Volleyball beginning in the fall 2022.

Mr. Farrell: Would we transport? If so, would it be one way?

Ms. Differ: Yes, if we transport, it would be one way.

Mr. Rasmus: Develop a plan and PSBA policy. Currently, we have three students interested in participating and the parents indicated transportation was not needed.

Mrs. Mausteller asked about the cost and season volleyball would occur. She also stated we are having a hard time filling our own sports rosters.

Ms. Differ stated the cost would be a one-time application fee of \$100 and volleyball is a fall sport. Not a lot of schools offer volleyball. We are a small school with limited opportunity.

Mr. Rasmus: We need to provide the opportunity. We do not want to violate Title IX.

After discussion, the motion carried by roll call vote. 9 Yes; 0 No; 0 Absent

CSIU SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS

A motion by Jessica Whitmoyer and seconded by Michael Farrell that the Millville Area School Board consider and approve Haley Bennett, Sara Fink, and Elizabeth Lee, as CSIU guest substitute teachers.

The motion carried by roll call vote. 9 Yes; 0 No; 0 Absent

SCHOOL EMPLOYEE TRANSPORTATION DRIVERS

A motion by Jessica Whitmoyer and seconded by Michael Farrell that the Millville Area School Board consider and approve Rachel Allbeck and Stephanie Widger, as school employee transportation drivers of school vehicles.

The motion carried by roll call vote. 9 Yes; 0 No; 0 Absent

TRANSPORTATION DRIVER APPROVAL

A motion by Jessica Whitmoyer and seconded by Susan Myers that the Millville Area School Board consider and approve L Derr Transportation van driver, Lester R. Blosser, Jr. and Rhinard Transportation bus driver, Nelly Swisher.

The motion carried by roll call vote. 9 Yes; 0 No; 0 Absent

MASTER OF EDUCATION COMPLETION

A motion by Jessica Whitmoyer and seconded by Brynn Clark that the Millville Area School Board consider and approve the degree advancement of Wyatt Smith to Master of Education, as a result of satisfactory completion of continued education requirements, as per CBA.

The motion carried by roll call vote. 9 Yes; 0 No; 0 Absent

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

A motion by Susan Myers and seconded by Heather Mausteller that the Millville Area School Board consider and approve an FMLA leave of absence request from employee 239, beginning with a half-day March 22, 2022 through April 22, 2022, with an anticipated return April 25, 2022. Employee will use accumulated sick time for the leave.

The motion carried by roll call vote. 9 Yes; 0 No; 0 Absent

RESIGNATION

A motion by Jessica Whitmoyer and seconded by Susan Farr that the Millville Area School Board consider and approve accepting the resignation notice from Donna Page, effective January 31, 2022.

The motion carried by roll call vote. 9 Yes; 0 No; 0 Absent

TECHNOLOGY ADVISOR

A motion by Susan Myers and seconded by Jessica Whitmoyer that the Millville Area School Board consider and approve Noah Adams, as Technology Advisor, in accordance with the co-curricular stipend schedule of \$1,676, prorated for the remainder of the 2021-2022 school year.

The motion carried by roll call vote. 9 Yes; 0 No; 0 Absent

BASEBALL VOLUNTEER COACH

A motion by Jessica Whitmoyer and seconded by Brynn Clark that the Millville Area School Board consider and approve Harold Albertson, as a Baseball Volunteer Coach, for the 2021-2022 season.

The motion carried by roll call vote. 9 Yes; 0 No; 0 Absent

GIRLS SOCCER COACH

A motion by Heather Mausteller and seconded by Susan Myers that the Millville Area School Board consider and approve Rick Riera-Gomez, as coach for Junior High and Varsity Girls Soccer.

The motion carried by roll call vote. 9 Yes; 0 No; 0 Absent

EXECUTIVE SESSION

An executive session is scheduled for personnel matters, after adjournment.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion by Heather Mausteller and seconded by Greg Hemsarth to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Kathy Musselman
Assistant Board Secretary