

Mr. Rasmus called the Millville Area School District Policy Committee Meeting to order at 5:03 p.m.

Those present in the library were Joseph Rasmus, Whitney Holloway, Susan Myers, Greg Hemsarth, Nicole Allbeck, Tisha Book, Ben Book, Steph Zenzel, and Chelsea Rosenberger.

MASD POLICY 115: CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

- Mr. Rasmus began with a history of this policy, explaining that the most recent updates to this policy have been over the last two years. Then, he asked the parents in attendance to share their concerns and proposed changes to the policy.
 - Mrs. Nicole Allbeck began by sharing that she is a parent of students in the district, owning a family farm. She explained that she has an older son who is a senior in the Agriculture Mechanization CTE program at Central Columbia School District who did not choose to attend Central for athletics. Additionally, she explained that her younger son who is in 8th grade has been accepted into the same program for next school year at Central Columbia who is planning to participate in athletics. After doing some calculations based on the current Jr. High Boys Basketball schedule, Mrs. Allbeck shared that the loss of instructional time due to her son being transported back to Millville for athletics is about 15 hours. She then asked how Millville plans to make up the time for that, either by hiring a private tutor or otherwise. She explained that her older son struggled to keep up without participation in athletics. Finally, she shared that she feels that CTE students are being targeted and did not understand why these students were returning only for athletics and not for drama or other extracurricular activities.
 - Mr. Rasmus asked for clarification on the dismissal time for Central Columbia.
 - The parents present answered that it was 2:50 pm.
 - Mrs. Allbeck then presented a practice schedule for Jr. High Basketball stating a start time for practice of 3:00 pm. She asked how it would be possible for them to return for the start of practice.
 - Mr. Rasmus wanted to clarify the actual start time with the coaches but shared that he discussed with PDE the previous week while our district's CTE programs were audited this very issue of students returning to the home district for athletics. He reported that PDE said it was a local decision.
 - Mr. Ben Book commented that regardless, there would need to be a plan in place for the start time of each sport team's practices and games.
 - Mr. Rasmus answered that the students would leave from Central Columbia at the normal dismissal and that no students would be penalized for their late arrival here at Millville. We have many students involved in multiple activities.
 - Mrs. Allbeck then asked who would be paying for the additional transportation.
 - Mr. Rasmus answered that it would not be an issue because the high school is a hub stop for many students attending other schools and returning to one place.
 - Mrs. Tisha Book asked about pickup times for games that happen earlier in the day and would need to be back to get the bus for that game.
 - Mr. Rasmus answered that it would be configured as necessary for each game/event.
 - Mrs. Allbeck then asked why the policy changed so that CTE students had to return for athletics.
 - Mr. Rasmus answered that the previous policy did not have any specific language in it procedurally and that the district had to put in reasonable stopgaps to curb issues where students were not taking appropriate classes in the program they were approved to attend. This policy was created with guidance from PSBA and solicitor review.
 - Mr. Hemsarth then commented about the change in PIAA bylaws allowing schools to make these policy changes due to recruiting happening at some schools with these programs.
 - There was discussion among those present about recruiting and why the language changed in this policy as a result.
- Mrs. Allbeck then asked why this policy only includes CTE students returning for athletics and not also for other co-curricular activities.

- Mr. Hemsarth answered that he was also curious about that and that at one point; he believed that the language did include all co-curricular activities.
 - Mr. Rasmus commented that he agreed and the language could be edited, but an issue with that is that activities such as band, chorus, etc. are both during the school day and outside of the school day.
 - Mr. Hemsarth asked then if students could receive credit for participation in athletics like some other co-curricular activities.
 - Mr. Rasmus answered that he understood this argument and how extracurricular activities could have their foot in “both worlds” but that for the moment, they were seen differently from PDE.
 - Mrs. Myers then commented that giving credit to those participating in athletics for physical education had been a topic for discussion previously.
 - Mr. Rasmus answered that another barrier to that would be the Chapter Four regulations for PDE stating the physical education requirements as well as music exposure at different times.
- Mrs. Allbeck then asked about the difference with CMAVTS and why those students are not being required to return to Millville for athletics.
 - Mr. Rasmus agreed that this seems to be the same issue, however, CMAVTS is different because they are one of only two schools in the state that are a stand-alone CTC programming school. They have Articles of Agreement that have been in place for quite some time with the sending school districts outlying their policies and procedures. He explained that it has been a discussion among Superintendents to make changes in the future, however, for the time being, it remains an individual school.
- Mrs. Steph Zenzel then asked what is the reason for this change as it only affects a few students.
 - Mr. Hemsarth answered that it is the job of the School Board to financially take care of the district while the administration is charged with education and student safety. He explained that if there was a litmus or waiver to test the reason or motivation for a student planning to attend a CTE program in place, then we would be open to it. Mr. Hemsarth reiterated that he is charged with making the best financial decisions for the district.
 - Mrs. Zenzel asked how this is the best financial decision for the district.
 - Mr. Rasmus answered that we are obligated to provide access to these educational programs if we do not offer the program CIP code as per PDE. The reality is that the Board would like to limit so that the students we are paying tuition plus transportation to attend these programs would not be motivated by any other factors other than the educational program itself so that the district is being financially responsible.
- Mrs. Book asked how many students were placed in CTE programs at other schools.
 - Mr. Rasmus answered that we have approximately 14 students attending these outside CTE programs currently.
 - Mrs. Zenzel asked what about the students who are only going for the academics.
 - Mr. Hemsarth answered that there are some students doing just that, however, there are a number of others who have admitted to athletics being the motivation.
- Mrs. Allbeck then said she felt that this policy was discriminatory because her student was not attending for the purposes of athletics.
 - Mr. Rasmus answered that if we do not follow the policy the same way for all students, then we would be leaving ourselves open to exceptions and potential discrimination.
- Mrs. Book asked if there was a plan put in place to allow students to sign-up for sports at Millville. She was concerned that these CTE students would miss the communication from Millville about these signups.
 - Mr. Rasmus answered that we can put that information out to parents tomorrow.
- Mr. Rasmus then asked the Committee if they would like to recommend any changes to this policy to the whole Board for consideration.
 - The Committee decided not to move forward with any policy language changes at this time.

MASD POLICY 350: TIME CLOCK PROCEDURES

- Mrs. Holloway then discussed the proposed changes to language in this policy. She explained that the only change would be adding a “rounding rule” of five minutes to the timesheet so that staff would have a grace period for clocking in and to create even increments for payroll.
 - The Committee was amenable to this policy language change.

MASD POLICY 202: ELIGIBILITY OF NON-RESIDENT STUDENTS

- Mr. Rasmus then opened discussion on a few policy language changes to Policy 202. The first point of discussion was an amount of time to include for resident placement in the district as it relates to enrollment for students.
 - Mr. Hemsarth asked if it could be “within a marking period” with some Administrative Regulations stating some exceptions or scenarios.
 - Mr. Rasmus answered that the language could be within a marking period or within the first 60 days of the year. Then, it would mention extenuating circumstances to be reviewed by the Superintendent or his designee.
 - Mr. Hemsarth asked for it to be language stating “45 school days.”
 - The Committee agreed to recommend the change to 45 school days.
- Then, Mr. Rasmus discussed the proposed language change for senior students who change district in their senior year to remove the language stating they must be a resident for “5 years prior” to the request.
 - Mrs. Myers agreed that the five years requirement should be removed.
 - The Committee agreed that the five years requirement should be removed as well as the waiver available to the Board for the five years requirement as it would no longer be necessary with the aforementioned changes.
- The third change Mr. Rasmus discussed was in the section regarding “CTE Students.” He explained that this policy language is for students from other school districts wishing to attend Millville for our CTE programs.
 - Mrs. Myers commented that we need to make this language match the language elsewhere.
 - Mr. Rasmus answered that we were going to add language that it would be at the discretion of the sending school district’s policy.
 - Mr. Hemsarth shared his concern with that change if the sending school district does not have a policy of this nature.
 - After discussion, the Committee decided on the language stating that the student “may” attend our program, but the policies of the sending school district supersede our policy.

MASD POLICY 333: PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- Mr. Rasmus explained that according to a change in school code, all New Teacher Induction Plans must be a two-year plan as opposed to the previous one-year plan by the end of the school year. He shared that he would like to include language in this policy regarding this change. It will be a very generic statement, but he would like to propose language put into this policy.
 - Mr. Hemsarth asked if there was a pre-approved list of professional development for the upcoming school year as is mentioned in the policy.
 - Mr. Rasmus answered that he could have this for the upcoming Board meeting so that it could be reviewed further at the February 20th Curriculum Committee.
 - Ms. Rosenberger asked where the language would be placed.
 - Mr. Rasmus answered that the new language about the two-year plan would be placed in the “Teacher Induction” section.

MASD POLICY 210.1: POSSESSION AND ADMINISTRATION OF ASTHMA INHALERS/EPINEPHRINE AUTO INJECTORS

- Mr. Rasmus shared that the proposed changes to this policy language were brought up by the nurse. The change would be additional language allowing students necessitating asthma inhalers to self-administer their own medication on school trips, provided that they have a written plan from a doctor allowing

them to do so. Additionally, this change in language would require the school to provide all school staff with training on asthma inhaler administration as well. He explained that there are some exceptions and work needed to be done with the solicitor to provide the Committee and the Board with this proposed change in language.

- Mrs. Myers commented that she would like to see the district move forward with this proposed change.
- Mr. Hemsarth asked how this would translate to athletics.
- Mr. Rasmus answered that high school students would have a self-administration plan and that this policy language change is geared towards Elementary students. He explained that this language would be reviewed with the solicitor and presented to the Board.
- Mr. Hemsarth asked if the district would be providing the inhaler or would the student bring in their own inhaler.
 - Ms. Rosenberger answered that for students with a self-administration plan, they would have their own inhaler that they use every day.
 - Mr. Rasmus added that if it is an Elementary student who is not able to self-administer, that is where the staff would need to have training and administer the inhaler to the student as needed.

PSBA POLICY UPDATES

- Mr. Rasmus explained that administration was recommending the following updates per PSBA language.
 - MASD Policy 200: Enrollment of Students
 - Updated language regarding students experiencing foster care and other forms of educational instability
 - MASD Policy 610: Purchases Subject to Bid-Quotation
 - Updated financial thresholds as of 1/1/2024
 - MASD Policy 611: Purchases Budgeted
 - Updated financial thresholds as of 1/1/2024
 - MASD Policy 626: Procurement Attachment ONLY
 - Updated financial thresholds as of 1/1/2024

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Rasmus adjourned the meeting at 6:21 pm.

Chelsea Rosenberger
Assistant Board Secretary