

## MILLVILLE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

Millville Area School Board Meeting Minutes

September 8, 2014

The Millville Area School Board held the regular meeting on Monday, September 8, 2014, in the Millville High School Cafeteria. Prior to the start of the meeting Pastor Bob Strozyk offered devotion and prayer. President Frank Suchwala called the meeting to order at 7:00 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, Heather Mausteller, Susan Myers and Frank Suchwala. Absent: Cheryl Kessler

Also present were Cynthia Jenkins, Superintendent; David Bowser, Business Manager; Eric Stair, Secondary Principal; Edward Sanders, Elementary Principal; Ron Zimmerman, Buildings and Grounds; and Kathy Musselman.

One hundred and four guests signed the register.

### GUEST RECOGNITION AND COMMENTS:

Carol Troisi, MEA President: Thanked supporters. She is hopeful to meet in good faith on Wednesday and come to a settlement.

Lacey Densberger: Asked that if the Board approved the piano purchase agenda item, could costs for a piano dolly also be donated.

Bobbi Jo Mordan: Disappointed the students are not in class and a negotiation meeting wasn't scheduled sooner.

Doug Hippenstiel: Took issue with teachers ending strike without a contract, a step freeze, and the effect on retiring teachers. Mr. McDade and Mr. Pratt appear there is no urgency; negotiate without them.

Kara Shultz: She is troubled that the kids are not back in school. Opined the School Board doesn't feel the urgency. She would also like to see us recruit and retain good new teachers.

Jim Dodge: Opined new faces and ideas are needed on the negotiating team. Hopes the kids are back in school by this Friday.

Sue Mellinger: Stated she had lived in New York. New York teachers are not allowed to strike, have not gotten recent raises and pay part of their health insurance. Her daughter is in the military and her last raise was 1%.

Alice Ringer: She does not know what the teachers are asking for. She would like more information before she can give her support. She wants the kids back in school.

Robin Andrews: Summer school is offered for special needs children. With no classes being held special needs students are not retaining important information. The senior students are missing out on important information for college entrance.

Kathy Bower: Expressed concerns about the amount of instruction time being lost before state testing.

Tiffany Creveling: She teaches her stepchildren how to sit down and talk it out. She suggested the same thing should occur with the negotiations - sit down and talk it out.

Ginny Spangenberg: Look for alternatives. Have the representatives and mediator sit down and work it out. Something needs to change.

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Colleen Eves: Suggested one representative from each side negotiate. Sometimes there are too many ideas; less is more.

Mike Fiddler: Questioned the issue of more money and health insurance; wondering how much is enough?

John Beck: Stated the cost of everything is rising. He related his personal financial challenges. Opined the teachers are requesting more for less education.

Zelia Whitmoyer: Why would the taxes go up when there is money in reserve? No one should be expected to work for less. Noted that 90% of the teachers were good teachers.

Michelle Reichner: Taxes would not rise with the amount of money in the reserve. Took exception with the taxpayers speaking against teacher increases.

Ted DelVecchio: It is the way of the times, working harder for less money and higher insurance premiums.

Renee Hodgson: Noted the high level of anger prevailing which is crippling our school and community. Does not favor MVA Cyber School. Is afraid families will not be willing to move to our District and noted the negative effect on real estate.

Denny Stackhouse: Asked if the teachers walked out of a negotiation meeting, a teacher received a DUI, and why a new teacher who never taught here was on the picket line. Stated teachers' salaries are more than most household incomes. Did not feel the taxpayers should be paying for teachers' health insurance and that of their spouse, too. Asserted there are parents that won't come forward due to fear of retribution.

Kathy Mercer: She is not allowed to know the facts, so she is relying on the people that do to negotiate and get it done. She finds it hard to believe that it is taking this long.

Jeremy Reese: As a former Board member and negotiator, he spoke of his experience in school negotiations. He suggested putting Mr. McDade and Mr. Pratt in the hall and four teachers and four Board members negotiate. He also clarified the reserve is necessary for unexpected and future expenses. There are also constraints on the reserve as to how that money can be spent.

Jack Devlin: After two years if a settlement cannot be reached, bring in someone else to negotiate. Stated teachers can make a significant amount more over a lifetime to teach in other districts.

Mike Woolcock: Was in support of the teachers having a good salary and insurance. Stated he was appreciative of the effort of the School Board to operate in the black. Would like to see negotiating "Millville to Millville". Get rid of the lawyers.

Danielle Belles: Asked about a plan to make-up the missed days.

Michelle Woolcock: Stated the longer the kids are out of school the harder it is for some of them to come back. She is not in favor of taking the holiday breaks away from the families.

Lauren Strauch: Stated we have wonderful teachers and to show them respect. They deserve what they are asking for.

Wanda Allegar: Mindsets are being developed before knowing the facts. Let's put aside grudges, differences, personal vendettas, and move ahead. She sees sides pulling away from each other.

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APPROVE BOARD MINUTES:

A motion by Dean Kelchner and seconded by Heather Mausteller that the Millville Area School Board approve the August 25, 2014 Board meeting minutes. The motion carried by voice vote. 8 YEA; 0 NAY; 1 ABSENT

OT-PT CONTRACT:

A motion by Susan Myers and seconded by Chris Farr that the Millville Area School Board approve the Service Provider Agreement with Valley Rehabilitation for OT-PT services at the rate of \$65 per hour for therapists and \$45 per hour for assistants. The motion carried by roll call vote. 8 YES; 0 NO; 1 ABSENT

TITLE IX COMPLIANCE OFFICER:

A motion by Heather Mausteller and seconded by William Berger that the Millville Area School Board approve appointing Eric Stair, as the Title IX Compliance Officer. The motion carried by roll call vote. 8 YES; 0 NO; 1 ABSENT

DONATIONS - BRAMER FAMILY:

After Mr. Stair presented a power-point with a proposal to purchase a baby grand piano, a motion by Dean Kelchner and seconded by Larry Breech that the Millville Area School Board accept monetary donations to the Millville High School Choral Department, from the Bramer Family, in loving memory of Rev. James Bramer, to purchase a baby grand piano, with the District providing the purchase amount over the amount received from donations, but not more than \$1,932. The motion carried by roll call vote. 8 YES; 0 NO; 1 ABSENT

PARAPROFESSIONAL SUBSTITUTE:

A motion by Heather Mausteller and seconded by Chris Farr that the Millville Area School Board approve adding Lisa Schwenk, as a paraprofessional substitute, pending clearances. The motion carried by roll call vote. 8 YES; 0 NO; 1 ABSENT

NURSE SUBSTITUTE:

A motion by Heather Mausteller and seconded by William Berger that the Millville Area School Board approve adding Christine Jenkins, to the nurse substitute list, pending clearances. The motion carried by roll call vote. 8 YES; 0 NO; 1 ABSENT

CLOSING REMARKS:

Mr. Breech addressed the guests stating the future is in our hands. Monies are put aside for pensions, post-employment benefits, and unused sick days. Sometimes we have a sense that things are owed to us. We need to be willing to sit down and talk, give and take. We have the best-managed school district and would not want to see our school taken over or dissolved. Cyber schools are costing districts an absorbent amount of money and providing the students with low scores and an inadequate education.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

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

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion by Heather Mausteller and seconded by Susan Myers to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 8:36 p.m.

David B. Bowser

Board Secretary