

---

---

MINUTES OF THE MILLVILLE SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD MEETING  
MONDAY, APRIL 22, 2024

---

---

The Millville Area School Board held their regular meeting on Monday, April 22, 2024 in the Millville Jr./Sr. High School Library beginning 7:03 pm. Prior to the meeting, the Board held an Executive Session for personnel matters.

**1. ROLL CALL**

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

Also present were Joseph Rasmus, Superintendent; Whitney Holloway, Business Manager; Dee Davis, Director of Student Services; Matthew Mills, Secondary Principal; Edward Sanders, Elementary Principal; Alexa Longacre, Director of Interventional Support; Dyson Savage, Technology Coordinator; and Chelsea Rosenberger, Assistant Board Secretary.

**2. GUEST RECOGNITION AND COMMENTS**

*Guests Gwen Utt, Donna Kramer, Amber DiRado, Ben Gatski, Kate Gatski, Hazel Gatski, Jistine Myers, Erin Kohrherr, Megan Hippenstiel, Wanda Allegar, Andrew Hemsarh, Mary Schrader, Mark Boyer, Clint Myers, Wendy Faatz, Chandra Johnson, Christopher Sassaman, and Emily Bloom all signed the register.*

- Millville resident and student Hazel Gatski asked to address the Board with a concern regarding her participation in Danville Athletics as a CTE student in the Entrepreneurship Program of study. She requested that the Board consider allowing her to participate while a student in a Danville CTE program.
- Millville resident and parent Ben Gatski then asked to address the Board to consider the same request of his daughter and to think of some differing views while making the decision.
- Then, Millville resident Erin Kohrherr asked to address the Board as a graduate of Millville regarding some patterns that she had seen and heard affecting students across all grade levels. First, she thanked the fantastic teachers at Millville for their time and dedication to our students. However, she explained that she was saddened to hear of the forthcoming departure of teacher Mrs. Jistine Myers. She further explained that she was aware of some restructuring that would be taking place at the high school to fill this vacancy. Mrs. Kohrherr asked the Board and administration for some transparency in the plans moving forward to fill the Gifted Education program that Mrs. Myers would be leaving soon. Additionally, she expressed that she was concerned that some members of the administrative team may not have the best interest of all students at heart. Then, she shared her concern with the class sizes currently at Millville, being above what is appropriate. Additionally, she stated that discipline issues have been on the rise in our school district and would appreciate knowing the administration recognized this and were working to rectify the current challenges. Finally, she asked what the plan is for high achieving students, like those in the Gifted Education program, moving forward and what the goals would be for the program.
- Next, teacher Mrs. Jistine Myers asked to address the Board regarding her resignation placed upon the agenda that evening for consideration. She explained that when she began teaching, it was after a personal family tragedy, which formed her teaching philosophy. In reflecting on the last few years of her career at Millville, she began by sharing about the 2020-2021 school year wherein she was pulled 45 days to substitute from her work as the Gifted Education Coordinator. Then, she explained that in 2021-2022, the district started three new CTE programs, however, she did not feel that the district had the knowledge of what it took to start these programs. She shared that CTE

teachers are required to track safety, equipment, leadership skills, and work skills, among many other things. After the 2021-2022 school year, she and Ms. Nicole Guise, another CTE teacher, drafted a letter to the Principal and Superintendent. Within that letter, they calculated the many hours required to complete the extra items necessary to have a CTE program, in total, 309 hours. She explained that some of those things fell under the responsibilities of the co-curricular stipend, but over 100 hours would be uncompensated. Additionally, she did not have an Engineering background, so she had to learn the material before she could teach it to students. Mrs. Myers explained that the amount of work placed upon her to maintain a CTE program and be the Gifted Coordinator caused her to drop out of doing personal things she enjoyed outside of school. This year, she explained that the CTE program audit caused much additional stress and time outside of her workday. She concluded by saying that teachers have been asked to do so much more and more and that she is not the only one who is feeling overwhelmed.

- Mrs. Susan Myers, Board President, then addressed the Gatski family regarding their concern. She explained that the district must follow the PIAA guidelines, and unfortunately, Danville did not follow up on our policy.
  - Mrs. Kate Gatski asked what the error was that was made.
  - Mrs. Myers answered that Danville should have followed up with us before allowing Hazel to participate in athletics there.
  - Mrs. Gatski then asked if the onus would be on Danville then to follow up.
  - Mr. Rasmus answered that he had spoken with Danville Area School District and corroborated this issue with the Chairperson at PIAA who explained that there has to be a cooperative agreement between schools for students to participate in athletics when not in their home district.
  - Mrs. Gatski asked if there was any decision or plan made on the logistics.
  - Mr. Rasmus answered that he spoke to the Superintendent at Danville, and they would be working with us to come up with a schedule for Hazel to attend our cooperative school for track and field at Northwest School District. He further explained that Millville did reach out to the surrounding closer schools for a cooperative agreement, including Danville, however, the schools said no to the request. Therefore, the district then reached out to a further district, and that is why we now have an agreement with Northwest for Track and Field.
  - Mrs. Gatski stated her concern with the distance to travel to Northwest to participate and the time her daughter would spend travelling.
  - Mr. Michael Farrell, Board Member, then commented that it is frustrating because Millville did not hear anything from the schools we asked to create a cooperative agreement and that if we had enough students, we could create our own team.
  - Mr. Rasmus closed by stating that Danville was receptive to a cooperative agreement for tennis, which Ms. Hazel Gatski was interested in participating. However, when this agreement for track and field was made, the district did know of Ms. Gatski's interest and that we were willing to make it work if Hazel wanted to compete at Northwest.

### **3. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

#### Kindergarten Screenings

- Mr. Rasmus explained that Kindergarten Screening Appointments were scheduled for May 7<sup>th</sup> and May 20<sup>th</sup>.

#### All Hazards Drill: 4/17/2024

- Mr. Rasmus shared with the Board that the district recently participated in another All Hazards Drill that focused on a fire drill with a full evacuation after the fire scenario escalated to the opposite school building on campus. He additionally thanked everyone in the community who collaborated, including Hemlock Township Police Department, the Millville Fire Department, and many others.

### Volunteer Guidelines

- Then, Mr. Rasmus shared that this new process had been working and that there were additional names on the agenda that evening for the Board's consideration.

### Budgetary Meetings

- Mr. Rasmus explained that Mrs. Holloway was working with members of the administrative team to finalize the budget for the 2024-2025 school year. He shared that there would be a Finance Committee meeting this Thursday, April 25, 2024 to discuss the budget.

### PSSA Assessments

- Mr. Rasmus shared that PSSA Assessments were beginning that week and reviewed the dates for all upcoming testing. Additionally, he thanked the administration, faculty and staff for their work during this season.

### Open Campus Schedule 2023-2024

- Then, Mr. Rasmus reviewed the Open Campus schedule for the last few days of schools. He explained that students in grades 9-12 would only be required to attend if they had final exams and could leave at their conclusion provided they have a parental note of excuse. Furthermore, he shared that the typical transportation runs would be afforded to all students and that supervision would be provided for those students finished with testing and not having transportation home during the day. Mr. Rasmus explained that students in grades Kindergarten through eighth would be in school for the entire day and that appropriate end of year meetings would be scheduled.
  - Mr. Greg Hemsarh, Board Member, asked if a Policy Committee meeting could be scheduled to review the Volunteer information and guidelines.
  - Mrs. Susan Myers answered that yes, a meeting would be scheduled soon.

## **4. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS**

### 4.1 Monthly Reports

*Mr. Mills, Mr. Sanders, Mr. McWilliams, Mrs. Davis, and Mr. Savage had all previously submitted their reports for the consideration of the Board, and no additional questions were asked.*

## **5. REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS**

### 5.1 Monthly Reports

- CSIU Representative – Mrs. Susan Myers
  - Mrs. Myers asked that the members of the Board please cast their votes for the CSIU Directors Ballot. She shared that the CSIU Board Meeting was typical.
- CMAVTS Representatives – Mr. William Berger & Mrs. Susan Farr
  - Mrs. Farr shared that CMAVTS held a regular meeting, highlighting the two students who spoke in the meeting about their conference attendance. She explained that the work they were doing was commendable.

## **6. APPROVAL OF BOARD MINUTES**

### 6.1 Board Meeting Minutes 4.8.24

A motion by Greg Hemsarh and seconded by Heather Mausteller that the Millville Area School Board consider and approve the Millville Area School District April 8, 2024 Board meeting minutes.

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

**7. BUDGET AND FINANCE**

7.1 Expenditures

A motion by Greg Hemsarth and seconded by Gena Maize that the Millville Area School Board consider and approve the April 22, 2024 general expenditures in the amount of \$286,634.35, athletic expenditures in the amount of \$1,695.00 and nutrition expenditures in the amount of \$26,069.89.

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

7.2 Monthly Reports

The monthly financial reports were submitted previously for the consideration of the Board, and no additional questions were asked.

7.3 Disabled Veteran Tax Exemption

A motion by Heather Mausteller and seconded by Michael Farrell that the Millville Area School Board consider and approve exemption of real estate property taxes for disabled veteran, Michael R. Shuman.

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

**8. POLICY**

Combined Consent (8.1 – 8.3)

A motion by Greg Hemsarth and seconded by Michael Farrell that the Millville Area School Board consider and approve the following recommended actions as presented.

- 8.1 Second and Final Reading Revised MASD Board Policies

A motion is needed to consider and approve the second and final readings of the revised Millville Area School District Board Policies, as recommended by PSBA.

- 8.2 Second and Final Reading New MASD Board Policies

A motion is needed to consider and approve the second and final readings of the new Millville Area School District Board Policies, as recommended by PSBA.

- 8.3 PSBA Policy Maintenance Program Participation Agreement 2024-2025

A motion is needed to consider and approve the PSBA Policy Maintenance Program Participation Agreement effective July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025 for an annual cost of 9,633.18.

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

**9. CURRICULUM / EDUCATIONAL ITEMS**

Combined Consent (9.1 – 9.4)

A motion by Greg Hemsarth and seconded by Michael Farrell that the Millville Area School Board consider and approve the following recommended actions as presented.

- 9.1 Secondary Curricular Excursion & Field Trip

A motion is needed to consider and approve the Secondary curricular excursions and trips as presented.

- **9.1 A - April 25, 2024 - Eastern Cultures Trip - Mr. Marshman**
- **9.1 B - May 17, 2024 - Millersville University Honors Band Trip - Mrs. Sweeney**
- **9.1 C - May 24, 2024 - Music in the Parks Adjudication Trip - Mrs. Sweeney**

- 9.2 Elementary Curricular Excursion & Field Trip

A motion is needed to consider and approve the Elementary curricular excursions and trips as presented.

- **9.2 A - April 26, 2024 - Elementary Chorus Fest - Ms. Harding**
- **9.2 B - May 15, 2024 - Kindergarten Field Trip to Reptile Land - Mr. Fry**

▪ 9.3 Award Donations Acceptance

A motion is needed to consider and approve the following award donations acceptance as presented.

- **9.3 A - A donation of \$1,000 for the Oriental Lodge of Orangeville Scholarship, made available to a member of the Class of 2024.**
- **9.3 B - A donation of over \$500 for the MHS Class of 1994 Scholarship, made available to a member of the Class of 2024.**

▪ 9.4 Red Rock Job Corp. Agreement

A motion is needed to consider and approve the agreement between Keystone/Red Rock Job Corps Centers and the Millville Area School District to provide vocational and technical training, workforce preparation, and career transition Readiness services to applicable district students.

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

**10. BUILDINGS & GROUNDS**

10.1 Alumni Association Banquet Facility Use

A motion by Susan Farr and seconded by Heather Mausteller that the Millville Area School Board consider and approve use of the Cafeteria to the Alumni Association for the Millville High School Alumni Banquet to be held on June 8, 2024, from 5:00 until 8:00 pm, pending receipt of refundable deposit of \$100, consistent with MASD Administrative Regulation 707 AR-3 District Facilities Schedule.

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

**11. PERSONNEL AND ACTIVITIES**

11.1 Contract with Maxim Healthcare Staffing Services, Inc.

A motion by Greg Hemsarth and seconded by Gena Maize that the Millville Area School Board consider and approve the updated contract with Maxim Healthcare Staffing Services, Inc. to provide the Millville Area School District with supplemental licensed health care personnel when necessitated.

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

11.2 Contract with Premier LTC Staffing Solutions

A motion by Gena Maize and seconded by Heather Mausteller that the Millville Area School Board consider and approve the contract with Premier LTC Staffing Solutions to provide the Millville Area School District with supplemental licensed health care personnel when necessitated.

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

11.3 Health Room Assistant

A motion by Susan Farr and seconded by Michael Farrell that the Millville Area School Board consider and approve appointing KIA PFLEEGOR (LPN) as a Health Room Assistant/Medical Aide at the rate of \$17.00 per hour.

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

11.4 Resignation - J. Myers

A motion by Greg Hemsarth and seconded by Gena Maize that the Millville Area School Board consider and approve acceptance of the resignation notice from JESTINE MYERS as Engineering/Gifted Education Teacher, effective June 6, 2024.

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

11.5 Technology Student Association Advisor

A motion by Susan Farr and seconded by Gena Maize that the Millville Area School Board consider and retroactively approve JESTINE MYERS, as the Technology Student Association (TSA) Advisor for the 2023-24 school year with a prorated co-curricular stipend commensurate with the co-curricular matrix. The motion carried by roll call vote. 8 Yes; 0 No; 1 Absent

11.6 Unpaid Leave

A motion by Heather Mausteller and seconded by Susan Farr that the Millville Area School Board consider and approve (5) five unpaid leave days, June 17 - 24, 2024 for employee 296. The motion carried by roll call vote. 8 Yes; 0 No; 1 Absent

11.7 Substitute - A. Hemsarth

A motion by Gena Maize and seconded by Heather Mausteller that the Millville Area School Board is needed to approve AMANDA HEMSARTH, as a day-to day teacher substitute for the 2023-2024 school year, clearances on file.

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

11.8 Volunteer Personnel

A motion by Heather Mausteller and seconded by Michael Farrell that the Millville Area School Board consider and approve the list of Volunteer Personnel for the 2023-2024 school year as presented. Current clearances and Volunteer Forms on file.

- Stacy Barton; Alexander Cavallini; Grace Covington; Kelly Dent; Courtney Devine; Amanda Egli; Felicia Karns; Lisa Leighton; Kiana Marconi; Brittany McHenry; Emily Milheim; Martin Parr; Lucille Reese; Katelynn Richards; Amanda Staskiel; Samuel Strausser; Christopher Traugh; Jennifer Triassi; Rachel Vastine; Corey Whitmoyer; and Jessica Whitmoyer
- Ms. Maize asked if the names presented were all of the volunteers for this year.
- Mr. Rasmus answered that they would continue to be adding more volunteers every meeting since this was new and it was field trip season.

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

**CLOSING DISCUSSION**

- Ms. Maize asked if the Finance Committee would be receiving information prior to the meeting to review.
- Mrs. Holloway answered that she was working to get it to them soon.

**12. ADJOURNMENT**

A motion by Heather Mausteller and seconded by Greg Hemsarth to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 7:49 pm.

Chelsea Rosenberger  
Assistant Board Secretary