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MINUTES OF THE MILLVILLE SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD MEETING  
MONDAY, AUGUST 26, 2024

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The Millville Area School Board held their regular meeting on Monday, August 26, 2024 in the Millville Jr./Sr. High School Library beginning 7:04 pm. Prior to the meeting, the Board held an Executive Session for a number of personnel matters.

**1. ROLL CALL**

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

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

**3. GUEST RECOGNITION AND COMMENTS**

*Guests Klohe Faatz, Wendy Faatz, Emily Bloom, Jennifer Bodnar, Andrew Hemsarth, Christopher Rebeck, Betsy Riera-Gomez, Rick Riera-Gomez and Christopher Sassaman signed the register.*

- Mr. Christopher Rebeck asked to address the Board. He explained that he had completed some research about the school district and was trying to understand the way the district spent money. In his research, he shared that he had reviewed administrative salaries and the current enrollment numbers. When comparing these numbers with nearby school districts like Berwick Area School district, he had some questions when their enrollment was much larger but administrative salaries were lower. Additionally, he questioned the Superintendent's salary compared with other school districts.
  - Mrs. Myers commented that the Superintendent had other duties that were included in his salary that are often separate roles at other school districts, such as Curriculum Director.
  - Mr. Rebeck questioned this comment because he was coming to understand from the community that the teachers write their own curriculum.
  - Mr. Rasmus encouraged Mr. Rebeck to look on the district website at the Superintendent's contract to understand more.
- Mr. Rebeck continued by explaining that the average median income for a Millville resident is \$50,000 a year with teachers making an average of \$60,000 a year and shared his concern that the administrative salaries were that much more.
  - Mrs. Myers answered that some of the figures he stated for administrative salaries were outdated figures and that newer administrative team members did not have those salaries.
  - Mr. Rebeck asked if it was true that merit based raises were recently afforded to administrative personnel when the teachers' contract was not yet decided. He then asked if the district pays for our School Resource Officer.
  - Mrs. Myers answered that we have an agreement with Hemlock Township and that we pay our portion, as per that agreement.
  - Mr. Rebeck asked if there were any grants available for that expense.
  - Mrs. Holloway answered that recently, new grant money has been made available for security officer expenses.

- Mr. Rebeck shared that other schools have used grant money for the last few years and wanted to know if the district could look into that instead of the proposed solar projects.
- Mrs. Myers answered that the Board tabled the discussion on solar previously and were not interested in pursuing it further.
  - Mr. Berger added that the solar project did not make economic sense.
- Mr. Rebeck then commented that Benton Area School District is comparable to ours and that their administrators were making similar salaries.
  - Mr. Hemsarth commented that when he came on to the Board a few years ago, he had similar financial concerns. However, when you sit on the Board, it does bring clarity and he realized that financial decisions cannot be considered dollars to people.
  - Mr. Rebeck added that he felt the district should consider combining with Benton school district.
  - Mrs. Myers explained that this was previously considered but the area was so large that it would cause students to be on transportation for a long amount of time.
  - Mr. Rebeck shared his belief that the Elementary School could remain and the high school students could be combined.
  - Mrs. Mausteller commented that merging schools is about more than just numbers and that it would be a contract. She explained that she personally lives right next to the Bloomsburg School District line and would not want her student to be transported for that long of a time. Additionally, she shared that the districts considered sharing a Superintendent and there were many issues that stopped that discussion.
  - Mr. Rebeck asked if anyone had talked to Hazleton to figure out what had been done at other school districts.
  - Mrs. Mausteller answered that recently Central Columbia School District and Bloomsburg School District looked into this and the discussion failed due to many issues.
- Mr. Rebeck then asked how taxpayers would be able to continue in this trend with dwindling enrollment.
  - Mr. Hemsarth answered that the district has narrowed the gap significantly in the budget through the Board's work with the administration on the budget and could say that the position of the district now financially was much better than when he came onto the board. Prior to then, he shared that taxes had not been raised for several years. He also explained that enrollment is cyclical and would return as people had children and those children attended school.
    - Mr. Rebeck shared his concern that the district may not be able to last to see that happen again. He was concerned that he continued to see students go to cyber schools and teachers were regularly resigning from our district.
    - Mrs. Myers commented that a number of those teachers had resigned to teach in other school districts.
- Mr. Rebeck then asked if it was true that teachers receive \$1,250 to opt out of district insurance while the administration receives \$10,000 for the same.
  - Mrs. Myers answered that the figure for teachers was correct but the administrative amount was not.
  - Mr. Rebeck asked if the district could consider giving teachers more money as the incentive to opt out of the district health insurance, which would be a savings to the district.
  - Mrs. Jen Bodnar commented that she is the wife of a teacher in the district, and if the incentive was higher, their family would not take the insurance.
  - Mr. Hemsarth answered that this would be a risk because there would be no guarantee that more teachers would take the incentive, and the district could be paying more money out for no change in the number of insured staff.

- Mr. Rebeck then asked if the recent administrative raises was public information.
  - Mrs. Myers answered that yes, the Superintendent has had the same two percent raise every year and that administrative raises were the guaranteed two percent, as per their contract, and an additional 1.5% on top of that for merit.
  - Mr. Rebeck asked if the taxpayers should expect taxes to be raised to the top again.
    - Mrs. Myers answered that it was a continued goal of the district to keep those costs and potential raises down.
    - In closing, Mr. Rebeck urged the Board to look seriously at a potential merger with Benton School District.
  - The Board thanked Mr. Rebeck for his comments and questions and encouraged him to keep attending meetings and asking questions.

#### **4. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

##### 4.1 District Updates

- Mr. Rasmus began his report by giving an overview of the opening professional development undertaken with staff in the past week. He explained that they reviewed the professional code of conduct; gave an overview of the new technology; reviewed the updates to instructional practices; gave an overview of the recently enacted Title IX updates; completed the annual mandatory compliance items; shared some Social Emotional Learning initiatives; reviewed the updated positive action expectations; and received training in structured literacy using the PLN and LETRs platforms. He was encouraged by the engagement of faculty in the professional development throughout the week. Finally, the principals held their opening faculty meetings to review some of these initiatives, which situated the staff well for a new year.

##### 4.3 School Info App

- Mr. Rasmus shared that the district had acquired the School Info App, which was a new modality for parents and community members to communicate with staff and that it would be a great way to get information out to the community in real time. He explained that this app would allow the district to expand communication by putting all information in one place.
- Mr. Rasmus thanked Ms. Rosenberger and Mr. Savage for their work to realize this initiative. Additionally, he explained that the district is looking for ways to get into some new habits of practice to keep all faculty and staff in a safer place. With this, he explained that the district would be moving away from individual social media accounts and would be placing all of that individual communication into this one platform.

##### 4.4 Transportation Expectations

- Mr. Rasmus explained that the district was updating some procedures for Elementary drop off and pick up of students. Instead of getting out of their vehicles, the district would be requiring parents to stay in the round about during drop off in the morning. The purpose of this was to have all traffic in one directional motion.

##### 4.5 Attendance Expectations

- In closing, Mr. Rasmus shared that the district reviewed the procedures for attendance reporting and would be sending out unlawful absence letters after days one, two and three, then holding a Student Attendance Improvement Plan (SAIP) meeting, as per state statute. Finally, the district would involve the magistrate when necessary.
- Additionally, Mr. Rasmus explained that at the Elementary school, students who arrived after 7:55 am would have to go to the office to be checked in by a parent.

#### **5. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS**

##### 5.1 Monthly Reports

- Members of the administrative team had previously submitted their reports for the consideration of the Board. Mr. Mills, Secondary Principal, wanted to share that for athletics, the new information

app would give them the ability to share news out quickly. He also wanted to acknowledge Mrs. Uranko and Mrs. Mosier in the High School Guidance Office for their fantastic work with students resolving scheduling conflicts.

- Mr. Brandon Gordner, Elementary Principal, also wanted to share a thank you to the Millville team for a great transition to Millville and for an excellent start to the year.

## **6. REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS**

### **6.1 Monthly Reports**

- CMAVTS – Mr. Berger
  - Mr. Berger shared that he attended the regular meeting on August 20, 2024 where CMAVTS Joint Operating Committee managed routine items. In addition, he explained that the principal had recently resigned so the school would be starting their search for a new principal.
  - Mr. Berger explained that the construction project was on target and that they were looking to have the ribbon cutting ceremony on October 12, 2024.
  - Finally, Mr. Berger shared that the next Superintendent of Record would be Mr. Becker from Southern Columbia Area School District as Mr. Rasmus’ term had expired in June.
- CSIU – Mrs. Myers
  - Mrs. Myers explained that she had attended the most recent regular meeting where the CSIU Board of Directors handled routine items. She shared that at the meeting, there was a representative who was working to establish a community college in Sunbury. However, it would be tough to coordinate between four different counties and to attain support from each.

## **7. APPROVAL OF BOARD MINUTES**

### **7.1 Board Meeting Minutes 8/12/2024**

A motion by Greg Hemsarth and seconded by Heather Mausteller that the Millville Area School Board consider and approve the Millville Area School District August 12, 2024 Board meeting minutes. The motion carried by voice vote. 6 Yea; 0 Nay; 3 Absent

## **8. BUDGET AND FINANCE**

### **8.1 Expenditures**

A motion by Heather Mausteller and seconded by Greg Hemsarth that the Millville Area School Board consider and approve the August 26, 2024 general expenditures in the amount of \$219,390.24 and athletic expenditures in the amount of \$550.00.

The motion carried by roll call vote. 6 Yes; 0 No; 3 Absent

### **8.2 Monthly Reports**

The monthly financial reports were submitted for the consideration of the Board, and nothing additional was asked.

## **9. ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS**

### **9.1 Donation Acceptance - School Supplies**

A motion by William Berger and seconded by Greg Hemsarth that the Millville Area School Board consider and approve with gratitude a donation from the WebstaurantStore of school supplies.

The motion carried by roll call vote. 6 Yes; 0 No; 3 Absent

### **9.2 24-25 Updated MASD Student Handbook Language**

A motion by Heather Mausteller and seconded by Michael Farrell that the Millville Area School Board consider and approve the updated additional language to the 2024-2025 Student Handbook in regards to co-curricular awards and honors contributions from the district as reviewed by the Co-Curricular

Committee. This language will be added to the previously approved Millville Area School District 2024-2025 Student Handbook.

**Co-curricular Awards Appreciation:**

The Millville School District celebrates the outstanding achievements of students in earning district and state level distinctions.

In recognition of their successes, the district is pleased to provide financial support towards the awards for such accomplishments. The award options can include but are not limited to: certificates, trophies, framed photos, and apparel.

**Extra-Curricular Awards and Funding:**

League Champion	Not to exceed \$25
State Chorus/Band Qualifier	Not to exceed \$40
State Chorus/Band 1st Chair	Not to exceed \$50
District Athletic Champions	Not to exceed \$50
State Athletic Champions	Not to exceed \$60

**\*\*All proposed awards shall be submitted to the building principal and forwarded to the superintendent for final approval prior to ordering.**

**\*\*\*Funds are to be allocated only for the highest distinction achieved.**

The motion carried by roll call vote. 6 Yes; 0 No; 3 Absent

9.3 Commonwealth University Student Teaching Agreement 2024-2025

A motion by Greg Hemsarth and seconded by Heather Mausteller that the Millville Area School Board consider and approve the agreement made between Commonwealth University and Millville Area School District to provide practicum experience for student teaching and practicum placements, as outlined in the agreement.

The motion carried by roll call vote. 6 Yes; 0 No; 3 Absent

9.4 Foreign Exchange Student 24-25

A motion by Greg Hemsarth and seconded by Michael Farrell that the Millville Area School Board approve allowing CLAUDIO STANGALINI, as a foreign exchange student from Italy, for the 2024-2025 school year.

The motion carried by roll call vote. 6 Yes; 0 No; 3 Absent

**10. BUILDINGS & GROUNDS**

10.1 Purchase 2024 Chevrolet Express Van

A motion by Greg Hemsarth and seconded by Heather Mausteller that the Millville Area School District consider and approve the purchase of a 2024 Chevrolet Express van from Bonner Chevrolet, a COSTARS for Special Education Transportation at a cost of \$62,850.00.

- o Mr. Hemsarth clarified for the public that this purchase would be covered by grant money.
- o Mrs. Davis confirmed this information and explained that this item was previously approved, but the district was unable to purchase the van at that point.
- o Mr. Deihl added that the van this is replacing was not safe and should no longer be driving.

The motion carried by roll call vote. 6 Yes; 0 No; 3 Absent

10.2 Cub Scout Pack 247 Facility Use

A motion by Michael Farrell and seconded by Greg Hemsarth that the Millville Area School Board consider and approve allowing Cub Scout Pack 247 to use the High School Cafeteria for a Pack Halloween Gathering on Monday, October 28, 2024 from 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm and for a Pack Christmas Party on Monday, December 16, 2024 from 5:00 pm to 9:00 pm as well as to use the Elementary School Cafeteria for the Cub Scout Winter Olympic Trials on Monday, November 18, 2024 from 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm. Pending refundable deposit, consistent with Administrative Regulation 707 AR-3 District Facilities Fee Schedule.

The motion carried by roll call vote. 6 Yes; 0 No; 3 Absent

**11. PERSONNEL & ACTIVITIES**

11.1 Memorandum of Understanding

A motion by Greg Hemsarth and seconded by Susan Myers that the Millville Area School Board consider and approve a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Millville Area School District and Millville Area Education Association specific to employee #664.

The motion carried by roll call vote. 6 Yes; 0 No; 3 Absent

11.2 FMLA

A motion by Greg Hemsarth and seconded by Susan Myers that the Millville Area School Board consider and approve FMLA for employee #268 beginning on or about August 27, 2024 through October 23, 2024. The FMLA will run concurrent with the use of sick time and personal days.

The motion carried by roll call vote. 6 Yes; 0 No; 3 Absent

11.3 FMLA

A motion by Susan Myers and seconded by Heather Mausteller that the Millville Area School Board consider and approve an intermittent FMLA for employee #985 beginning on or about August 12, 2024 through August 11, 2025. The FMLA will run concurrent with the use of sick time and vacation days until exhausted. 60 days will be the maximum number of FMLA days granted.

The motion carried by roll call vote. 6 Yes; 0 No; 3 Absent

11.4 Secondary Math Substitute

A motion by Heather Mausteller and seconded by Michael Farrell that the Millville Area School Board consider and approve the employment of Kyle Bryant, as a Secondary Mathematics Substitute Teacher to start the 2024-2025 school year.

The motion carried by roll call vote. 6 Yes; 0 No; 3 Absent

11.5 Appointment Groundskeeper

A motion by Heather Mausteller and seconded by Greg Hemsarth that the Millville Area School Board consider and approve Ross Sternhagen as Groundskeeper at a compensation commensurate to the rate prior to his leave of absence.

The motion carried by roll call vote. 5 Yes; 1 No; 3 Absent

11.6 Cafeteria Substitute

A motion by Greg Hemsarth and seconded by Heather Mausteller that the Millville Area School Board consider and approve appointing NELLY SWISHER as a Cafeteria Substitute at a rate of \$10.25 per hour. Clearances on file.

The motion carried by roll call vote. 6 Yes; 0 No; 3 Absent

11.7 Paraprofessional Substitute

A motion by Greg Hemsarh and seconded by Susan Myers that the Millville Area School Board consider and approve appointing BONNIE LEIBY as a Paraprofessional Substitute at a rate of \$10.25 per hour. Pending receipt of clearances and mandatory training.  
The motion carried by roll call vote. 6 Yes; 0 No; 3 Absent

11.8 Bloomsburg University Students Practicum Placements

A motion by Susan Myers and seconded by Michael Farrell that the Millville Area School Board consider and approve the Bloomsburg University Students Practicum Placements of KELSEY DIAZ with cooperative teacher TIFFANY ANDERSON; CATHERINE STRAYER with cooperative teacher CHANDRA JOHNSON; EVAN COLLINS with cooperative teacher HEIDI BRANDT; and RACHEL POLEY with cooperative teacher RODNEY FRY. Pending receipt of clearances.  
The motion carried by roll call vote. 6 Yes; 0 No; 3 Absent

11.9 Additional Transportation Drivers Approval

A motion by Heather Mausteller and seconded by Susan Myers that the Millville Area School Board consider and approve the additional Rhinard Transportation Drivers: PAM PEARSON, MELISSA STINER, COURTNEY DEVINE, BRENT GODSHALK, BRITNI HESS, BRIAN BOWER, and FAITH SCHLICHTER. Pending receipt of all mandated training for the 2024-2025 school year.  
The motion carried by roll call vote. 6 Yes; 0 No; 3 Absent

11.10 Co-Curricular Personnel 2024-2025

A motion by Heather Mausteller and seconded by Susan Myers that the Millville Area School Board consider and approve the Co-Curricular Personnel recommendations for the 2024-2025 school year as presented.

**11.10 A - Secondary Co-Curricular Advisors**

- **Youth In Philanthropy** - Amber Uranko & Katrina Roth
- **Senior Class Advisor** - Shawna Schroy
- **Junior Class Advisors** - Amber Uranko & Chelsea Rosenberger
- **Sophomore Class Advisors** - Brittany Fisher & Katrina Roth
- **Freshman Class Advisors** - Anthony Preston & Chris Rhinard
- **High School Band** - Carolyn Sweeney
- **High School Chorus** - Carolyn Sweeney
- **Library Club** - Susan Laayouni
- **Yearbook** - Jason Yantorn
- **Senior High Student Council** - Ken Marshman
- **Junior High Student Council** - Mary Schrader
- **National Honor Society** - Anthony Preston
- **National Junior Honor Society** - Jason Yantorn
- **FBLA** - Gerard Mattive
- **FFA** - Nicole Guise
- **SADD** - Anthony Preston
- **Drama** - Chelsea Rosenberger
- **Weight Room** - Ken Marshman
- **Accompanist** - Chelsea Rosenberger
- **District Website Maintenance** - Chelsea Rosenberger

**11.10 B - Elementary Co-Curricular Advisors**

- **Student Council** - Tiffany Anderson
- **Elementary Band & Chorus** - Amanda Harding
- **Safety Patrol** - Blaine Eddy

**11.10 C - Game/Event Staff**

- Nichole Whitenight

**11.10 D - Additional Coaching Staff**

- **Miranda Pell** - Appoint as Junior High Softball Volunteer Assistant Coach for the 2024 fall athletic season. Clearances on file.
- **Kolten Smith** - Appoint as Boys Varsity Basketball Volunteer Assistant Coach for the 2024-2025 winter athletic season. Pending receipt of all mandatory trainings.

Mr. Hemsarth asked that the Board adjourn to Executive Session to discuss personnel items. The Board adjourned to Executive Session at 7:55 pm.

After the brief Executive Session, the Board returned and resumed the regular meeting at 7:58 pm.

The motion carried by roll call vote. 6 Yes; 0 No; 3 Absent

**11.11 Transportation Coordination Assistance Stipend**

A motion by Michael Farrell and seconded by Greg Hemsarth that the Millville Area School Board consider and approve a stipend for RACHEL ALLBECK for transportation coordination services rendered at the hourly rate of \$12.50, not to exceed 60 hours.

The motion carried by roll call vote. 6 Yes; 0 No; 3 Absent

**11.12 Cooperative Agreement with Benton Area School District**

A motion by Heather Mausteller and seconded by Michael Farrell that the Millville Area School Board consider and approve entering into a Cooperative Agreement with the Benton Area School District for Girls Varsity Soccer for the 2024-2025 School Year whereby athletes will be situated at MASD.

**Prioritized Motion #1A: ELA Long Term Substitute**

A motion by Greg Hemsarth and seconded by Susan Myers 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.

The motion carried by voice vote. 6 Yea; 0 Nay; 3 Absent

**Prioritized Motion #1B: ELA Long Term Substitute**

A motion by Greg Hemsarth and seconded by Michael Farrell that the Millville Area School Board consider and approve the appointment of Aaron Miller as a long-term substitute teacher for the 2024-2025 school year, with a prorated salary, commensurate with Bachelor's Step 1.

The motion carried by roll call vote. 6 Yes; 0 No; 3 Absent

**Prioritized Motion #1C: ELA Long Term Substitute**

A motion by Heather Mausteller and seconded by Greg Hemsarth that the Millville Area School Board consider and approve amending the minutes of the August 26, 2024 board meeting to reflect the inclusion of the aforementioned prioritized agenda item.

The motion carried by voice vote. 6 Yea; 0 Nay; 3 Absent

**12. ADJOURNMENT**

A motion by Heather Mausteller and seconded by Greg Hemsarth to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm.

Chelsea Rosenberger  
Assistant Board Secretary