
MINUTES OF THE MILLVILLE SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD MEETING
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2023

The Millville Area School Board held their regular meeting on Monday, September 25, 2023 in the Millville Jr./Sr. High School Library beginning 7:06 pm. Prior to the meeting, the Board held an Executive Session for personnel matters. Pastor Mark Messner also offered a prayer and word of encouragement prior to the start of the meeting.

1. ROLL CALL

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

Also present were Joseph Rasmus, Whitney Holloway, Edward Sanders, Alexa Longacre, Matt McWilliams, Dyson Savage and Chelsea Rosenberger.

2. GUEST RECOGNITION AND COMMENTS

Matthew Wardecker (Schneider Electric) and Pastor Mark Messner all signed the register.

2.1 Schneider Electric Presentation – Matthew Wardecker

- Mr. Matthew Wardecker of Schneider Electric shared a presentation with the Board detailing the findings of the previously approved Investment Grade Audit. He explained that the engineers had been on the site, did the measurements and tests and are now at the midterm part of the IGA process. Then, he shared that Schneider had looked into the Elementary windows and the interior doors concern.
- Additionally, he explained to the Board that Schneider Electric helped the district apply for the KOPPS SVPP2 grant for \$525,000 with a 25% match. He went on to explain the concern about the high school chiller system as well as the air systems and quality in the administrative suite at the Elementary school. Finally, he shared that the software systems to run these systems need to be updated soon as well.
- Moving on, Mr. Wardecker shared the findings for the proposed solar fields, explaining that Schneider has evaluated the land at the Elementary school for the best solar field placement locations.
 - Mr. Rasmus added that while the previously awarded PCCD grant would provide the district with a fence to go around the equipment at the Elementary School, there would still need to be a higher fence around the solar field.
 - Mr. Wardecker added that the proposed cost for the solar project as presented included that necessary fence expenditure.
 - Mr. Berger then asked how high the fence would need to be for the solar field.
 - Mr. Wardecker answered that it depends on the municipality, up to potentially six to eight feet.
 - Mrs. Clark added that if the fence is expected to be a chain link fence that could be blinding to students and athletes using the nearby fields during the day.
- Next, Mr. Wardecker explained that the high school solar field location had remained relatively unchanged and that the high school uses more electricity, therefore, needing more panels.
 - Mr. Rasmus added that Schneider was looking with the district at a variety of locations on district land to hold the solar fields, adding that the Elementary location would tie into the electrical grid and therefore, be a cost reduction. The previous location would have required quite a bit of underground work and become more expensive in the end.

- Mr. Wardecker then shared the scope of the project with the Board, explaining that the district is looking into three potential projects. The first two would be more comprehensive and would include the solar project. He shared that the federal government has changed their energy community standards so now by doing this Guaranteed Energy Savings project, the district would be eligible for a 40% guaranteed tax credit, adding that there is still the potential for extra considerations for domestic related reductions based on project material usage. Overall, he shared with the Board that the total projected savings would be around 4.85 million.
 - Mrs. Mausteller asked if that figure was a guaranteed cost saving over 20 years.
 - Mr. Wardecker answered that Schneider would guarantee the production savings.
 - Mr. Hemsarh added that there is a difference between a production guarantee and a guaranteed savings, explaining the difference. He explained that this was most likely based off a 4% electric calculation.
 - Mr. Wardecker answered that Schneider actually estimated it at 2% based off market projections. He added that they included a .5% degradation figure for every year of use.
 - Then, Mr. Hemsarh asked if the total output for the district would be 2.5 million if we do a solar project.
 - Mr. Wardecker answered that yes, that would be the out of pocket cost, assuming the 40% tax credit given back to the district.
 - Mr. Rasmus added for clarity that the 2.5 million figure would be the entire list of items. The Board could elect to do any projects separately as necessary. Schneider can pull out projects and put together others at the Board's discretion.
 - Mr. Wardecker added that the 4.85 number was including estimated maintenance costs over 20 years. That figure would allot maintenance cost for every year.
- Next, Mr. Wardecker went over the summary of the other projects, highlighting the interest payments.
 - Mr. Hemsarh asked if the costs included for estimated maintenance were figured off a labor rate or a parts rate.
 - Mr. Wardecker answered that it was a commercial rate and the cost to replace inverters at this point. The scale from residential to commercial can be hard to compare.
 - Mr. Hemsarh then asked if they would be using central inverters or micro inverters.
 - Mr. Wardecker answered that they would be central inverters.
 - Mr. Rasmus then asked Mr. Wardecker if he had some of the more granular costs from a previous presentation with him.
 - Mr. Wardecker answered that it would be solidified in the design phase.
 - Mr. Berger asked if there would be an educational kiosk included in the figures.
 - Mr. Wardecker answered that yes, it is included in this proposal.
 - Mr. Rasmus added that there was a concern previously about using local vendors.
 - Mr. Wardecker answered that Schneider's goal would be to use local vendors and that utilized contractors must pass some background checks and a thorough review into their past projects. He added that they were looking into using Kawneer for windows, a local vendor.
 - Mr. Berger then asked if there would be any special equipment that the district would need to purchase in order to mow the areas around the solar fields.
 - Mr. Wardecker answered that they would have to look into that, but it would be a concern.
 - Mrs. Myers asked if there would be any concern about cleaning.
 - Mr. Wardecker answered that he had not experienced an issue like that but would investigate it further, adding that the area has rain and not much dust to clean.
 - Mr. Rasmus asked Mr. Wardecker to clarify the 3% termination fee for the Board.

- Mr. Wardecker explained that Schneider Electric will be developing a design plan in completion, but if the district decides to not move forward with any projects, that would be the time when the fee would be collected.
 - Mrs. Clark asked in clarification that if the district decides to only move forward with one project, there would not be a fee charged.
 - Mr. Wardecker answered yes, Schneider Electric hopes that in the end the district trusts them and do not as a whole wish to collect the fee.
- Mrs. Mausteller asked that if the district were to decide to move forward with only the high school projects first and wish to add other projects later, would that be an option.
 - Mr. Wardecker answered yes, the projects could be done in phases.
- Mr. Hemsarth shared his concern about the tax credit, adding that he was uncertain about the figures being presented.
 - Mr. Wardecker reviewed some of the calculations, concluding that the district would ultimately have to go through a debt service and the yearly payment would be dependent on that. Additionally, he explained that the energy savings would also come back to the district.
- Mrs. Clark asked what the figure was for the interest calculation.
 - Mr. Wardecker answered that he calculated it at 4.1%.
 - Mrs. Holloway added that most of what she has seen recently would be at least 5% or 5.5%.
- Mr. Berger asked in conclusion if Mrs. Holloway believed this project to be viable for the district at this time.
 - She answered that it would be a substantial amount of money.

3. SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

Honor Mrs. Susan Myers – 16 Years of Service

- Mr. Rasmus began his report by honoring Board President Mrs. Susan Myers for her 16 years of service to the Board of Education with a certificate from the Pennsylvania School Board Association.

Welcome Dyson Savage

- Mr. Rasmus then acknowledged and thanked Dyson Savage, newly appointed Technology Coordinator, for his first official day working independently. He explained that the CSIU is working with the district and Mr. Savage to upgrade technology in the district as well as provide mentorship to Dyson.

District Website

- Mr. Rasmus explained that Ms. Rosenberger is nearly complete on the district website and that it would be ready to view at the next meeting in October.

Faculty Meeting Trainings

- Mr. Rasmus shared with the Board that the professional staff had recently underwent trainings during faculty meetings on the iReady platform.
- Additionally, the administrative team had been engaging teachers in data meetings at the Elementary School and in Professional Learning Committees at the High School. The goal was to personalize instruction and address the needs of students individually.
- Mr. Rasmus then shared that the district was providing training on the new Spring Math program to aid in this initiative.

Comprehensive Plan

- Mr. Rasmus explained that the Comprehensive Plan will be on the website to be reviewed by the public through the end of October.

Grievances

- Mr. Rasmus shared an update as to the current grievances from the MEA. He explained that one grievance was removed because the affected employee no longer worked for the district.
- He further explained that the district is working through a grievance regarding FMLA.
- Finally, Mr. Rasmus shared that he is anticipating another grievance due to the number of faculty meetings in a month for certain teachers attending a teacher induction meeting. His hope was to be able to work through that with the MEA.

4. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

- The Administrative Team had previously submitted their reports for the Board's consideration.
- Mr. Sanders added that the Elementary School actually raised over \$900 for Think Big instead of the lower number in the report.

5. REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

CMAVTS - William Berger

- Mr. Berger explained that the most recent JOC meeting was the first time having a meeting since the construction project was completed. It was very exciting to see the work done. He further explained that some work had to be pushed out to next summer due to not having enough time.
- Mr. Berger shared that the new Executive Director Mr. Funkhouser would be starting in mid-October.
- Then, Mr. Berger explained that 14 incoming ninth graders were from Millville which is on par with previous years. However, he shared that not all of the seats have been taken for the school. Therefore, the school is talking to other schools in the consortium about attending.
 - Mr. Hemsarth asked if Benton could potentially do a similar process to our district with Policy 115 to go to a closer program outside of the Intermediate Unit.
 - Mr. Rasmus answered that Benton sends their students to East Lycoming for the CTC half day program there. He explained that the discussion with Benton's Superintendent was that the school was equidistant from CMAVTS.

CSIU - Sussan Myers

- Mrs. Myers shared that at the CSIU Board meeting they recognized several people as part of the Leadership team.
- Additionally, she explained they did a free course on Artificial Intelligence and that she would forward the materials out to the rest of the Board.

6. APPROVAL OF BOARD MINUTES

A motion by Greg Hemsarth and seconded by Gena Maize that the Millville Area School Board consider and approve the Millville Area School District September 11, 2023 Board Meeting Minutes.

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

7. BUDGET AND FINANCE

7.1 Expenditures

A motion by Brynn Clark and seconded by Heather Mausteller that the Millville Area School Board consider and approve the September 25, 2023 general expenditures in the amount of \$250,262.52, nutrition expenditures in the amount of \$31,751.01 and athletic expenditures in the amount of \$1,221.00. The motion carried by roll call vote. 7 Yes; 0 No; 1 Absent

7.2 Monthly Reports

- The monthly financial reports were submitted, and no additional questions were asked.

8. CURRICULUM / EDUCATIONAL ITEMS

8.1 Secondary Curricular Excursions

A motion by Brynn Clark and seconded by William Berger that the Millville Area School Board consider and approve the curricular excursions as presented.

- October 2, 2023 - County Chorus Auditions at Central Columbia High School - Mrs. Sweeney
- October 5, 2023 - FFA Leadership Conference at Montgomery High School - Ms. Guise
- October 24, 2023 - YIP Meeting at Bloomsburg University - Mrs. Uranko

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

9. BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS

9.1 High School Murals

A motion by William Berger and seconded by Heather Mausteller that the Millville Area School Board consider and approve a student-painted mural showcasing the Millville Area School District Fine Arts Department to be painted on a wall near the high school band room and the Millville Logo to be painted above the student lockers outside the High School Main Office.

- Mrs. Myers asked if there were any trademark issues with the murals.
- Mr. Rasmus answered that there could be and that the ideas may need to be changed a bit. He said that the Board could approve them with the expectation of a few changes made to include more of the arts at Millville.
- Mrs. Mausteller asked that the administration ensure that students are working on the mural only.
- Mr. Rasmus answered that he would make sure that was the case.

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

9.2 Resolution to Enter into Design Development Phase of Investment Grade Audit

A motion by William Berger and seconded by Heather Mausteller that the Millville Area School Board adopt a resolution to enter into Design Development Phase of the Investment Grade Audit with Schneider Electric as follows:

- Whereas, the Millville Area School District Board of Directors ("Board") entered into an Investment Grade Audit Agreement on March 27, 2023 with Schneider Electric Buildings Americas, Inc. ("Schneider Electric") to assess the energy usage and potential efficiency improvements in the District's facilities; and Whereas, Schneider Electric has presented the results of the Conceptual Design of the Investment Grade Audit to the Buildings and Grounds Committee on June 21, 2023, which outlined potential energy-saving measures and associated costs; and Whereas, the Board has reviewed and considered the findings and recommendations of Schneider Electric's Investment Grade Audit, and Resolves to proceed with the Design Development phase of the Investment Grade Audit at a not to exceed cost of \$207,000 if a resulting project is not implemented at the completion of the Design Development.
- Mrs. Mausteller asked if this would be the point where the Board determines which projects they would like to pursue further.
 - Mr. Wardecker answered that no, that would be later in the process.
- Mr. Hemsarth proposed tabling the action to get more information and budget figures, asking that he would like to see more about the individual item prices.
- Mrs. Clark agreed with the request to get more information and table the action.

After the brief discussion, a motion was made by Greg Hemsarh and seconded by Brynn Clark that the Millville Area School Board postpone the resolution until the next meeting on October 9, 2023. The motion to postpone carried by voice vote. 4 Yea (B. Clark, M. Farrell, G. Hemsarh, G. Maize); 3 Nay (W. Berger, H. Mausteller, S. Myers); 1 Absent

10. ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

10.1 Memorandum of Agreement - Teacher Coverage

A motion by William Berger and seconded by Gena Maize that the Millville Area School Board consider and approve the Memorandum of Agreement between the Millville Area Education Association and the Millville Area School District, to allow professional employees to provide classroom coverage, in the absence of a qualified substitute, at the compensated rate of \$25 for each class covered, effective immediately through the end of the 2023-2024 school year.

The motion carried by roll call vote. 6 Yes; 1 No (G. Hemsarh); 1 Absent

10.2 Agriculture Occupational Advisory Committee Member

A motion by Gena Maize and seconded by Greg Hemsarh that the Millville Area School Board consider and approve the membership of SCOTT SWIFT (DCNR Weiser Forest District Forester) to the Agriculture Occupational Advisory Committee (OAC).

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

Prioritized Agenda Item – Appointment of Special Counsel

1. A motion by Greg Hemsarh and seconded by Gena Maize 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.
 - a. The motion carried by voice vote. 7 Yea; 0 Nay; 1 Absent
2. A motion by Heather Mausteller and seconded by Greg Hemsarh that the Millville Area School Board consider and approve the appointment of Attorney Thomas Marshall of the law firm McNerney, Page, Vanderlin and Hall as special counsel for Millville Area School District at the standard public sector labor rate of \$200 per hour.
 - a. The motion carried by roll call vote. 7 Yes; 0 No; 1 Absent
3. A motion by Greg Hemsarh and seconded by Heather Mausteller that the Millville Area School Board consider and approve amending the minutes of the September 25, 2023 board meeting to reflect the inclusion of the aforementioned prioritized agenda item.
 - a. The motion carried by voice vote. 7 Yea; 0 Nay; 1 Absent

11. PERSONNEL AND ACTIVITIES

11.1 Technology Coordinator Job Description

A motion by Susan Myers and seconded by Greg Hemsarh that the Millville Area School Board approve the job description for Technology Coordinator (1200.33.12).

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

Action: 11.2 Administrator Transition Agreement

A motion by Greg Hemsarh and seconded by Gena Maize that the Millville Area School Board consider and approve the Administrator Transition Agreement between Millville Area School District and the newly appointed Secondary Principal Matthew Mills for transitional days from September 14, 2023 to November 10, 2023 to acclimate himself to the district at a daily per diem rate of \$365.38.

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

11.3 Professional Personnel

A motion by Susan Myers and seconded by Heather Mausteller that the Millville Area School Board consider and approve the professional personnel recommendations as presented.

Transitional Support

- **11.3 A - Bonnie Gregory** - Approve transitional support at her daily rate, not to exceed 10 days, to the newly appointed Secondary Principal Matthew Mills, subsequent to his start date in the district.

Columnar Step Advancement

- **11.3 B - Kayleen Jenkins** - Approve the columnar step advancement to Masters, as a result of satisfactory completion of continued education requirements, as per the CBA.

- Ms. Maize asked when would be the last day for Mrs. Gregory.
 - Mr. Rasmus answered that the date had yet to be determined based on Mr. Mills' first day and the calendar.
- Mrs. Mausteller asked if the motion should have had a cap of 10 days.
 - Mr. Rasmus answered that this would have a cap of 10 days, but the days prior to Mr. Mills' official start date would be minimal and probably more of a few hours here and there. So, the days up for consideration by the Board would be transitional days after Mr. Mills' start date.
- Mr. Berger added that the district needs to be fiscally responsible with this approval.
 - Mr. Rasmus answered that yes, of course that would be the consideration.

After the discussion, the motion carried by roll call vote. 7 Yes; 0 No; 1 Absent

11.4 - 11.6 Combined Consent

A motion by Susan Myers and seconded by Gena Maize that the Millville Area School Board consider and approve the recommended action items as presented (11.4 - 11.6)

- **11.4 - Resignation - B. Nichols**
 - A motion is needed to accept the notice of resignation from BRIAN NICHOLS as Event Security, effective October 12, 2023.
- **11.5 Substitute Personnel 2023-2024**
 - A motion is needed to consider and approve the slate of substitute personnel for the 2023-2024 school year as presented.
 - 11.5 A - Student Teacher Substitutes (As outlined in PA Act 91)**
 - Antoinette Cerminaro
 - Emily Culver
 - 11.5 B - Nurse Substitute**
 - Rebecca Russell
 - 11.5 C - Support Staff Substitutes**
 - Tania Drobny - Paraprofessional Substitute
 - Deborah Hemsarh - Cafeteria Substitute

- **11.6 School Employee Transportation Driver**

- A motion is needed to consider and approve KAYLEEN JENKINS and DYSON SAVAGE, as school employee transportation drivers of school vehicles.

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

10. ADJOURNMENT:

A motion by Heather Mausteller and seconded by Gena Maize to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 8:24 p.m.

Chelsea Rosenberger
Assistant Board Secretary