

Mr. Rasmus called the Millville Area School District Co-Curricular Committee Meeting in the Millville Jr./Sr. High School Library to order at 6:36 p.m.

Those present in the Library were William Berger, Michael Farrell, Susan Farr (via ZOOM), Joseph Rasmus, Whitney Holloway, Rachel Verstraeten, Matthew Mills, and Chelsea Rosenberger.

### **Mandatory Coaches/Players/Parents Meeting - 2/21 at 6 pm in HS Auditorium**

- Mr. Rasmus began by reviewing the plan and goals of the Mandatory Coaches/Players/Parents Meeting. He said that the goal is to lay out common expectations and clarify questions/concerns from previous years.
  - Mr. Farrell commented that these meetings are instrumental to get the paperwork back from students right away.
  - Mr. Berger asked what percentage of the parents actually come to the meeting.
  - Ms. Verstraeten answered that they have had a very good turnout previously, which has led to the success of the meeting. Additionally, she explained that the introduction of the Athletic Handbook has been helpful to outline clear expectations.
  - Mr. Farrell added that it has been useful to outline the Concussion protocols while at this meeting.
  - Mr. Mills answered that they have recently discussed the Brainsteps model to have students able to return to learn before returning to play as they are students first, athletes second. He explained that accommodations have been put in place to help with this and that teachers are monitoring the students for symptoms and adjusting the parameters based on student performance and concerns.
  - Mr. Rasmus asked Mr. Mills to share within his board report some of those protocols so that the Board would be informed when talking to community members.
  - Mr. Mills clarified that each case is different but the general rule of thumb is that students should return to learning before returning to play.
    - Mr. Rasmus added that there have been parent instances where they have wanted to have their child play sooner but were not yet ready to return to the classroom.
    - Mr. Mills clarified that in order to return to play, the student must be symptom free for 24 hours.
- Mr. Rasmus then explained that we would be ensuring that all coaches have completed the mandatory trainings by this meeting date.
  - Mr. Mills added that this stipulation could be placed in the language of the Athletic Handbook.
  - The Committee agreed that all training should be completed no less than two weeks before the PIAA start date for the season.
- Mr. Mills then asked the Committee for a framework for the posting of coaching positions.
  - Mr. Rasmus answered that historically, the district has only posted the positions for those who have had the coach resign or because the coach was not successful in their role. He asked if the Committee would like to revisit that process.
  - Mr. Berger answered no, as that may offend the existing coaches.
  - Mr. Farrell added that this school district does not have the mentality of larger schools with firing their coaches after having a losing season.
  - The Committee decided to keep the existing process for posting of coach positions.

### **Athletic Event Workers Spring Sports Meeting - 2/26 at 6 pm in HS Cafeteria**

- Mr. Rasmus explained that some Board members were concerned about the athletic department clarifying game worker positions.
  - Ms. Verstraeten shared that they have placed some procedural changes in there to help with this issue, including having bulleted lists as reminders of the responsibilities and expectations.
  - Mr. Mills added that they outlined the positions and expectations for security workers.
  - Mr. Verstraeten commented that this meeting was beneficial for the expectations and to make the schedule more equitable for everyone.

**Alumni Basketball Game - Tentative Date: Saturday, March 2nd**

- Ms. Verstraeten began by sharing information on this potential game and the general plan for the event.
- Mr. Farrell answered that he was in favor of this idea.
- The Committee discussed some potential fundraising opportunities at this game.

**Athletic Department Acknowledgements:**

- Ms. Verstraeten then highlighted some recent athletic achievements. First, she recognized Larissa Evans who recently achieved the 1,000 points scorer title as a junior, an incredible achievement at her age.
- Then, Ms. Verstraeten congratulated Claire Riera-Gomez, who was recently awarded All State recognition. She was the captain of her team and named as the Press Enterprise Most Valuable Player.
- Finally, she congratulated Freshman Wrestler Dylan Brokenshire for his win at the Mid-Penn Championships of all his individual matches.

**Proposed Spring Game Workers Fee Schedule**

- Mrs. Holloway proposed to the Committee some changes to the spring game workers fee schedule. She explained that starting this year, we began presenting the game worker fee schedule for the approval of the Board. There were some changes from last spring season being proposed, mostly in the Junior High game worker fee schedule. She further explained that previously we had a separate game manager and timekeeper, and now the roles would be combined.
  - Ms. Verstraeten commented that this may bring frustration from those who worked last year.
  - Mr. Rasmus added that this will all need to be communicated to those workers and that the paperwork would need to change to reflect the updates.
  - The Committee was comfortable moving forward with the proposed changes.

**Jr. High Boys Baseball: 24/25 School Year**

- Mr. Rasmus shared with the Committee that there was a petition made by the Junior High students to add a Junior High Boys Baseball team.
  - Mr. Farrell asked if there are a lot of opposing schools to play.
  - Ms. Verstraeten commented that this would be a spring sport.
  - Mr. Mills shared that he created a spreadsheet to figure out the cost and that it would compete for athletes against Jr. High Boys Soccer. He explained that the district is already down one male sports team in terms of Title IX. In terms of opponents, Mr. Mills shared that the closest team they would play would be Berwick and the rest would be Wyoming Valley schools.
  - Ms. Verstraeten commented that she reached out to the schools in the Mid-Penn Conference, but there were no schools with teams. It would only be available in the PHAAC.
  - Mr. Mills said that according to his calculation, the district would need about \$15,000 to add Jr. High Baseball as a sport.
  - Mr. Farrell shared that he liked the idea, but they do have an opportunity to play for the Little League Teener League if they wanted.
  - Mr. Mills answered that his concern is about the competition between Jr. High Baseball and Jr. High Boys Soccer for the same athletes in the same season.
  - Mr. Rasmus asked if it would be possible to have athletes play both sports in the same season.
    - Mr. Mills answered that his concern with that would be the students are always competing and never practicing, and therefore, never getting better.
  - Mr. Berger commented that he felt we needed some more research before moving forward with this.
  - Mr. Rasmus said he was conflicted about this topic, seeing both sides.
    - Mr. Farrell was concerned that the district is trying to save money but willing to spend money on this, explaining his concern with the optics of that scenario.

**Track Co-Op**

- Ms. Verstraeten explained that the Athletic Department would like to consider adding a Track and Field Co-Op for this spring season; however, the bordering schools said no to the request. She explained that she has reached out to Northwest for their interest but has not yet heard back.
  - Mr. Farrell added that he thought the former Athletic Director Brian Albertson reached out to Danville about a cooperative agreement for track.
  - Ms. Verstraeten answered that they would not be interested because they recently won a state championship and are very close in classification. If they added our enrollment numbers, according to PIAA rules, it would change their classification for that sport which they would not want to do.
  - Mrs. Holloway commented that Berwick is very interested in a cooperative agreement with Millville for Track and Field, after having spoken with the Athletic Director and Coach.
  - Ms. Verstraeten explained that previously those interested in track had to compete independently but had limits to what they were allowed to do and where they could compete.
  - Mr. Mills added that having students compete independently is not an optimal way to do it. He shared that they would reach out to all of the bordering schools and garner their feedback in writing. Then, they could enter into an agreement with another school outside.
  - Mrs. Holloway commented that CMAVTS also has a cooperative agreement with Berwick for track and field.

**Varsity Football Co-Op**

- Mr. Rasmus explained that this topic has been discussed recently, so he wanted to bring it to the Committee for discussion.
  - Mr. Mills clarified the numbers for Central Columbia and the fact that adding a cooperative agreement with us would push them up in classification. He explained that in order for us to have a cooperative agreement for the next football season, we would need to have all of it in place by November 1, 2025 if the arrangement would make another school change classification by including our enrollment numbers.
  - Mr. Farrell added that he would like to consider this for future students.
- Mr. Mills then asked about the potential of a cooperative agreement with Benton School District for Single A. He explained that this would be creating a team for both schools who do not currently have one.
  - The Committee felt that there was a lot of unknown information and financial information needed for a decision like that.
- Ms. Verstraeten asked what steps she needed to take now.
  - Mr. Rasmus answered that he could discuss the process to change this cooperative arrangement and where we are in the process in his Superintendent's report at the upcoming Board meeting, as well as how it would work if schools agree to enter into a cooperative agreement with Millville.

**Student Involvement/School Spirit**

- Ms. Verstraeten explained that many students attend sporting events but they do not often come together as a group or fan section. She shared her desire to foster a student section, establishing a name and coming up with themes for each sporting event.
- Mr. Rasmus asked that Mr. Mills include in his next administrative report some information and updates on the student involvement/student fan section.

**Banners**

- Ms. Verstraeten shared with the Committee that there seem to be banners missing from when they were moved from the High School gym to the Elementary gym. She would like to have them replaced if they cannot be found.
  - The Committee was amenable to this action if they could not be found.

**All State Athlete Recognition**

- Ms. Verstraeten shared her frustration that every other school has their all state players displayed prominently at sporting events and have a hall of fame recognition area while Millville does not.
- Mr. Mills commented that we need to have a template or plan to get these students recognized prominently.
- The Committee agreed that this was an important thing to highlight students.

**Signage**

- Mrs. Holloway explained that this issue was discussed previously; however, the money has been tied up in the PCCD grant. It was already approved to happen, and it will be taken care of once we receive that grant money.
- Ms. Verstraeten asked to see the quotes from the Board approval.
  - Ms. Rosenberger answered that she would send them to her for perusal.

**Donors, Advertisement: Utilizing funding from outside donations (businesses, personal donors, “buy a brick”, etc.)**

- Mr. Mills explained that he is asking the Committee for permission to come up with some terms or ideas for advertising at our venues for potential sponsors.
  - Mr. Rasmus asked what types of advertisement he was looking to have.
  - Mr. Mills answered that he would like to see feather banners, not block, simple and tasteful signage.
  - Mr. Berger commented that he was open to that but was concerned that not all Board members may be.
  - Mr. Rasmus asked if the administration should bring forth a motion on the upcoming Board agenda asking for permission to have administration research advertisement opportunities.
  - The Committee was open to this suggestion and ready to move forward.

**Board Policy 115**

- The Committee concluded the meeting with a discussion on Board Policy 115 as it relates to athletics.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Rasmus adjourned the meeting at 8:36 pm.

Chelsea Rosenberger  
Assistant Board Secretary