

MILLVILLE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

Millville Area School Board Meeting Minutes

August 25, 2014

The Millville Area School Board held the regular meeting on Monday, August 25, 2014, in the Millville High School Library. Prior to the start of the meeting Pastor Rosenberger offered an illustration, devotion, and prayer. President Frank Suchwala called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m., followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL:

The following Board members answered roll call: William Berger, Larry Breech, Chris Farr, Gregory Gordner, Dean Kelchner, Cheryl Kessler, Heather Mausteller, Susan Myers and Frank Suchwala.

Also present were Cynthia Jenkins, Superintendent; David Bowser, Business Manager; Eric Stair, Secondary Principal; Edward Sanders, Elementary Principal; Dee Davis, Supervisor of Special Education; Warren Faust, Technology Coordinator; Ron Zimmerman, Buildings and Grounds; and Kathy Musselman.

Seventy-nine guests signed the register.

OPENING REMARKS:

President Frank Suchwala stated sports and extra-curricular activities would continue, as scheduled. He also noted the availability of the Millville Virtual Academy Cyber School as an educational option.

GUEST RECOGNITION AND COMMENTS:

Carol Troisi, MEA President: The Association is ready to negotiate at any time in good faith.

Bobbi Jo Mordan: Was in contact with Ben Pratt and no negotiation meetings have been scheduled. She believes negotiations should resume immediately.

Sandy Whispell: Feels the PIAA cares more about sports than education. Opined that the Association's bottom line issue is money.

Kathy Bower: Everyone should be willing to negotiate tomorrow.

Colleen Eves: Opined that the school is becoming a training ground. The teachers are here for a year or two then move to a school that offers a better compensation package.

Kara Shultz: An October start date and no active negotiations are unacceptable. She would not consider Cyber School an option. Both sides need to come together.

Doug Hippenstiel: Opined that teachers are as valuable as business workers are, business will offer the best workers a compensation package, everyone seems willing to pay more for everything except education and the teachers care about dedication and not the money.

Robin Andrews: Summer school is offered for special needs children. With no classes being held special needs students are missing out. She feels the teachers are great but underpaid. Doesn't favor Cyber school because the children don't have the opportunity for interaction. Would like the negotiation meeting to stay in session until a settlement is reached.

Angie Hack: Most teachers work beyond the clock and are willing to use their own funds for extra school supplies.

Michelle Reichner: Questioned the cost of Cyber School. Would like to hear everyone is ready to negotiate in good faith.

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Renee Hodgson: Thanked everyone for his or her effort. Believes the Board is proceeding on philosophical, not practical terms. Opined that the district had high administrative costs. Stated that school reserves are considerable and to share the wealth. Asked if negotiation meeting times and dates could be listed on the website?

Jack Devlin: Expressed concern about Millville teacher's salary progression and limited lifetime earning potential. Believes it's not right to not bargain while on strike. Noted the support present at the meeting is weighted heavily to one side.

John Snurkowski: He believes teachers are resources to achieve more than just a school education. With the teachers being on strike, the resources are not available.

Christie Kittle: Her number one priority is her son and getting him back in school.

Lacey Densberger: High school junior, taking ACE classes. With the strike she is not able to get help when needed.

Sydney Mercer: Unable to get teacher help with the college application forms during the strike.

Monique Heffner: Is there someone at the school that can help with scheduling? Will the Business Manager be speaking about finances? Why are the fobs locked out?

Colleen Eves: She is hopeful Mrs. Jenkins can restore respect and trust.

Marilyn Strauch: She has heard the school referred to as a sinking ship. Pride and respect for the school and community needs to be re-stored.

Ginny Spangenberg: She is choosing her children's side. Her children need and want to be in school. She doesn't want to cyber school her children. Restart the negotiations now.

Rebecca Walker: It's not about the money it is about respect and how teachers are treated.

Shannon Carey: Teachers are more than teachers. They are friends.

REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS:

Columbia-Montour Area Vocational-Technical School

Susan Myers stated the Seesholtz property is going before the planning commission. Discussions are being held with the property owner. The expansion is necessary; there is still an enrollment waiting list. Larry Breech stated CMVT is moving forward. There is a great need for welders. PA is redefining the job climate. Students coming out of the programs are finding higher paying jobs.

ADMINISTRATOR REPORTS:

Mr. Sanders, Mr. Stair, Mrs. Davis, Mr. Faust, Mr. Zimmerman, and Mrs. Jenkins provided verbal and written reports as part of the minutes.

FINANCIAL REPORTS:

Mr. Bowser recapped the Treasurer's Report, General Fund Account, Elementary and High School Student Union Activity Fund, as submitted and part of the minutes.

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APPROVE BOARD MINUTES:

A motion by Larry Breech and seconded by Chris Farr that the Millville Area School Board approve the August 11, 2014 Board meeting minutes. The motion carried by voice vote. 9 YEA; 0 NAY; 0 ABSENT

EXPENDITURES:

A motion by Dean Kelchner and seconded by Susan Myers that the Millville Area School Board approve the June 2014 manual checks in the amount of \$863,502.60, the July 25, 2014 General Fund checks in the amount of \$166,424.45, and the July 28, 2014 General Fund checks in the amount of \$203,123.69 The motion carried by roll call vote. 9 YES; 0 NO; 0 ABSENT

EXPENDITURES:

A motion by Susan Myers and seconded by Cheryl Kessler that the Millville Area School Board approve the July 2014 manual checks in the amount of \$396,432.65 and the August 25, 2014 General Fund checks in the amount of \$260,326.95 The motion carried by roll call vote. 9 YES; 0 NO; 0 ABSENT

MUSICAL PERFORMANCE:

A motion by Heather Mausteller and seconded by William Berger that the Millville Area School Board approve the Millville High School Drama Musical Performance scheduled Friday, March 27, Saturday, March 28, at 7PM and Sunday, March 29, 2015, at 2:00 PM. The motion carried by roll call vote. 9 YES; 0 NO; 0 ABSENT

MOU:

A motion by Larry Breech and seconded by Heather Mausteller that the Millville Area School Board approve the Memorandum of Understanding between Millville Area School District and James W. Hess. The motion carried by roll call vote. 9 YES; 0 NO; 0 ABSENT

HIRE PARAPROFESSIONAL:

A motion by Dean Kelchner and seconded by Frank Suchwala that the Millville Area School Board approve hiring Mercedes Sylvester, as a paraprofessional for 5 ½ hours per day, at \$9.25 per hour, beginning the 2014-2015 school year. The motion carried by roll call vote. 9 YES; 0 NO; 0 ABSENT

HIRE PARAPROFESSIONAL:

A motion by Heather Mausteller and seconded by Cheryl Kessler that the Millville Area School Board approve hiring Melinda Steward, as a paraprofessional for 5 ½ hours per day, at \$9.25 per hour, beginning the 2014-2015 school year. The motion carried by roll call vote. 9 YES; 0 NO; 0 ABSENT

PARAPROFESSIONAL SUBSTITUTE:

A motion by Frank Suchwala and seconded by Gregory Gordner that the Millville Area School Board approve adding Jessica Whitmoyer, to the paraprofessional substitute list. The motion carried by roll call vote. 9 YES; 0 NO; 0 ABSENT

PROFESSIONAL SUBSTITUTE:

A motion by Frank Suchwala and seconded by Heather Mausteller that the Millville Area School Board approve adding Rachael Harris, to the professional substitute list. The motion carried by roll call vote. 9 YES; 0 NO; 0 ABSENT

VOLUNTEER SWIMMING COACHES:

A motion by William Berger and seconded by Gregory Gordner that the Millville Area School Board approve Kathy Mercer, as volunteer swim coach and Martin Mercer, as volunteer assistant swim coach, for Sydney Mercer, during the 2014-2015 athletic season. The motion carried by roll call vote. 9 YES; 0 NO; 0 ABSENT

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VOLUNTEER SWIMMING COACHES:

A motion by Frank Suchwala and seconded by Heather Mausteller that the Millville Area School Board approve Virginia Spangenberg, as volunteer swim coach and Jim Spangenberg, as volunteer assistant swim coach, for Andy Spangenberg, during the 2014-2015 athletic season. The motion carried by roll call vote. 9 YES; 0 NO; 0 ABSENT

SCHOOL SECURITY ASSIGNER:

A motion by Dean Kelchner and seconded by Heather Mausteller that the Millville Area School Board approve as Security Assigner, for the 2014-2015 school year, at a compensation of \$200. The motion carried by roll call vote. 9 YES; 0 NO; 0 ABSENT

RESIGNATION - GIRLS JR HIGH BASKETBALL:

A motion by Gregory Gordner and seconded by William Berger that the Millville Area School Board accept the letter of resignation from Emily Young, as Jr. High Girls Basketball Coach, effective August 14, 2014. The motion carried by roll call vote. 9 YES; 0 NO; 0 ABSENT

LEAVE OF ABSENCE:

A motion by Frank Suchwala and seconded by William Berger that the Millville Area School Board approve a leave of absence request by Joyce Reiner, from October 6 through October 10, 2014, using two personal days and three unpaid days. The motion carried by roll call vote. 9 YES; 0 NO; 0 ABSENT

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Frank Suchwala requested an executive session after adjournment to discuss negotiations.

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion by Heather Mausteller and seconded by Cheryl Kessler to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

David B. Bowser

Board Secretary