

The Millville Area School Board held their regular meeting on Monday, February 27, 2023 in the Millville Jr./Sr. High School Library beginning 7:03 pm.

### **ROLL CALL**

The following Board members answered roll call: William Berger, Brynn Clark, Susan Farr (via ZOOM), Michael Farrell (via ZOOM), Gena Maize, Heather Mausteller (via ZOOM), Susan Myers, and Jessica Whitmoyer

Also present were Joseph Rasmus (via ZOOM), Dee Davis (via ZOOM), Edward Sanders, Bonnie Gregory (via ZOOM), Noah Adams, Matthew McWilliams, Jennifer Bodnar (via ZOOM), Dr. Alan Lonoconus, Tony Lylo, Matthew Wardecker, Kirby Slear, and Chelsea Rosenberger.

### **GUEST RECOGNITION AND COMMENTS**

#### *Guest Recognition and Comments*

- Mrs. Jennifer Bodnar (via ZOOM) wished to speak. She raised a concern as a member of the Parent Teacher Organization about the status of field trips, specifically for the Elementary school, and if they were going to be added in the budget for next year. She asked the board to consider allowing for one field trip per grade level as it would only be a small part of the overall budget.
  - Mr. Rasmus answered by first thanking Mrs. Bodnar for her work with the PTO and the organization's partnership with the school. He added that this topic was to be discussed at the scheduled Policy Committee meeting that was postponed for weather concerns the previous Thursday, February 22<sup>nd</sup> and that it would be rescheduled soon. Going further, Mr. Rasmus explained that the Committee would be reviewing the field trip policy. He shared that coming out of Co-Vid, several grades had multiple field trips per grade. To help cut expenditures, the district wanted to put some limitations on these trips, but he added that allowing one trip per grade level was the intended goal. In conclusion, Mr. Rasmus shared that the expectation with Mr. Sanders to have each grade level at the Elementary School come up with one field trip for the next budget year.
  - Mrs. Bodnar responded by saying she was looking forward to hearing from the Policy Committee meeting and would try to attend.

#### *Tony Lylo and Dr. Alan Lonoconus – CMAVTS Budget Presentation*

- Mr. Tony Lylo opened his presentation by sharing the proposed CMAVTS budget for the 23-24 school year. He explained that the budget does indicate a 4.6% increase (\$473,429) that is predominantly due to salaries, health insurance, utilities, and supplies. He added that Millville's contribution would be \$546,209, explaining that Millville's percentage went down due to our enrollment dropping as an average over four years. He continued to explain that 80% of the budget would be comprised of salaries and benefits while the remaining 20% would be supplies, transportation, athletics, utilities, repairs, and outside services. Mr. Lylo explained that CMAVTS is always looking at class sizes and resignations to move faculty around as much as possible to keep costs down.
- Dr. Alan Lonoconus then shared some updates with the board on the CMAVTS building project. He explained that he was new to this role, coming on in December. Since his start, he had been busy working on the process of the building project. Dr. Lonoconus explained that the bidding process for this building project was different from the conventional method he had experienced previously where a district would solicit bids, usually pick the cheapest bid, then the contractors would present price changes after the bid was accepted. Instead, for this project, CMAVTS solicited bids, and worked with the two lowest bidders to hash out a more concrete plan. With this process, the change orders would no longer be an issue because they were already considered in the comprehensive plan. Additionally, this process allowed the school to find some money for some of the items on the project that were previously removed for insufficient funds.
- Dr. Lonoconus then shared the architectural rendering of the proposed plan, highlighting a few items in the proposal. One idea was the plan to have a bathroom in each shop area. However, some departments did not want that because it would take away much-needed space in the shop. Because of this

discussion, the project was able to be reconfigured so that the Cosmetology shop would now have a self-contained area of the school which would be beneficial for outside visitors to be contained in one area when visiting for services. In conclusion, Dr. Lonoconus shared that they have been able to find great savings in the project by managing it in this way.

*Schneider Electric Presentation – Matthew Wardecker*

- Mr. Matt Wardecker from Schneider Electric opened his presentation by explaining how last March Millville Area School District signed a letter of intent for Schneider to complete a study of the district. At the time, the discussion on solar initiatives was not as prominent as it is now, even just a year later. Mr. Wardecker explained that through that study and subsequent meetings with administration and reports to the Buildings and Grounds Committee, he believed the Committee would like to see information on the solar voltaic prospects of a ground-mounted model.
- Mr. Wardecker explained that his recommendation would be for the district to invest in district-owned solar panels because this is where the incentives are being given for Tax credits, etc. He further explained that the life span of solar panels is expected to be about 25 to 30 years. To that end, Mr. Wardecker told the board that Schneider Electric can assist the district in finding funding sources and in applying for grants. After reviewing the district's current electricity contract, Mr. Wardecker shared that it would be expiring in May and potentially, the rates could double. With the preliminary study done by Schneider, Mr. Wardecker shared that Schneider Electric could guarantee energy savings for 20 years.
  - To this, Mrs. Brynn Clark asked about the potential up-front costs would be for the district.
  - Mr. Wardecker answered that this would be a two-step process. There would not be cost associated with the first step, the Investment Grade Audit. However, there would be cost in the second part of the process if the district committed. There would be an "exit fee" at that point if the district decided not to move forward with the project. He explained that the Investment Grade Audit would help Schneider Electric be able to narrow down the numbers but would not create any financial confirmation for the district.
  - Mrs. Susan Myers then raised a concern on the maintenance costs associated and life span of the solar panels. She questioned what the district would do with the panels when they have outlived their reasonable life span and are now on the property. In addition, she raised a concern about the proposed second location of the land by the ponds near the Millard C. Ludwig Stadium being viable for use and the location near community members.
  - To this concern, Mr. Wardecker answered that some schools and businesses are putting money into escrow to have a fund for maintenance for this very reason. He further explained that when looking into the financials for the district, Schneider approximated a maintenance figure of about \$6,000 a year. In addition, he explained that most of the panels can be recycled due to the fact they are metal and a silicone. Currently, the Environmental Protection Agency has been researching and heavily investing in research for the recycling of these materials so that they do not end up in a landfill at the end of their life.
  - Mr. Rasmus then summated that the logical next step for the district would be to move forward with the Investment Grade Audit (IGA), which would be a noncommittal step. Going forward with the IGA would allow Schneider Electric to provide the board with "actual figures" including the savings, tax credit, etc.
  - Mrs. Heather Mausteller then posed a question about how the power created from the solar panels would feed into the power grid. Mr. Wardecker answered that unfortunately, Schneider would not know that until they do the IGA. Going further, Mr. Kirby Slear also of Schneider Electric answered that there would be two ways to go into the power grid, either by tying in directly into the power grid or behind the meter.
  - Mr. Rasmus then asked Mr. Wardecker to explain Schneider Electric's Guarantee. Mr. Wardecker explained to the board that if Schneider Electric guarantees the district a savings amount and miss something, they will write the district a check for the difference in savings. For that reason, Mr. Wardecker explains that Schneider takes their time in this process because that guarantee can become costly if they are miscalculating figures.

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- Mr. William Berger then asked of Mr. Wardecker that at what point in the process, will the district become “locked in” and fully committed to Schneider. Mr. Wardecker explained that the IGA would be conceptual as the first step. Then, the second step would have a fee only if “exiting” the agreement. To this, Mr. Berger commented that the IGA seemed like a viable first step for the district, being that it would not be a financial commitment step at this point.
- Mrs. Myers then closed in agreement with Mr. Berger, thanking Mr. Wardecker and Mr. Slear for their time.

## ADMINISTRATOR REPORTS

- Mrs. Davis, Mrs. Longacre, Mr. Sanders, Mr. McWilliams, and Mr. Adams had all previously submitted their administrative reports. No additional questions were asked.
- CMAVTS Report
  - Mr. Berger explained to the board that CMAVTS is now looking for a new director and had engaged Mr. Tom Templeton to undergo the selection process for the new director.
  - Mr. Rasmus added that the school was advertising for a Director of Special Education as well due to the school currently employing two interim directors. The previous director would be transitioning back to the school as a member of the professional staff.

## FINANCIAL REPORTS

- The monthly financial reports were previously submitted for the board’s consideration. There were no additional questions regarding the reports.

## BOARD MINUTES

### February 13, 2023 Board Meeting Minutes

A motion by Jessica Whitmoyer and seconded by William Berger that the Millville Area School Board consider and approve the February 13, 2023 Board Meeting Minutes.

The motion carried by voice vote. 8 Yea; 0 Nay; 1 Absent

## EXPENDITURES

A motion by Brynn Clark and seconded by Jessica Whitmoyer that the Millville Area School Board consider and approve the February 27, 2023 general expenditures in the amount of \$202,790.09; and athletic expenditures in the amount of \$633.00.

The motion carried by roll call vote. 8 Yes; 0 No; 1 Absent

## NEW BUSINESS

### Untable the Motion to Approve the 2023-2024 District Calendar

A motion by Susan Farr and seconded by William Berger that the Millville Area School Board consider and approve untabling the motion to approve the 2023-2024 Millville Area School District Calendar.

The motion carried by voice vote. 8 Yea; 0 Nay; 1 Absent

### 2023-2024 MASD School Calendar

A motion by William Berger and seconded by Brynn Clark that the Millville Area School Board consider and approve the 2023-2024 Millville Area School District Calendar.

- Mrs. Clark raised a concern that the board did not have the adequate information to consider that updated calendar until earlier on that day, posing that the board should consider tabling the motion to further investigate the calendar proposed.
- To this, Mrs. Myers added that any concerned board members could vote “no” to the motion on the floor.
- Mr. Rasmus then explained some information given to the board to the public, along with a detailed review of the proposed Act 80 days for the next school year. Furthermore, he explained that the Pennsylvania Department of Education had outlined some extensive professional development needs to take place during the 2023-2024 school year, including the Science of Reading which would take 8 days of

professional development by itself. As it stands in the current professional contract, the teacher and student day is within the same timeframe. Therefore, there is no time to offer professional development within the contracted school day and therefore would have to happen solely on Act 80 days. Going further, Mr. Rasmus explained that when speaking to the superintendents of neighboring school districts, he learned that many schools have teachers doing their professional development in the summer outside of the contracted year and paying them separately to do so. However, he added that historically, the district has struggled to get participation in these additional endeavors from the professional staff. In addition, Mr. Rasmus added that the district has to bring in some outside vendors to facilitate this necessary mandated training.

- Community member, Mrs. Jennifer Bodnar than asked to speak. She asked why the district has to have the high amount of proposed Act 80 days, citing the calendars she had seen recently from nearby school districts who do not have the amount of Act 80 days we are proposing. Mr. Rasmus then answered that he had spoken specifically to an administrator at Central Columbia School District who had assured him they do the professional development in the summer.
- Mrs. Bodnar then asked if the Act 80 Days count as a student day. To this, Mr. Rasmus answered affirmatively that the Act 80 days do count in the total number of student days and that by having it count, PDE is able to mandate the amount of professional development during the school year.
- Mrs. Bodnar countered that the list of days seemed to be excessive. Some board members shared this concern in agreement with Mrs. Bodnar.
- Mrs. Myers then clarified for the rest of the board and the public that three of the Act 80 days in the count were at the beginning of the school year before students start. Several board members explained that they understood this but still felt the remaining amount of Act 80 days seemed high.
- Mrs. Bodnar then commented that she felt the teachers needed to be asked again because she felt they may be more receptive. To this comment, Mrs. Clark added her concern again that she felt the board needed more time to research and review the information before putting the proposed calendar to a vote. She then asked to table the motion already moved and seconded.

After the aforementioned discussion, a motion to table was made by Brynn Clark and seconded by Heather Mausteller tabling the motion to consider and approve the 2023-2024 Millville Area School District Calendar.

- The motion to table carried by voice vote. 6 Yea; 2 Nay (Susan Myers, William Berger); 1 Absent

#### Secondary Student Conferences and Community-Based Instruction

A motion by Brynn Clark and seconded by William Berger that the Millville Area School Board consider and approve a trip to the PMEA Region Band Festival on March 22-24, 2023 at Mid-West High School and Susquehanna University, a trip to Montour Preserve for the Middle School Envirothon on May 9, 2023, a trip to Penn State Main Campus for PA FFA State Activities Week on June 13-15, 2023, a trip to SRBC/Kocher Park for Eels in the Classroom Release Day on May 2, 2023, and a trip to Penn Tech - Allenwood Campus for the FFA Regional Public Speaking and CDE Contests on April 20, 2023.

The motion carried by roll call vote. 8 Yes; 0 No; 1 Absent

#### Elementary Field Trips

A motion by Brynn Clark and seconded by William Berger that the Millville Area School Board consider and approve trips for students in grades Kindergarten through third grade to the Bloomsburg Children's Museum, dates to be determined.

The motion carried by roll call vote. 8 Yes; 0 No; 1 Absent

Quaker After-School Tutoring Program

A motion by Brynn Clark and seconded by Jessica Whitmoyer that the Millville Area School Board consider and approve the implementation of the Quaker After-School Tutoring Program beginning March 2023 that addresses student learning loss resulting from interruptions to instructional programming caused by the pandemic. The Quaker After-School Tutoring Program will be offered to K-12 students who are recommended by their respective teachers. The district will provide after-school programming on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3:15 PM to 4:15 PM through May 25, 2023 as well as district-provide transportation.

The motion carried by roll call vote. 8 Yes; 0 No; 1 Absent

Approval of Updated Board Policies and Attachments

A motion by William Berger and seconded by Brynn Clark that the Millville Area School Board consider and approve the following board policies consistent with the PA School Board Association (PSBA) and the Bureau of Special Education (BSE) as attached: Policy 113.1 Discipline of Students with Disabilities, 113.2 Behavior Support, 113.4 Confidentiality of Special Education Student Information, and well as Procurement Attachment to Policy 626 Federal Fiscal Compliance.

The motion carried by roll call vote. 8 Yes; 0 No; 1 Absent

**PERSONNEL**

CSIU Guest Teacher Substitute

A motion by Jessica Whitmoyer and seconded by Susan Myers that the Millville Area School District consider and approve KAYLA BRINGENBERG, as a CSIU Guest Teacher Substitute. Clearances on file.

The motion carried by roll call vote. 8 Yes; 0 No; 1 Absent

Combined Resignations

A motion by Susan Myers and seconded by Susan Farr that the Millville Area School Board approve the combined recommended action as detailed below.

- **Resignation – Deitrick** - A motion is needed to consider and approve acceptance of the resignation notice from JILL DEITRICK, as paraprofessional, effective February 14, 2023.
- **Resignation – Smith** - A motion is needed to consider and approve acceptance of the resignation notice from WYATT SMITH, as after school detention monitor, effective February 17, 2023.
- **Resignation – Whitenight** - A motion is needed to consider and approve acceptance of the resignation notice from ZACHARY WHITENIGHT as Jr. High Boys Soccer Coach, effective February 14, 2023.
- **Resignation – Farrow** - A motion is needed to consider and approve acceptance of the resignation notice from BJ FARROW as Varsity Boys Basketball Coach, effective February 28, 2023.

The combined motion carried by roll call vote. 8 Yes; 0 No; 1 Absent

Retirement - Hess

A motion by Susan Myers and seconded by Jessica Whitmoyer that the Millville Area School Board consider and approve accepting with gratitude the notice of retirement from JIM HESS as Technology Director, effective March 15, 2023.

The motion carried by roll call vote. 8 Yes; 0 No; 1 Absent

Retirement - Miller

A motion by Susan Myers and seconded by Jessica Whitmoyer that the Millville Area School Board consider and approve accepting with gratitude the notice of retirement from JOAN MILLER as Elementary Lead Cook, effective June 5, 2023.

The motion carried by roll call vote. 8 Yes; 0 No; 1 Absent

Elementary Boys' Basketball

A motion by Susan Myers and seconded by Jessica Whitmoyer that the Millville Area School Board approve WYATT SMITH, ZACHARY WHITENIGHT, BEN CLARK, and DREW SMITH as Elementary Boys' Basketball Volunteer Coaches, pending receipt of all clearances.

The motion carried by roll call vote. 8 Yes; 0 No; 1 Absent

Jr. High Field Hockey Volunteer Assistant

A motion by Jessica Whitmoyer and seconded by Brynn Clark that the Millville Area School Board approve AVA MICHAEL as a Jr. High Field Hockey Volunteer Assistant, pending receipt of all clearances. (Roll Call)

The motion carried by roll call vote. 8 Yes; 0 No; 1 Absent

Softball Volunteer Assistant Coach

A motion by Susan Myers and seconded by Susan Farr that the Millville Area School Board approve OLIVIA SAVAGE as a Softball Volunteer Assistant Coach, pending receipt of all clearances.

The motion carried by roll call vote. 8 Yes; 0 No; 1 Absent

Bloomsburg University Nursing Student Practicum Placement

A motion by Brynn Clark and seconded by Jessica Whitmoyer that the Millville Area School Board consider and approve Bloomsburg University Nursing Student Practicum Placement of COURTNEY SCHNEIDER with co-op School Nurse MEGAN SCERBO, beginning February 27, 2023.

The motion carried by roll call vote. 8 Yes; 0 No; 1 Absent

Substitute Approval - Diehl

A motion by Susan Myers and seconded by Jessica Whitmoyer that the Millville Area School Board consider and approve utilizing student teacher candidate, ALLISON DIEHL, as a day to day teacher substitute, as outlined in the Bloomsburg University Student Teacher Candidate practicum letter, retroactive to February 17, 2023.

The motion carried by roll call vote. 8 Yes; 0 No; 1 Absent

After-School Tutoring Personnel

A motion by Heather Mausteller and seconded by Jessica Whitmoyer that the Millville Area School Board consider and approve the following teachers to serve as After-School Tutoring Personnel at their compensatory per hour to supervise students participating in the After-School Tutoring Program through the remainder of the 2022-23 school year (Funded via ESSERS Subsidy): TIFFANY ANDERSON, AMBER DIRADO, SONJA FLOOK, RODNEY FRY, AMANDA HARDING, CHANDRA JOHNSON, EMILY BLOOM, AIMEE DIEHL, MEGAN HIPPENSTIEL, NEVIN ILIEV, LAURA KOONS, MAGGIE COONEY, KAYLA LUTTEROTY, MEGAN TITTER, EMILY AGNELLO, SHAWNA SCHROY, FELICIA LINGAFELT, RACHEL MUSSER, DANIELLE FRITZ, CHRISTY PASSARETTI, and LYNEA GREGORY.

The motion carried by roll call vote. 8 Yes; 0 No; 1 Absent

Prioritized Motion #1 – BU Student Substitute Approval

A motion by Susan Myers and seconded by Jessica Whitmoyer that the Millville Area School Board 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.

The motion carried by voice vote. 8 Yea; 0 Nay; 1 Absent

Prioritized Motion #2 – BU Student Substitute Approval

A motion by Jessica Whitmoyer and seconded by Brynn Clark that the Millville Area School Board consider and approve utilizing student teacher candidate, CHAD ROMANOWSKI, as a day to day teacher substitute, as outlined in the Bloomsburg University Student Teacher as Substitute Teacher Verification policy under PA Act 91.

The motion carried by roll call vote. 8 Yes; 0 No; 1 Absent

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Prioritized Motion #3 – BU Student Substitute Approval

A motion by Susan Myers and seconded by Heather Mausteller that the Millville Area School Board consider and approve amending the minutes of the February 27, 2023 board meeting to reflect the inclusion of the aforementioned prioritized agenda item.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

A motion by Heather Mausteller and seconded by Jessica Whitmoyer to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 8:59 p.m.

Chelsea Rosenberger  
Assistant Board Secretary