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MINUTES OF THE MILLVILLE SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD MEETING

MONDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2023

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The Millville Area School Board held their regular meeting on Monday, December 18, 2023 in the Millville Jr./Sr. High School Library beginning 7:10 pm. Prior to the meeting, the Board met for an Executive Session for a personnel discipline matter. President Susan Myers also shared that the Negotiations Committee recently met with the attorney to discuss preparations.

**1. ROLL CALL**

The following Board members answered roll call: William Berger, Matthew Deihl, Susan Farr, Michael Farrell, Greg Hemsarh, Gena Maize, Heather Mausteller, and Susan Myers.

Also present were Joseph Rasmus, Whitney Holloway, Edward Sanders, Matthew Mills, Matthew McWilliams, Dyson Savage and Chelsea Rosenberger.

**2. GUEST RECOGNITION AND COMMENTS**

Guests Christopher Sassaman, Wendy Faatz, Tisha Book, Ben Book, Steph Zenzel, and Matthew Wardecker all signed the register.

- Mrs. Tisha Book asked to speak to the Board about a concern. She explained that she has a daughter in a Career and Technical Education Program at Central Columbia School District and that she would like to address the Board about some proposed changes to policy for CTE students. First, she shared that she recently received notice about Millville's policy in that her daughter would have to return to Millville to play athletics if the district has a team in the sport she wants to play. Previously, she was unaware of this policy but was told that it has been in place for the last three years. She shared her concern that she was not notified of this decision and was frustrated that it was now being enforced three months into her daughter's school year. Going on, she explained that her daughter has been devastated by this position and is not getting the full educational experience with her friends. Additionally, she asked the Board why there was not a policy about being in drama or other extracurricular activities like there is for athletics at Millville.
- Then, Mr. Ben Book asked to speak to the Board, sharing how disheartening it was to take his daughter to a game where she was only able to participate but not play. He explained that he knew the numbers and the fact that Millville is a small school district concerned about finances. However, his daughter is now a Central student, and he is concerned that she may encounter hostility if she plays for Millville.
  - Mrs. Susan Myers clarified that when the Board developed the policy, older Millville students were grandfathered in so that it would not affect them partway through their program.
  - Mrs. Book asked if there was ever anything put out about this issue. If the policy had been in place for some time, she asked why they were not told until now.
  - Mrs. Myers answered that this is the first year with students who are not grandfathered into the previous policy.
  - Mr. Joseph Rasmus added that we have acknowledged the need for better communication with parents of CTE students. He also shared that that he had received clarity on the dates changes were made to this policy and thanked the Book family for their communication with him recently about this concern.

- Mrs. Heather Mausteller then questioned about co-operative agreements Millville has with other schools for additional sports offered to our students.
  - Mr. Rasmus answered that yes, the district does have cooperative agreements with other schools and would welcome the chance to initiate cooperative arrangements with Central Columbia as necessary.
- Mrs. Book then asked if the Board could speak to the policy with Columbia Montour Area Vocational Technical School.
  - Mr. Rasmus answered that they are different because they are a comprehensive school district with CTE programs and that Millville is part of the Articles of Agreement.
  - Mr. Book asked if the Board could vote to remove themselves from CMAVTS.
  - Mr. Greg Hemsarth answered that CTE programs are different and governed by their own policies from the Pennsylvania Department of Education.
  - Mrs. Myers added that students wishing to attend CMAVTS must go through a rigorous approval process.
  - Mrs. Book added that they had an approval process to go through with Central Columbia as well.
  - Mr. Hemsarth explained that students who go to CMAVTS must play sports there and that there were a number of factors to the decision made in enacting this change in policy. He added that it may be a flawed policy, but it is what was put in place as a stopgap to the recruiting and poaching that was happening.
- Then, Mrs. Steph Zenzel asked the Board what could be done to rectify this issue for this young, impressionable girl and all of the other CTE students. She also asked what the plan would be for when Millville plays schools that are a good distance and about how much time that would be lost to pull them out of school to be transported back to Millville, before travelling to the opposing school. She asked the Board to look into revising this policy quickly.
  - Mr. Hemsarth added that neither school district communicated this change in policy.
  - Mr. Rasmus agreed that in the future, that information will go out to the parents when the students are approved to attend those programs by the Board of Education in a letter. Additionally, there could be contact information in those letters and information sent out about signing up for athletics.

2.1 Schneider Electric ESCO Presentation – Matthew Wardecker

- Mr. Wardecker began by explaining that Schneider Electric engaged with the district since March 2022 to replace the HVAC system as well as proposed some other ancillary projects. He shared this presentation with the Buildings and Grounds Committee the previous week, and they asked that this presentation come before the entire Board.
- Mr. Wardecker explained that a solar project had previously been discussed with the Buildings and Grounds Committee, and they looked into roof-mounted panels. However, after reviewing the variables, the Committee decided that this was not a financially viable option. Next, he explained that with the project, they had looked into using a local contractor who would like to provide kiosks for Millville students to work with the solar field data in real time, which would be a great educational benefit.
- Additionally, Mr. Wardecker shared that Schneider had one Elementary window replacement installed to get feedback from the school and Committee. However, this type of window does not have the ability to egress or allow a way to have students evacuate.
  - Mr. Hemsarth asked if the multi-stack is broken.
  - Mr. William Berger answered that the district has had a number of issues with it over the years.

- Mr. Wardecker added that this should be a large concern, as a school needs to have heat in the buildings.
- Next, Mr. Wardecker presented the two major project options: with and without a solar project. He shared that if the district decides to move forward with solar, the contractor will be using domestic products so we would get a 50% reimbursement. Going further, Mr. Wardecker explained that Project A with a solar project came in through the design phase cheaper than originally projected while Project B came in right about as expected. He shared that both projects are good ones, but one is more short-term and less of a capital projection.
  - Mr. Hemsarth asked why the projections for project B were for over 20 years when the multi-stack is a 15-year project.
  - Mr. Rasmus answered that using a 20-year timeline follows the legislation and the most common time frames for Guaranteed Energy Savings projects. However, he explained that Mr. Wardecker could show the calculations with a variety of scenarios.
  - Mr. Wardecker then explained his calculation of interest at 4.15% based off another school district's recent project.
- Mr. Wardecker shared with the Board that due to lead times on supplies and parts, he would need to have approval for a construction project as of January 2, 2024. He encouraged the Board to ask questions.
  - Mr. Berger asked if Mrs. Holloway had looked into the financials of this project.
  - Mrs. Whitney Holloway answered that she had not yet spoken to the bank, adding that there has been some recent discussion about potentially lower rates.

### **3. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS**

*The Administrative team had previously submitted their reports for the consideration of the Board.*

- Mr. Matthew Mills asked to read an additional statement thanking everyone involved in the College and Career Night on December 14, 2023 for their time and presentations.

### **4. REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS**

- The meetings for CMAVTS and the CSIU were scheduled for later in the week, so they would report in January.

### **5. APPROVAL OF BOARD MINUTES**

#### **5.1 Board Meeting Minutes 12.4.23**

A motion by William Berger and seconded by Heather Mausteller that the Millville Area School Board consider and approve the Millville Area School District December 4, 2023 Board Reorganizational meeting minutes and the December 4, 2023 Regular Board meeting minutes.

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

### **6. BUDGET AND FINANCE**

#### **6.1 Expenditures**

A motion by Heather Mausteller and seconded by Susan Farr that the Millville Area School Board consider and approve the December 18, 2023 general expenditures in the amount of \$178,841.91, nutrition expenditures in the amount of \$31,589.38 and athletic expenditures in the amount of \$2,887.00.

- Mrs. Mausteller asked if there was any way to cut back even more on the hotspot expenditures.
- Mr. Rasmus explained that it has been cut back quite a bit, but they would look into it and update the Board.
- Mr. Dyson Savage shared the amount of each type of hotspot and explained how the charges are calculated for suspended hotspots.
- Mrs. Mausteller asked that we continue to monitor these numbers and work to cut back more if possible.

- Mrs. Susan Farr then asked if the district was saving any money with the next services contract.
- Mrs. Holloway answered that the contracted bid with Metz was for the district to break even, so there is not really a savings there. However, she did explain that overall the numbers for breakfast and lunch have been rising every month.

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

#### 6.2 Monthly Reports

- Mrs. Myers thanked Mrs. Holloway for adding a year-to-date expenditures report to the monthly financial reports.

#### 6.3 Pay December Expenditures

A motion by Greg Hemsarth and seconded by Susan Farr that the Millville Area School Board consider and approve allowing the Business Manager to pay December 2023 and January 2024 expenditures incurred that are due prior to the January 2024 meeting with final approval at the January meeting.

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

#### 6.4 Tax Index Resolution

A motion by Greg Hemsarth and seconded by Heather Mausteller that the Millville Area School Board adopt a resolution indicating that the board of school directors will not raise the rate of any tax for the support of public schools for the fiscal year 2024-2025 by more than its index as calculated by the Pennsylvania Department of Education.

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

### **7. CURRICULUM / EDUCATIONAL ITEMS**

#### 7.1 New Story Schools Agreement 2023-2024

A motion by Greg Hemsarth and seconded by Heather Mausteller that the Millville Area School Board consider and approve the agreement between Millville Area School District and New Story Schools for 2023-2024 to provide educational and related services for pupils of Millville Area School District as outlined in the agreement.

- Ms. Maize asked for the average expenditure per year associated with this agreement.
- Mr. Rasmus answered that this calculation can depend on many factors, but the district does earmark money in the budget for these expenditures.
- Ms. Maize asked if it is budgeted for this school year.
- Mrs. Holloway answered that it was included in the budget.

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

#### 7.2 Senior Student

A motion by Greg Hemsarth and seconded by Heather Mausteller that the Millville Area School Board consider and approve the request from the mother of a senior student, who lives in a neighboring district, for the senior student to continue and complete his education and graduate from Millville Area School District, with the class of 2024, in accordance with MASD Board Policy 202: Eligibility of Nonresident Students.

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

### 7.3 Secondary Curricular Excursions

A motion by Heather Mausteller and seconded by Susan Farr that the Millville Area School Board consider and approve the curricular excursions as presented.

- January 10-12, 2023 - District Band Festival - Mrs. Sweeney
- January 17, 2024 - Jr. High County Chorus Festival - Mrs. Sweeney
- February 10, 2024 - FFA ACES Conference - Ms. Guise (approval is pending an inter-district agreement for transportation cost)

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

## **8. BUILDINGS & GROUNDS ITEMS**

### 8.1 Backflow Preventer Installation and Inspection

A motion by Heather Mausteller and seconded by Gena Maize that the Millville Area School Board consider and approve the acquisition of two backflow preventers for the Maintenance Shed and District Office from Dent's Plumbing and Heating and the inspection of all district buildings backflow preventers by Susquehanna Fire Equipment to comply with the requirement set forth from the Millville Borough.

- Ms. Maize asked if there was a projected total cost for this item.
- Mr. Matthew McWilliams answered that he did not have numbers yet as the contractor just came earlier in the day to inspect the system.
- Mr. Hemsarth asked what the purpose of these was.
- Mr. McWilliams answered that it was like a large check valve so that water cannot go backwards in the system.
- Mr. Hemsarth questioned why this was necessary, as not all of the school buildings are located in the borough.
- Mr. Matthew Deihl answered that this was because all of the buildings are under town water.

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

### 8.2 Camp Victory Emergency Plan - Evacuation Site

A motion by Susan Farr and seconded by Heather Mausteller that the Millville Area School Board consider and approve allowing Millville Jr./Sr. High School to serve as an evacuation site for Camp Victory, in the event of an emergency evacuation exclusive to Camp Victory, for purposes of reunification, as detailed in the Camp Victory Emergency Plan.

- Ms. Maize asked if the district had received the liability insurance for this from Camp Victory.
- Mr. Rasmus answered that we could certainly get it from them.
- Mr. Hemsarth asked if this were to happen during the summer, was there a plan if no one from the district was there.
- Mr. Rasmus answered that we would work with Camp Victory to get a plan worked out.

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

## **9. PERSONNEL AND ACTIVITIES**

### 9.1 Board Treasurer

A motion by Susan Myers and seconded by Heather Mausteller that the Millville Area School Board appoint BRYNN CLARK, as Board Treasurer through November 30, 2024, at a stipend of \$100.00 per month.

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

9.2 FMLA

A motion by Gena Maize and seconded by Greg Hemsarth that the Millville Area School Board consider and approve a 12-week FMLA leave for employee #863 beginning on or about January 9, 2024. The motion carried by roll call vote. 8 Yes; 0 No; 1 Absent

9.3 Substitute Personnel 2023-2024

A motion by Susan Myers and seconded by Susan Farr that the Millville Area School Board consider and approve appointing EMILY CULVER, ANTOINETTE CERMINARO, PAITON KNORR, and ERIC VELEZ as day-to-day substitute teachers for the 2023-2024 school year. Clearances on file. The motion carried by roll call vote. 8 Yes; 0 No; 1 Absent

9.4 Co-Curricular Personnel 2023-2024

A motion by Greg Hemsarth and seconded by Heather Mausteller that the Millville Area School Board consider and approve the Co-Curricular Personnel recommendations as presented.

Security Personnel

- **9.4 A** - Approve appointing DON KEEFER, as Security Personnel, for the 2023-2024 school year.

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

9.5 Game worker fee schedule (Winter, Fall updated)

A motion by Greg Hemsarth and seconded by Heather Mausteller that the Millville Area School Board consider and approve the attached fee structure for the Millville Area School District Game Staff for the Winter 2023-2024 athletic season and an update to the Fall 2023 athletic season.

- Mrs. Mausteller asked why this was being updated.
- Mr. Rasmus answered that the proposal to adjust this was originally in August. This is a return to the original compensation rates. He added that this will be a discussion at an upcoming Co-Curricular meeting.

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

**11. 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