
MINUTES OF THE MILLVILLE SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD MEETING

MONDAY, AUGUST 28, 2023

The Millville Area School Board held their regular meeting on Monday, August 28, 2023 in the Millville Jr./Sr. High School Library beginning 7:01 pm. Prior to the meeting, Pastor Bob Strozyk shared an inspirational thought and prayer with the Board.

1. ROLL CALL

The following Board members answered roll call: William Berger, Brynn Clark, Susan Farr, Greg Hemsarh (came in just after roll call), Gena Maize, Heather Mausteller, and Susan Myers.

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

2. GUEST RECOGNITION AND COMMENTS

Pastor Bob Strozyk, Shanna Haden, Paul Haden, Veronica Horner, and JD Stanley all signed the register.

- Mrs. Shanna Haden asked to read a statement wherein she shared her background in Education and raised the concern she has with the recent change in not allowing High School students the use of backpacks during the school day. She shared concerns citing the need for students to have organization to be successful with various supplies and textbooks needed during the day as it would be time-consuming to go back and forth to their lockers to retrieve these items at multiple times in the day. Additionally, she was concerned with students needing items for after school activities and not making it back to their after school transportation and activities on time. Then, she mentioned the safety issue of students tripping while carrying supplies as well as the hallway space in between classes. She stated that with more students in the hallways at lockers in between classes, it would become crowded. Next, she mentioned that the 7th grade transition to the high school building is already difficult, and she was concerned that this extra stress could be too much for middle school students and in turn, may lead to increased bullying. Finally, she explained that she understood some of the rationale as to why the change in procedure was enacted but cited statistical information refuting the efficacy of backpack removal on students bringing in contraband and concealing weapons in their backpacks.
- Then, Ms. Veronica Horner asked to address the Board about the backpack issue as well, citing the concerns gleaned from her student as well as the lack of communication by the district in advance for this decision. She felt that this communication should have been made in June for the 2023-2024 school year.
- Mrs. Heather Mausteller then asked for clarification on this issue from the administration because she had heard from the community on the topic as well.
- Mr. Rasmus answered by first thanking the community members for their comments. Then, he clarified the changed language in the student handbook as it relates to the backpack removal change in procedure. He explained that the district had the Center for Safe Schools come in last year to discuss safety concerns and that at that time, they had given the district two overarching suggestions. The first was to start locking all classroom doors during the day, which he explained was enacted in the 2022-2023 school year. Additionally, they shared that the elimination of student backpacks during the day would help reduce the instances of contraband. For clarification, Mr. Rasmus explained that the district realized that this change in procedure would not eliminate the issue, but rather be an attempt at reducing it.

- Mr. Rasmus went on to answer a statement from Mrs. Haden that while the building itself looks very much the same, safety needs and many other things have changed drastically in the last four years. He shared that while change is difficult, the district recognized the community would be frustrated and did their due-diligence to vet out the procedures in a variety of avenues. In addition to the contraband concern, Mr. Rasmus explained that the Jr. High students have historically carried very large backpacks with a variety of things in them that were heavy. The district was hoping to foster time management and planning skills to get through the day. He explained that teachers were told to give students grace in this transitional time and to not mark students tardy for that reason for a few weeks. In conclusion, Mr. Rasmus shared that it was not the desire of the district to create frustration or concern for students and families and that it would be tough in the transition but that the students would adjust to this change.
- Mrs. Susan Myers added that the district does need to be more timely with the communication of changes of this nature in the future. Mr. Hemsarth commented that other districts also made this change late in August.
- Mrs. Haden then asked if she could see the statistics on removal of backpacks in schools because the information she gathered proved otherwise.
- Mr. Paul Haden then added to the conversation that he was also a teacher at another school district, and his school had removed backpacks. However, he explained, his school had all resources online and therefore, do not have the needs for physical items in a backpack.
- Mr. Rasmus answered that the goal is to move to completely online in the future. Additionally, the district was implementing a Social Emotional Curriculum that would be helpful to counteract some of the concerns as well.
- Mr. Haden countered that perhaps the district should give more time before enacting this procedure change.
- In closing, Mr. Hemsarth shared a concern about how to quantify the results of the Social Emotional curriculum for its effectiveness as well as the PBIS program.
 - Mrs. Davis answered that there is pre and post data in the SWISS system.
 - Mr. Hemsarth questioned if there was any way to quantify the growth like with Math and Reading data.
 - Mr. Rasmus answered that it is not quantifiable in that way because the growth is not score based. He understood the question and the need to know the effectiveness of the program.

3. SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

Backpacks in Lockers

- Mr. Rasmus concluded the previous discussion by explaining to the Board that the district would be providing locks to all students who would like them. He also shared that Mrs. Gregory would be meeting with students to discuss the expectations and that teachers would be giving grace in this transition period.

Transportation Revisions in 23-24 Handbook

- Mr. Rasmus shared that the previous Friday there was a meeting with the transportation drivers to complete training and discuss some changes in procedure for transportation. He explained that the district would now only be providing students with transportation to and from their designated bus stops and would also support custodial arrangement and student supervision plans based on needs after school for families. He further explained that the district would no longer be providing transportation for play dates, sleepovers, etc. The only exceptions to this would be if a note was provided to the school and cleared with a building administrator, to which the student would be giving a bus pass for the transportation driver.
 - Mr. Hemsarth asked if a student could be picked up from another bus stop.
 - Mr. Rasmus answered that the district would not be picking up any students who are not on the bus roster.

- Mrs. Clark asked if the parent could send in a note about a change.
 - Mr. Rasmus answered that yes, a note could be sent and run through the building administrator.
- Mr. Hemsarth reiterated his concern about dropping his child off at another bus stop and the student not being able to ride the bus.
 - Mrs. Mausteller stated that all of this needs to be communicated to the community as soon as possible.

Metz – Food Service Provider

- Next. Mr. Rasmus shared with the Board about the good reviews he heard for the first day of school about the food served for lunch.

Personnel Concerns

- Mr. Rasmus explained that the district is looking to fill a number of positions.

Superintendent Goals

- Mr. Rasmus shared that he had spoken with Mr. Hemsarth about quantifying some of the actions listed in the previously submitted Superintendent goals.
 - Ms. Maize commented that she would also like to see the quantifiable actions as well as the timelines for some of the action items.

4. ADMINISTRATOR REPORTS

- The Administrative team had previously submitted their reports. Mrs. Gregory wanted to give a shout out to the custodial staff for their work making the building look great for the return of teachers and staff.

5. REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

CSIU Representative – Mrs. Susan Myers

- Mrs. Myers explained that the CSIU is working and remaining active, adding that they are looking into the potential addition of a solar field.

CMAVTS – Mr. William Berger

- Mr. Berger shared that CMAVTS had recently hired their Executive Director as well as promoted the Assistant Principal to Head Principal. Then, he shared that the building project is behind schedule but is not under budget, adding that the start date for students had to be pushed back further.
 - Mr. Hemsarth asked if a new calendar had been released.
 - Mr. Rasmus answered that he had not yet seen one.

PRIORITIZED AGENDA ITEM: CMAVTS REPRESENTATIVE

- A motion by Gena Maize and seconded by Heather Mausteller that the Millville Area School Board 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. 7 Yea; 0 Nay; 1 Absent
- A motion by Heather Mausteller and seconded by Gena Maize that the Millville Area School Board appoint Susan Farr as a Columbia Montour Area Vocational Technical School Board representative.
 - The motion carried by roll call vote. 7 Yes; 0 No; 1 Absent
- A motion by Susan Myers and seconded by Gena Maize that the Millville Area School Board consider and approve amending the minutes of the August 28, 2023 board meeting to reflect the inclusion of the aforementioned prioritized agenda item.
 - The motion carried by roll call vote. 7 Yes; 0 No; 2 Absent

6.1 APPROVAL OF BOARD MINUTES

A motion by Gena Maize and seconded by Susan Farr that the Millville Area School Board consider and approve the Millville Area School District August 17, 2023 Board Meeting Minutes.

The motion carried by voice vote. 7 Yea; 0 Nay; 1 Absent

7. BUDGET AND FINANCE

7.1 Monthly Reports

- The monthly High school and Elementary school student union reports for June and July as well as the Treasurer's report were previously submitted for the consideration of the Board. No additional comments or questions were asked.

7.2 Expenditures

A motion by Greg Hemsarth and seconded by Gena Maize that the Millville Area School Board consider and approve August 28, 2023 general fund expenditures in the amount of \$419,232.49, athletic expenditures in the amount of \$600.00 and cafeteria expenditures in the amount of \$200.00.

The motion carried by roll call vote. 7 Yes; 0 No; 1 Absent

8. CURRICULUM / EDUCATIONAL ITEMS

8.1 Business Education Curriculum Resource

A motion by Brynn Clark and seconded by Susan Farr that the Millville Area School Board consider and approve the acquisition of Curriculum resources for the Business Software and 7th Grade Computers courses from CEV Multimedia, LLC as per the attached quote at a total price of \$1,820.00.

- Mr. Hemsarth asked if this cost would be per year.
- Mr. Rasmus answered that yes, the cost was per year and that this would be the final Business curriculum purchase for the year.
- Mrs. Clark asked if the district teaches students basic computer skills.
- Mr. Rasmus answered that yes it was a part of the 7th grade curriculum.

The motion carried by roll call vote. 7 Yes; 0 No; 1 Absent

8.2 – 8.4 Curriculum/Educational Items

A motion by William Berger and seconded by Heather Mausteller that the Millville Area School Board consider and approve the Curriculum/Educational Items 8.2 – 8.4 as presented.

The motion carried by roll call vote. 7 Yes; 0 No; 1 Absent

▪ 8.2 Agriculture OAC Report 2022-2023

Action: A motion is needed to consider and approve the 2022-2023 Agriculture Occupational Advisory Committee report as presented.

▪ 8.3 Secondary Curricular Excursion 9.13.23

Action: A motion is needed to consider and approve the curricular excursion for 7th Grade students to Briar Creek Lake Park on September 13, 2023 for Water Education Day.

▪ 8.4 Foreign Exchange Student

Action: A motion is needed to approve MARTINS "BRUNO" BORGES, as a foreign exchange student from Brazil, for the 2023-2024 school year.

9. BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS

9.1 – Disposal Approval

A motion by Greg Hemsarth and seconded by William Berger that the Millville Area School Board consider and approve the disposal of Two Kitchen Serving Lines and a Hobart Food Chopper to the Max Winn Auction. Any monies gleaned from the sale will be returned to the school district.

The motion carried by roll call vote. 7 Yes; 0 No; 1 Absent

9.2 – Blue Quake Soccer Facility Use

A motion by Greg Hemsarth and seconded by Brynn Clark that the Millville Area School Board consider and approve allowing Blue Quake Soccer to use the EIEIO Soccer Fields on Sunday, September 24, 2023 and Sunday, October 22, 2023 for their home games and on Mondays and Wednesdays for practices from August 30, 2023 through October 25, 2023, with \$100 refundable deposit, and costs incurred for portable restroom consistent with Administrative Regulation 707 AR-3 District Facilities Fee Schedule, as amended.

- Mrs. Farr asked how many children playing are Millville students.
- Guest Mr. JD Stanley answered that approximately three quarters of the roster are from Millville.
- Mr. Hemsarth then asked for clarification on this Administrative Regulation stating his belief that he thought the Policy Committee discussion was that for outside facilities, there would not be custodial fees applied for outside usage.
 - Mr. Rasmus answered that the discussion was for Sunday usage days, the district would require custodial fees as well as ask to have a portable restroom brought.
 - Mr. Hemsarth answered that he thought for outdoor use, the district would not ask for custodial fees on top of that.
 - Mr. Rasmus then asked how the Board would like us to differentiate for custodial fees.
 - Mrs. Clark answered that for users requesting usage for outdoor facilities only would not need to pay custodial fees and that the requester would have to provide a portable restroom.
 - Mrs. Farr added that this rule would only apply to those using solely outdoor facilities, not including the stadium.
 - The Board decided to amend the motion to reflect this discussion.

The motion, as amended, carried by roll call vote. 7 Yes; 0 No; 1 Absent

10. PERSONNEL AND ACTIVITIES

10.1 - Support Personnel

A motion by Greg Hemsarth and seconded by Brynn Clark that the Millville Area School Board consider and approve the Support Personnel items (10.1 A - 10.1 B) as presented.

Appoint Personnel

- 10.1 A – Appoint Kay Romania as a Full-Time Second Shift Custodian at a rate of \$12.50 per hour.

Stipend

- 10.1 B – Consider and approve providing a stipend for Chelsea Rosenberger at her hourly rate for the new website migration.
- Ms. Maize asked if there would be any cap put on the amount expended for item 10.1 B.
- Mr. Rasmus answered that there was no cap put onto it because it is unknown as to the scope of the work. He added that if the Board would like to see the work and put a cap on it, it could be added.

The motion carried by roll call vote. 7 Yes; 0 No; 1 Absent

10.2 - Co-Curricular Personnel 2023-2024

A motion by Heather Mausteller and seconded by Brynn Clark that the Millville Area School Board consider and approve the Co-Curricular Personnel recommendations for the 2023-2024 school year as presented.

The motion carried by roll call vote. 7 Yes; 0 No; 1 Absent

10.2 A - Secondary Co-Curricular Advisors

- o Drama - Emily Agnello & Brianna Lingafelt
- o HS & ES Website/Media Supervision

10.2 B - After School Detention Monitors

- o Felicia Lingafelt
- o Lynea Gregory
- o Miranda Pell
- o Kayleen Jenkins

10.3 - CSIU Guest Teacher Substitute

A motion by Susan Myers and seconded by Heather Mausteller that the Millville Area School Board consider and approve Audra Renner as a CSIU Guest Teacher Substitute for the 2023-2024, clearances on file.

The motion carried by roll call vote. 7 Yes; 0 No; 1 Absent

PRIORITIZED AGENDA ITEM: HEALTH ROOM ASSISTANT

- A motion by Susan Myers and seconded by Brynn Clark that the Millville Area School Board 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. 7 Yea; 0 Nay; 1 Absent

- A motion by Brynn Clark and seconded by Susan Farr that the Millville Area School Board consider and approve Ashley Zerby (LPN) as a Health Room Assistant/Medical Aide at the rate of \$16.40 per hour.

The motion carried by roll call vote. 7 Yes; 0 No; 1 Absent

- A motion by Susan Myers and seconded by Gena Maize that the Millville Area School Board consider and approve amending the minutes of the August 28, 2023 board meeting to reflect the inclusion of the aforementioned prioritized agenda item.

The motion carried by roll call vote. 7 Yes; 0 No; 2 Absent

10. ADJOURNMENT:

A motion by Heather Mausteller and seconded by Susan Farr to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 8:31 p.m.

Chelsea Rosenberger
Assistant Board Secretary