

The Millville Area School Board held their regular board meeting on Wednesday, November 14, 2022, in the High School Library and on ZOOM. Board President Susan Myers called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m., followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

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

Also present were Joseph Rasmus, Whitney Holloway, Dee Davis, Edward Sanders, Noah Adams, Matthew McWilliams and Chelsea Rosenberger.

GUEST RECOGNITION AND COMMENTS

Guest Sandra Whispell requested to speak. She began her comments by speaking on the most recent Veterans Day Assembly at the Elementary School, praising the improvement of the band and chorus under the current teachers. Mrs. Whispell also thanked the teachers and staff for putting on such a great program to honor local Veterans. Then, she shared some concerns on the inclusion practices happening in the school and more specifically, as part of our school's attendance at the recent Diversity Conference. She shared concerns about the speaker at that conference and the topics being presented there. She went on to mention that even though Millville is small, we do have some diversity and some students who have learning and physical disabilities in our district who have been "included" and encouraged to participate and be involved in the school. Mrs. Whispell mentioned that Millville has graduated such high achieving, good students and scholars, sharing that her granddaughter is going to school for Biology right now. However, she did mention that her granddaughter felt that she missed out on a lot during the pandemic. Mrs. Whispell closed her comments by cautioning the board to be aware and remain informed about the situations happening in the community, mentioning that she is concerned with the lack of parent involvement.

At that point, board member Mr. Greg Hemsarh mentioned that the school district posts agendas at least 48 hours in advance of the scheduled meeting time so that parents and community members know what is going on and can share concerns. He encouraged Mrs. Whispell to look at the agendas and reach out with concerns. Mrs. Whispell said she appreciated his comment and responded that she would do that. As one final comment, Mrs. Whispell questioned the board about the amount of Act 80 days in the calendar and the amount of days students would be out of school and learning. To this, Mr. Rasmus answered with an explanation that the state department of education has produced a large variety of standards and compliance items that must be met during the school year. In addition, Mr. Rasmus mentioned that the district is implementing several new initiatives and curriculum that the teachers need professional development time to complete. Mrs. Whispell countered that she is concerned with all of the online learning and believes that students need to be more independent thinkers. As a final note, Mr. Rasmus mentioned that the district is no longer utilizing online learning days. The district would either have students in school learning or at home.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

CUB SCOUT PRESENTATION

Mr. Rasmus explained to the board that earlier on in the evening prior to the board meeting, the Scouts had met with him to learn about local government and community leadership. Mr. Rasmus invited the Scouts present for the meeting to line up in the front of the board to recite their pack's pledge. He asked each of the scouts present to share with the board what they are currently doing in the program. The Scouts each shared about different things including a recent trip to New Jersey where they got to stay on a ship, another had to start a fire with flint and steel, a recent camping trip where they stayed in a tent, baking with a Dutch oven with charcoal, and making a pinewood derby stand. The board thanked them for sharing with them at the meeting.

FFA PRESENTATION

Next Mr. Rasmus invited Ms. Nicole Guise, Agriculture teacher, and the officers of Millville's FFA chapter to present for the board some highlights of their program. Ms. Guise shared with the board some highlights about what FFA and the High School Agricultural program have been doing as well as plans for the future. She shared the three domains or tenants of the Agricultural program and their work through hands-on activities in a variety of tasks. Then, the FFA Officers shared with the board their current goals for the school year, mentioning their desire to gain more students in the program, expand the budget for FFA through fundraising, inviting teachers and administrators to FFA events, and implementing a recycling/composting program in the school. The FFA officers shared with the board their regular involvement currently in the school, mentioning their meetings along with committee meetings and community service. Some community service they are going to be doing included, trash pickup and sending Christmas cards to the nursing home. They would also like to have new experiences with FFA by attending a variety of conferences throughout the year. In addition to community involvement, they shared the numbers of participation by students in the school currently. The officers noted some ways that they have encouraged community awareness, mentioning their FFA Facebook page, Instagram, Newsletters, and many other ways. In closing, Ms. Nicole Guise wanted to thank the board for their consideration and support.

School Safety Updates

Mr. Rasmus shared with the board some details about the All Hazards Drill held in October as well as some findings from the drill. He believed that the staff were doing good things, but there were some areas he saw as needing improvement. At the beginning of November, Mr. Rasmus, along with other administrators, attended the Safe Schools Conference where one of the topics of discussion was trauma-informed schools. Mr. Rasmus believes that we need to empower our staff members to appropriately respond in emergency situations. They may need to call a lockdown, evacuate the building, and act accordingly for situations happening in their building. Therefore, he mentioned a plan to work with the Center for Safe Schools to update our All Hazards Plan this school year. In addition, he mentioned that some feedback from the Conference was that school shooting fatalities have not happened when doors are locked during the school day from the outside of the classroom. In response to this, the district decided to implement a change in procedure and ask that all doors would be locked from the outside of the classroom at all times during the school day. Furthermore, the Buildings and Grounds Committee would be meeting the following Monday, November 21st to discuss some of the details and needs following the All Hazards Drill.

Usage of Personal Technology Devices with MASD

Mr. Rasmus shared that in the recent past, there had been conversation among the Board of Education and MASD Administration regarding the potentiality of prohibiting personal technological devices during the school day. At that time, no further action was taken. However, Mr. Rasmus shared that during the last month, some concerning things have happened with student personal devices. Therefore, in response to this, the district has decided to purchase cell phone holders to place in each classroom for both the Jr./Sr. High School and the Elementary School.

- Board member Mr. Greg Hemsarth stated his belief that this should also trigger a discussion for filtering concerns. He shared that students cannot listen to music on the Chromebooks while on iPads, they can access YouTube and therefore, listen to music. His concern was that if high school students spend some or part of their day in a study hall, they would not be able to listen to music.
- Mr. Rasmus stated he was unaware that it was different on the iPads compared with the Chromebooks.
- In addition, Mr. Hemsarth shared his concern that there are no websites available for students to play games.
- In response, Mr. Rasmus shared that unfortunately, there is only so much that teachers can supervise when students have their phones during the school day.
 - To this, Mr. Hemsarth shared he does not have a problem with this change in procedure for students to put their cell phones in the holder, but he does have a concern when students are sometimes in 4 study halls in a day back to back.
- Board member Mrs. Brynn Clark then asked if there would be any consequences for students if they do not put the cell phone in the holder.

- In response, Mr. Rasmus said that if the students are not participating, they would be considered noncompliant. So, at that point, students would be disciplined using progressive discipline practices.
- As a follow up, Mrs. Clark asked would the students be required to put their phones in the holder during and study hall. To this, discussion ensued on the pros and cons of enacting this procedure during both lunch and study halls.
- Board member Mr. Michael Farrell commented that his children are on their phones more often than not.
- Mrs. Clark shared her concern that while this change in procedure may be a good first step, she did not believe it would work for the school during lunch.
- In addition to this discussion, Mr. Rasmus shared his concerns with high school students having backpacks and the amount of materials in them due to most high school students not using their lockers and instead keeping everything in their backpacks.
- Then, Board Member Mrs. Heather Mausteller raised a concern about the use of these cell phone holders in the gym. She asked where the cell phone holder would be located and if there would be a liability issue when students could have access to other students' cell phones during the gym class.
 - In response, Mr. Rasmus answered that students would put in their own cell phones and that the district would not be liable. He concluded this discussion by stating that this plan was not perfect, and that the district will be using this as a first step.

Professional Development Initiative Updates: November 11, 2022

Mr. Rasmus shared with the Board about the initiatives and training undertaken at the November 11, 2022 Act 80 day. Teachers were engaged in training on the new FOSS Science curriculum. He explained that the Pennsylvania Department of Education is updating the standards for Science, and now the curriculum needs to incorporate more hands-on experiments. The FOSS curriculum that the district purchased not only meets the needs for the updated Science standards but also offers differentiation materials to meet the needs of all students. Furthermore, Mr. Rasmus shared that the Special Education department was working on reviewing all documentation to prepare for their upcoming audit. Finally, he shared that the high school teachers were evaluating and updating their curriculum for the school year as well as working on their assessments of students in their curriculum.

Guaranteed Admissions Program Between MASD and Commonwealth University Informational Sessions

Mr. Rasmus shared with the Board of Education about an exciting informational session that would be taking place at the Jr./Sr. High School on November 16, 2022 at 6:00 pm for parents to learn about the new Guaranteed Admissions program with Commonwealth University. He encouraged the board and the community to share this information with students and families so that they do not miss this exciting opportunity.

MVA Score Update

In closing his report, Mr. Rasmus shared with the board about the work being done by our MASD MVA Coordinator, Mrs. Andrea Marquardt and the numbers recently shared about our enrollment. He stated that the total numbers of students in MVA currently is down with 90% of students being at completion. This rate is higher than in the previous year.

BUSINESS MANAGER REPORT

Mrs. Whitney Holloway had previously shared her report with the board, and did not have anything to add. She stated that the month has been a very busy one.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

The monthly financial reports were previously submitted, and no additional questions were asked regarding the reports.

BOARD MEETING MINUTES 10.10.22

MILLVILLE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

Millville Area School Board Meeting Minutes

November 14, 2022

A motion by Greg Hemsarh and seconded by Brynn Clark that the Millville Area School Board consider and approve the October 10, 2022 board meeting minutes.

The motion carried by roll call vote. 8 Yes; 0 Nay; 1 Absent

SPECIAL BOARD MEETING MINUTES 11.2.22

A motion by Greg Hemsarh and seconded by Heather Mausteller that the Millville Area School Board consider and approve the November 2, 2022 special board meeting minutes.

The motion carried by roll call vote. 8 Yes; 0 Nay; 1 Absent

EXPENDITURES

A motion by Greg Hemsarh and seconded by Brynn Clark that the Millville Area School Board consider and approve the October 11 through November 14, 2022 general fund expenditures in the amount of \$400,864.24, athletic expenditures in the amount of \$758.00 and cafeteria expenditures in the amount of \$34,275.22.

The motion carried by roll call vote. 8 Yes; 0 Nay; 1 Absent

DISABLED VETERANS REAL ESTATE TAX EXEMPTION

A motion by Greg Hemsarh and seconded by Heather Mausteller that the Millville Area School Board consider and approve the Real Estate Tax Exemption for disabled veteran Angelica Sheets.

The motion carried by roll call vote. 8 Yes; 0 Nay; 1 Absent

BUILDING USE APPROVAL

A motion by Heather Mausteller and seconded by Michael Farrell that the Millville Area School Board consider and approve Cub Scout Pack 247 using the High School Cafeteria to host their holiday parties and large group meetings, dates to be determined and coordinated with the building secretary. Certificate of Liability Insurance on file.

The motion carried by roll call vote. 8 Yes; 0 Nay; 1 Absent

PA-EETP

A motion by Brynn Clark and seconded by Heather Mausteller that the Millville Area School Board consider and approve the acquisition of PA-EETP (EduLink) software to be used for evaluation of personnel in the 2022-2023 school year at a cost of \$3,740.00.

The motion carried by roll call vote. 8 Yes; 0 Nay; 1 Absent

PPL EMPOWERING EDUCATORS GRANT

A motion by Susan Farr and seconded by Jessica Whitmoyer that the Millville Area School Board consider and approve with gratitude the PPL Empowering Educators grant in the amount of \$1,000 for the engineering program.

The motion carried by roll call vote. 8 Yes; 0 Nay; 1 Absent

DISPOSAL APPROVALS

A motion by Jessica Whitmoyer and seconded by Heather Mausteller that the Millville Area School Board consider and approve the disposal of outdated Elementary Textbooks and resources.

The motion carried by roll call vote. 8 Yes; 0 Nay; 1 Absent

STUDENT CONFERENCES AND COMMUNITY-BASED INSTRUCTION

A motion by William Berger and seconded by Michael Farrell that the Millville Area School Board consider and approve a field trip to CMAVTS on December 16, 2022, for 8th grade students to tour the facility; a trip to Bloomsburg University for all 11th grade students and 12th grade students who are undecided for college; an FFA trip to the ACES (Agricultural Cooperation Establishes Success) Conference on February 11-12, 2023; an FFA trip to the Mid-Winter Convention at the PA Farm Show Complex on January 9, 2022; and the What's So Cool About Manufacturing trip to Kawneer.

The motion carried by roll call vote. 8 Yes; 0 Nay; 1 Absent

2022-2023 ATHLETIC HANDBOOK

A motion by Brynn Clark and seconded by Jessica Whitmoyer that the Millville Area School Board approve the 2022-2023 Athletic Handbook.

- Board member Mrs. Heather Mausteller questioned the number of games not being listed in the handbook that the Athletic Director must work. In response, Mr. Rasmus shared that it is not in the handbook because it is listed in the job description for the Athletic Director role.
- As a follow up, Mrs. Mausteller asked about the fundraising approval process for athletic fundraisers as stated in the handbook.
 - Mr. Rasmus answered that this wording is because the Athletic Director would be overseeing the Athletic Association. In response to this, Mr. Greg Hemsarth asked what the PTO would do for fundraisers as they do not have a "supervisor." Due to this concern, Board President Sue Myers suggested that the handbook could be amended in that section to declare that fundraisers be approved by both the Athletic Director or the Principal, in line with policy.
- Another question was raised by Mrs. Mausteller about the section in the handbook mentioning that the Athletic Association would provide a copy of financial reports at the Superintendent's request. Her concern was that she had not received that information for quite some time.
- Finally, Mr. Hemsarth mentioned that he had forwarded some proposed edits to Mr. Rasmus earlier in the day to the handbook.
 - In response, Mr. Rasmus said that they were received, and since the edits were more grammatical in nature and did not affect the content as a whole of the handbook, asked the board to consider approving the handbook as written as a "first draft" to be edited and updated as needed.

After discussion was completed on the motion, it was amended with the aforementioned changes. Both Mrs. Brynn Clark and Mrs. Jessica Whitmoyer, the original first and second on the motion, agreed to the amended changes.

Amended Motion: A motion by Brynn Clark and seconded by Jessica Whitmoyer that the Millville Area School Board approve the 2022-2023 Athletic Handbook as amended.

The motion carried by roll call vote. 8 Yes; 0 Nay; 1 Absent

ADDITIONAL MOTION (November Expenditures) 1-3

A motion by Greg Hemsarth and seconded by Heather Mausteller that the Millville Area School Board consider and approve the combined prioritized additional motion as written below.

- A motion is needed to consider and approve the inclusion of a prioritized motion that was not included within the board meeting agenda that has been posted and accessible to district stakeholders.
- A motion is needed to consider and approve allowing the Business Manager to pay November 2022 expenditures with final approval at the December 2022 meeting.
- A motion is needed to consider and approve amending the minutes of the November 14, 2022 board meeting to reflect the inclusion of the aforementioned prioritized agenda item.

The combined motion carried by roll call vote. 8 Yes; 0 Nay; 1 Absent

AFTER-SCHOOL DETENTION MONITORS

A motion by Jessica Whitmoyer and seconded by Brynn Clark that the Millville Area School Board consider and approve the following teachers to serve as After-School Detention Monitors at a compensated rate of \$25 per hour to supervise students assigned to after-school detention through the remainder of the 2022-2023 school year: WYATT SMITH, STEVE RITTER, and KANDYSS SUTPHEN

The motion carried by roll call vote. 8 Yes; 0 Nay; 1 Absent

CSIU GUEST TEACHER SUBSTITUTES

A motion by Susan Myers and seconded by Susan Farr that the Millville Area School Board consider and approve VINCE EVANS as CSIU guest teacher substitute for the 22-23 school year. Clearances on file.

The motion carried by roll call vote. 8 Yes; 0 Nay; 1 Absent

STIPEND

A motion by Brynn Clark and seconded by Jessica Whitmoyer that the Millville Area School Board consider and approve a stipend of \$1.60 per hour, in addition to her base pay, for KATIE KISSINGER, due to the nature of her assignment.

The motion carried by roll call vote. 8 Yes; 0 Nay; 1 Absent

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

A motion by Heather Mausteller and seconded by Susan Myers that the Millville Area School Board consider and approve a paid leave of absence for employee #703 whereby the employee utilizes accrued sick, personal, vacation days through to March 15, 2023.

- Board member Mrs. Brynn Clark asked for clarification on the motion. In response, Mr. Rasmus explained the FMLA policy and the reasoning for the motion language. To this, Mr. Greg Hemsarth asked if the district would be liable if they decline the request. After discussion, Mr. Hemsarth raised the suggestion to table the motion.

Then, a motion by Brynn Clark and seconded by Michael Farrell was made to table the motion to consider and approve a paid leave of absence for employee #703 whereby the employee utilizes accrued sick, personal, vacation days through to March 15, 2023.

The motion carried by roll call vote. 8 Yes; 0 Nay; 1 Absent

RESIGNATION

A motion by Greg Hemsarth and seconded by Brynn Clark that the Millville Area School Board consider and approve acceptance of the resignation notice from GEORGE BARRON, as Secondary Business Teacher, effective immediately.

The motion carried by roll call vote. 8 Yes; 0 Nay; 1 Absent

RESIGNATION

A motion by Susan Farr and seconded by Susan Myers that the Millville Area School Board consider and approve acceptance of the resignation notice from CALVIN VALESKI, as Boys Varsity Soccer Coach, effective November 10, 2022.

The motion carried by roll call vote. 8 Yes; 0 Nay; 1 Absent

RESIGNATION

A motion by Greg Hemsarth and seconded by Brynn Clark that the Millville Area School Board consider and approve acceptance of the resignation notice from STEPHINE WELSH, as Paraprofessional and Cafeteria Substitute, effective November 14, 2022.

The motion carried by roll call vote. 8 Yes; 0 Nay; 1 Absent

MILLVILLE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

Millville Area School Board Meeting Minutes

November 14, 2022

DEDICATED SECONDARY SUBSTITUTE/LONG TERM SUBSTITUTE

A motion by Jessica Whitmoyer and seconded by Susan Myers that the Millville Area School Board consider and approve JILLIAN YEVICS, as a Dedicated Secondary Building Substitute for the remainder of the 2022-2023 school year. In the event that the employee is assigned to a teaching assignment for 90 + consecutive days, her status will be changed to a Long-Term Substitute and receive the associated compensation and benefits.

The motion carried by roll call vote. 8 Yes; 0 Nay; 1 Absent

WINTER ATHLETICS COACHES

A motion by Heather Mausteller and seconded by Greg Hemsarth that the Millville Area School Board consider and approve BJ FARROW, as Assistant Boys Basketball Coach; ERIC JOHNSON and ZACHARY WHITENIGHT, as Boys Basketball Volunteer Assistant Coaches; ALYSHA STOKER, as Cheerleading Volunteer Coach, NICHOLE WHITENIGHT as Volunteer Girls Varsity Basketball Coach and Volunteer Jr. High Girls Basketball Coach for the 2022-23 winter sports season, pending clearances.

The motion carried by roll call vote. 8 Yes; 0 Nay; 1 Absent

MASD EMPLOYEE DRIVER APPROVAL

A motion by Brynn Clark and seconded by Michael Farell that the Millville Area School Board consider and approve BONNIE GREGORY, as a driver of MASD vehicles.

The motion carried by roll call vote. 8 Yes; 0 Nay; 1 Absent

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion by Heather Mausteller and seconded by Greg Hemsarth to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 8:48 p.m.

Chelsea Rosenberger
Assistant Board Secretary