

Mr. Rasmus called the Millville Area School District Co-Curricular Committee Meeting to order at 6:34 p.m.

Those present in the library were Joseph Rasmus and Chelsea Rosenberger. Present via Zoom were William Berger, Michael Farrell, Bonnie Gregory, Deb Price, Sue Farr, and Whitney Holloway.

NEW PERSONNEL

- Mr. Rasmus introduced new personnel in roles to the Committee. He presented Ms. Rachel Verstraeten as the new Athletic Director, Mr. Brian Craven as the new Athletic Trainer, and Ms. Bonnie Gregory as the Interim Secondary Principal.

FALL SPORTS PICTURES

- Mr. Rasmus mentioned that team and individual sports pictures were slated to take place on September 23, 2022 for the fall sports season.

HOMECOMING

- Mr. Rasmus shared with the Committee the upcoming events for Homecoming weekend. He highlighted the Alumni Soccer game on Friday, October 7, 2022 at 7:30 pm at the Millard C. Ludwig Stadium, sharing his excitement for the return of this event after a hiatus for several years. This event has been publicized, and to date, there were 8 participants registered to play.
- Mr. Rasmus went on to share that the Homecoming theme set by Student Council was “Out of This World” and that all coaches were invited to participate in the Homecoming parade, as well as our cooperative teams of Jr. High Football, Volleyball, and Competitive Cheer.
- Then, Mr. Rasmus mentioned the events happening Homecoming weekend including, the Homecoming Pep Rally on Friday, October 7, the Homecoming games on Saturday, October 8th being Jr. High Softball at 11 am, Field Hockey at 1 pm, Girls Soccer at 3 pm, and Boys Soccer at 5 pm, and the Athletic Association hosting a Chicken Bar-B-Q from 11 am – 4 pm outside the stadium.

SENIOR NIGHT

- Mr. Rasmus then shared the dates of Varsity Senior Nights with the Committee: Boys soccer on Wednesday, September 21 against Benton at 7 pm; Field Hockey on October 11th at 4:30 pm; and the Girls Soccer did not have any senior players on the roster but would instead highlight some outstanding players.

TEAM AND INDIVIDUAL HIGHLIGHTS/RECOGNITION

- Mr. Rasmus reported about the exciting announcements happening at the High School for various athletic achievements both for the week and within individual games. He also mentioned that these announcements have been posted to Sapphire.
 - To this, Committee member Deb Price was concerned about parents not being able to see items on Sapphire if they do not have an account. To this, Mr. Rasmus asked if the high school could post things on Facebook and the website. Chelsea Rosenberger will start sharing Athletes of the Week on Facebook and the website for parents and community members.
- Mr. Rasmus then reviewed the weekly sports schedule with the committee and thanked Mrs. Terri Lawton for her work on the schedules being posted and the outdoor message boards.

STUDENT/FAN INVOLVEMENT

- Mr. Rasmus shared that the students have been encouraged to go to games and participate in the student section in theme nights. In addition, during half times of games, players have been recognized as well as hosting “Ball Toss” events for fan involvement.
- Mr. Rasmus shared his excitement about the things being done in the Athletic Department and the work Ms. Verstraeten is doing to encourage student involvement.

SECURITY PERSONNEL

- Mr. Rasmus reviewed the agenda items, mentioning the revised job description for security personnel updated in August 2022.
- Mr. Rasmus shared that community members have given positive feedback on the changes in security and safety measures taking place. At this time, Mr. Rasmus stated that the district is need of security personnel to serve. The district created a flyer to entice parents/community members to apply as security personnel, as well as posting it on all district avenues.
 - To this, Committee member Mrs. Sue Farr stated her concern about having the security job opened to everyone in the public.

- Mr. Rasmus stated that anyone who applies would be put through an interview process to ascertain the suitability of the candidates. Going further, he mentioned that in the past, it was believed that only fire police could serve in this role. However, that distinction is not noted in school policy.
- Mrs. Farr stated that not many young individuals are entering the fire police.
- In response, Mrs. Price stated she has not seen the Hemlock Township police at events.
 - Mr. William Berger mentioned he recently attended a sporting event, and he saw a Hemlock Township presence in the parking lot.
 - Mr. Rasmus added that the School Resource Officer contracted through Hemlock Township is not required to be on site after 3:00 pm. Therefore, the district has had to assume the crossing guard role in the afternoon, with the understanding that Hemlock Township would have a presence at school events. However, they are not scheduled to be at every athletic event.
 - Mrs. Price mentioned that Hemlock Township would be at events as coverage for the Borough as a part of the district.
 - Mr. Rasmus concluded this discussion by mentioning that for disciplinary concerns and when asked, Hemlock Township has always come in to cover the needs of the district.

TRANSPORTATION LIABILITY WAIVER

- Mr. Rasmus shared with the committee that there have been some concerns about students transporting themselves to athletic events, instead of using district-provided transportation. To garner some information, Mr. Rasmus spoke with the solicitor. In accordance with the solicitor and the athletic department, a waiver was created to allow students to transport themselves to and from school events/games. Mr. Rasmus reviewed the description of the waiver on the agenda, mentioning that this was created with the intent to keep students safe as well as safeguard the school district.

- To this, Mrs. Price stated her concern about students being penalized for not submitting a waiver.
 - Mr. Rasmus answered that they would not be penalized, adding that most school districts have a form of this nature.
- Mrs. Bonnie Gregory clarified that this waiver is about transportation to the event, not after the event. That process would remain the same as it has been previously.
- Mr. Rasmus then mentioned his additional concern about the potentiality of students taking other students.
 - Mrs. Gregory clarified that the waiver does not allow them to take other students, but rather is to make sure that students are protected as well as the district. She added that students are required to garner 5 adult signatures to be fully approved.

ATHLETIC HANDBOOK

- Mr. Rasmus shared with the Committee that Ms. Verstraeten and Ms. Gregory are in the process of collaborating on the development of an updated MASD Athletic Handbook to provide comprehensive guidance regarding district procedures and expectations related to the operation of district athletic programs. He mentioned that the previous handbook had some missing sections as well as some much-needed clarity, so it was necessary to update. The final draft would be forwarded to the Co-Curricular Committee for review and feedback prior to being forwarded to the Board of Education for review and consideration.

EVENT SCHEDULER/ELIGIBILITY/STUDENT ROSTERS:

- Mr. Rasmus explained to the Committee about the program used for scheduling as well as PIAA classification and eligibility for participation in sports. All athlete information needs to be updated in this program every year. For example, every year the previous seniors would need to be taken out and 7th grade students put in the system. However, the last update done in this system was in 2018, so this will be a large undertaking. The Athletic Department will be working with the technology department

to make this happen more seamlessly with our Student Information System. Previously, the process of updating and creating reports for PIAA has been done manually.

PORTABLE RESTROOMS

- Mr. Rasmus shared with the Committee that at present, student athletes and spectators to games at the lower Elementary fields are utilizing stadium restrooms when needed. To garner some history, Mr. Rasmus spoke with the previous head of Buildings and Grounds Mr. Brent Crispell. He shared that this has been a concern among the Board of Education for a while. Mr. Crispell stated that at different times, the district had up to 2 portable bathrooms, but they moved around depends on the needs of the current sports in play.
- Mr. Rasmus shared Ms. Rachels Verstraeten's concern about this practice leaving us vulnerable because spectators can circumvent the ticketing price by using the bathrooms as well as not having the security personnel to manage this issue. Some discussion was brought forth that game managers may be able to police, but it would not be sustainable. Due to these concerns, Mr. Rasmus shared that the stadium bathrooms will be secured, inspected, and closed every evening by the maintenance personnel. In the interim, Ms. Verstraeten recognized the need to have portable restrooms for other sports practices happening at nearby fields.
 - To this, Mrs. Sue Farr mentioned that in the past, other teams could not use the stadium bathrooms. They would have had to go to an open building locker room.
 - Mr. Rasmus shared that there would need to more clarification of this issue with the newly created Policy Committee. Having portable restrooms. would provide the outdoor teams with access to a bathroom while participating in a practice. Mr. Rasmus asked the Committee if it would be too far to have athletes walk to the portable restrooms as well as for those nearby games and the liability of having other parents and spectators using the stadium bathrooms. He shared his concern that the bathrooms would then have to be left open.
 - As part of the discussion, Mr. Rasmus mentioned the concern of allowing spectators to come in during the night to the buildings to use the bathrooms.

- Mr. Berger and Mrs. Farr affirmed this concern, with Mr. Berger adding his concern about older patrons going all the way to the stadium to use the restroom.
 - In addition, Mr. Rasmus added his concern that players have to go all the way to the bathroom, and the coach would not have any supervision of those students.
 - In response to the discussion, Mr. Berger stated that he would be more comfortable with having portable restrooms, desiring to have the restrooms by the softball field in the fall and one by the baseball field and softball field in the spring.
 - Mr. Rasmus would like to bring this to the Buildings & Grounds Committee in the future.
- In closing, Mrs. Sue Farr shared her concern that the district is not congratulating and highlighting students who are not playing sports.
 - Mrs. Gregory mentioned that the high school is working to highlight other students for this very reason, mentioning some ways she would like to highlight students in the near future.
 - Mr. Rasmus thanked her for her thoughts, and shared the desire to continue showcasing all of our students.

Chelsea Rosenberger
Assistant Board Secretary