
MINUTES OF THE MILLVILLE SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD MEETING

MONDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2024

The Millville Area School Board held their regular meeting on Monday, October 14, 2024 in the Millville Jr./Sr. High School Library beginning 7:01 pm.

1. ROLL CALL

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

Also present were Joseph Rasmus, Superintendent; Whitney Holloway, Business Manager; Noah Roux, Attorney at McNerney, Page, Vanderlin, & Hall Law; Brandon Gordner, Elementary Principal; Dyson Savage, Technology Coordinator; and Chelsea Rosenberger, Assistant Board Secretary.

GUEST RECOGNITION AND COMMENTS

Guests Kim Coleman, Heidi Brandt, Gwen Utt, Lucas Utt, Andrew Hemsarh, Wendy Faatz, Christopher Sassaman, Alex Cavallini, Heather Cavallini, Reverend Micah Felber, Amanda McCormick, Bryon Eyer, Faith Crawford, Gareth Crawford, Katie Downs, Doug Bennett, Tarah Kishbach, Bob McWilliams, Miah Pope-Hughes, Sierra Barton and Katie Mausteller all signed the register but none requested to speak.

- Board President, Mrs. Susan Myers, introduced Attorney Noah Roux to the community present as the representative from the school district's new solicitor firm McNerney, Page, Vanderlin, & Hall.

3. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Oct 9, 2024 - All Hazards Drill

- Mr. Rasmus began his report with an update for the Board and community on the most recent all hazards drill held on October 9, 2024. He explained that the scenario for the drill was one that would warrant an evacuation, adding that it was valuable to see what is working well and what can be improved upon for safety. Mr. Rasmus wanted to thank the administration, faculty, staff, Hemlock Township Police Department, and community members for their participation in the drill. Finally, he shared that the district will hold at least one other all hazards drill in the school year.

Homecoming/Spirit Week

- Mr. Rasmus wanted to congratulate students, staff, and the community for a successful Homecoming week the previous week. He thanked faculty and staff for their work in all of the spirit week preparations.

Transportation Concerns

- Mr. Rasmus shared that the Board is considering the transportation concerns raised at the previous business meeting. He explained that the Board received some potential revision language ideas from Ms. Katie Downs that they would like to discuss further.
- Mrs. Myers asked that a Transportation Committee meeting be scheduled for as soon as possible.

Act 80 Day - October 14, 2024

- Mr. Rasmus shared that the professional staff participated in an Act 80 Professional Development day at the CSIU earlier in the day, which was part of a region wide professional development day. He explained that he received positive feedback from staff about the variety of sessions and the keynote speakers.

4. BUSINESS MANAGER'S REPORT

- Mrs. Holloway had previously submitted her report for the consideration of the Board, including an update on tax collection to date. Additionally, she provided an update on how the Community Eligibility Provision is allowing for increased breakfast and lunch participation.
- Ms. Maize asked if there was any discussion on students' opinions of the food.
- Mrs. Holloway answered that she had not heard anything about the opinions of the food; however, she had received some reports of options not being available every day. She explained that this may happen from time to time based on availability of food items and not knowing how many to prepare of a particular item.

5. APPROVAL OF BOARD MINUTES

5.1 September 23, 2024 Board Meeting Minutes

A motion by Greg Hemsarth and seconded by Gena Maize that the Millville Area School Board approve the September 23, 2024 Millville Area School District Board meeting minutes.

The motion carried by voice vote. 7 Yea; 0 Nay; 2 Absent

5.2 October 8, 2024 Special Board Meeting Minutes

A motion by Greg Hemsarth and seconded by Heather Mausteller that the Millville Area School Board approve the October 8, 2024 Millville Area School District Special Board meeting minutes.

The motion carried by voice vote. 7 Yea; 0 Nay; 2 Absent

6. BUDGET AND FINANCE

6.1 Expenditures

A motion by Greg Hemsarth and seconded by Gena Maize that the Millville Area School Board consider and approve the October 14, 2024 general fund expenditures in the amount of \$483,808.52, cafeteria expenditures in the amount of \$32,563.46 and athletic expenditures in the amount of \$2,939.00.

The motion carried by roll call vote. 7 Yes; 0 No; 2 Absent

7. POLICY

7.1 First Reading Revised MASD Board Policies

A motion by Heather Mausteller and seconded by Gena Maize that the Millville Area School Board consider and approve the first readings of the revised Millville Area School District Board Policies, as recommended by PSBA.

- 7.1 A - 103 - Discrimination/Title IX Sexual Harassment Affecting Students
 - 7.1 B - 103.1 - Nondiscrimination - Qualified Students with Disabilities
 - 7.1 C - 104 - Discrimination/Harassment Affecting Staff
 - 7.1 D - 234 - Pregnant/Parenting/Married Students
 - 7.1 E - 247 - Hazing
 - 7.1 F - 249 - Bullying/Cyberbullying
 - 7.1 G - 252 - Dating Violence
 - 7.1 H - 317.1 - Educator Misconduct
 - 7.1 I - 336 - Personal Necessity Leave
 - 7.1 J - 807 - Opening Exercises/Moment of Silence/Flag Displays
 - 7.1 K - 824 - Maintaining Professional Adult/Student Boundaries
- Mrs. Whitmoyer asked for clarity on the changes to these policies, as she did not see many noted.
 - Mr. Rasmus answered that these policies have been updated per PSBA due to the recent significant Title IX regulations put forth. He explained that these policies have implications on due diligence and the timelines for Title IX related investigations and processes.
- The motion carried by roll call vote. 7 Yes; 0 No; 2 Absent

8. BUILDINGS & GROUNDS

8.1 Boiler Leak Repair - McClure

A motion by Heather Mausteller and seconded by William Berger that the Millville Area School Board consider and approve the quote for services, as outlined in the quote, from McClure Company to repair a leak on the back of the boiler in Millville Elementary School, at a total cost of \$5,611, as reviewed by the Buildings and Grounds Committee.

The motion carried by roll call vote. 7 Yes; 0 No; 2 Absent

8.2 Parking Lot Light Replacement - Hayden Power

A motion by William Berger and seconded by Heather Mausteller that the Millville Area School Board consider and approve the proposal for services, as outlined in the quote, from Hayden Power Group to replace 11 parking lot lights, at a total cost of \$4,000, as reviewed by the Buildings and Grounds Committee.

- Mr. Hemsarth asked if there was a reason that the district was contracting out this project and not completing it ourselves.
- Mr. Rasmus answered that a contractor had completed this work previously.
- Mr. Berger commented that there are implications with electrical and equipment needed that the district does not have to complete this project.
- Mr. Deihl asked if this was recently completed in the district, why it was being done again.
- Mr. Rasmus answered that the lights replaced most recently were functioning, but this project would cover the other lights that were not replaced at that time.

The motion carried by roll call vote. 6 Yes; 1 No (G. Maize); 2 Absent

8.3 Request to Seek Bids for HS Fire Alarms Upgrade

A motion by Heather Mausteller and seconded by William Berger that the Millville Area School Board is needed to consider and approve accepting requests for bids to upgrade the Millville Jr/Sr High School fire alarm system, as reviewed by the Buildings and Grounds Committee.

The motion carried by roll call vote. 7 Yes; 0 No; 2 Absent

8.4 Request to Seek Bids for Paving Initiative

A motion by Gena Maize and seconded by Heather Mausteller that the Millville Area School Board consider and approve accepting requests for bids for a potential paving initiative including the road from Chestnut Street to the speed bump on School House Lane in front of the high school and the road from Chestnut Street to the sidewalk end outside of the Elementary gym on Batten Lane, as reviewed by the Buildings and Grounds Committee.

- Mr. Hemsarth asked for clarity on this project because the Millville Borough owns part of School House Lane.
- Mr. Rasmus explained that he spoke with the Borough to garner their receptivity to completing this project in tandem with the district and that they would be reviewing the variables.
- Mrs. Holloway commented that we would not begin the bidding process yet but rather wait until later in the year, as per the suggestion by a local contractor.
- Ms. Maize asked if the Board should wait on the action for this item.
- Mrs. Holloway answered that this approval gives the district the option to start the process.

The motion carried by roll call vote. 7 Yes; 0 No; 2 Absent

8.5 Disposal Approval

A motion by Greg Hemsarth and seconded by Gena Maize that the Millville Area School Board consider and approve disposal of a drill press and a drum sander from the wood shop that are in poor condition and beyond economic repair.

The motion carried by roll call vote. 7 Yes; 0 No; 2 Absent

9. DISTRICT OPERATIONS

9.1 Memorandum of Agreement - Teacher Coverage

A motion by Greg Hemsarth and seconded by Gena Maize that the Millville Area School Board consider and approve the Memorandum of Agreement between the Millville Area Education Association and the Millville Area School District, to allow professional employees to provide classroom coverage, in the absence of a qualified substitute, at the compensated rate of \$25 (increasing by one dollar per year through the 2029-2030 school year) for each class covered, effective immediately through the end of the 2029-2030 school year.

- Mrs. Whitmoyer asked for clarification on this action.
- Mr. Rasmus explained that this agreement was for if there is a classroom coverage need, a teacher can elect to give up their prep period for the rate outlined in the agreement.
- Mr. Hemsarth asked what this looks like.
- Mr. Rasmus answered that it could look differently, depending on the teacher. At the high school, Mr. Rasmus explained that it could be a group study hall coverage while at the elementary school, it would be for an individual coverage need.
- Ms. Maize asked what the current rate is for coverage of this nature.
- Mr. Rasmus answered that it was \$25.00 currently.

The motion carried by roll call vote. 7 Yes; 0 No; 2 Absent

10. CURRICULUM / EDUCATIONAL

10.1 Curricular Excursions & Field Trips

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

- 10.1 A - October 20, 2024 - District Chorus Auditions - Sweeney
- 10.1 B - November 6, 2024 - Senior High County Chorus Festival - Sweeney
- 10.1 C - December 12, 2024 - BTE "A Christmas Carol" Trip - Gordner
- 10.1 D - January 6, 2025 - Mid-Winter Convention - Hall
- 10.1 E - January 24, 2025 - Winter Career Development Events - Hall

The motion carried by roll call vote. 7 Yes; 0 No; 2 Absent

10.2 Out of District Student Agreement

A motion by Heather Mausteller and seconded by Greg Hemsarth that the Millville Area School Board consider and approve the agreement with Bloomsburg Area School District, for the 2024-2025 school year for out of district placements within the Millville Area School District.

- Ms. Maize asked for clarification on this action.
- Mr. Rasmus explained that this agreement is with Bloomsburg Area School District to allow for students in a self-contained classroom to receive educational services at Millville. He added that this agreement was a best practice for schools to ensure there is framework for this relationship between the schools and that Mrs. Holloway used actual costs in the calculations for this agreement.
- Ms. Maize asked if we currently had students attending from Bloomsburg Area School District.
- Mr. Rasmus answered that yes, we do have students from Bloomsburg currently.

The motion carried by roll call vote. 7 Yes; 0 No; 2 Absent

11. PERSONNEL AND ACTIVITIES**Combined Consent (11.1 – 11.7)**

A motion by Heather Mausteller and seconded by Greg Hemsarth that the Millville Area School Board consider and approve the combined recommended action as presented.

- **11.1 Mentor - Rhinard**
 - A motion is needed to consider and approve CHRISTOPHER RHINARD as teacher mentor to AARON MILLER, for the duration of his employment in the 2024-2025 school year.
- **11.2 Aevidum Club Advisor Stipend**
 - A motion is needed to consider and approve affording the newly formed Aevidum Club Advisors a stipend of \$500 for the 2024-2025 school year.
- **11.3 Substitute Nurses**
 - A motion is needed to approve BREANNA WENNER and MERRILL CHRISTY, as nurse substitutes, for the 2024-2025 school year. Clearances on file.
- **11.4 School Employee Driver Approvals**
 - A motion is needed to consider and approve employee SARA FINK, as a driver of Millville Area School District vehicles.
- **11.5 Commonwealth University Nursing Student Practicum Placement**
 - A motion is needed to consider and approve the Bloomsburg University Nursing Student Practicum observation hours of ALEXANDRA FARR with co-op School Nurse KARA FERRO, beginning in the fall of 2024. Clearances on file.
- **11.6 Commonwealth University Student Practicum Placement**
 - A motion is needed to consider and approve the Bloomsburg University Students Practicum Placements of RHETT MOWERY with cooperative teachers WYATT SMITH in the High School and BLAINE EDDY in the Elementary School. Clearances on file.
- **11.7 Volunteer Personnel**
 - A motion is needed to consider and approve the list of Volunteer Personnel for the 2024-2025 school year as presented. Current clearances and Volunteer Forms on file.
 - Carolyn Hughes

The combined consent motion carried by roll call vote. 7 Yes; 0 No; 2 Absent

CLOSING PUBLIC COMMENT

- Ms. Katie Downs asked to address the Board. She shared that at the previous board meeting, she asked about the approvals given for transportation via the Sapphire parent portal and wanted to know if there was an update on this process.
 - Mr. Rasmus answered that yes, he looked into the Sapphire parent portal approval for transportation and realized that the process for all beginning of year forms in Sapphire is that they are reviewed by a secretary and checked for completion. Then, once fully completed, the secretary “approves” the form submission; however, it is only truly for completion.
 - Ms. Downs asked if Mr. Rasmus understood how that could be misleading for families.
 - Mr. Rasmus agreed and explained that this terminology was promulgated in Sapphire for use with digital forms and that it was unfortunate.
- Ms. Downs then thanked the Board and Mr. Rasmus for acknowledging her communication and for looking further into this transportation issue. She then shared her email correspondence with the remaining members of the public in attendance. Additionally, Ms. Downs shared that she contacted all of the surrounding local school districts and found that every other school district transports their students to daycare facilities, according to the transportation coordinators at each school.

- Then, Ms. Miah Pope Hughes, Millville High School student, asked to address the Board. She explained that she had concerns about the music program. As a full time music student, she was concerned about the course offerings available for students. She shared that over the last few years, there have been classes taken away for music and wanted to ask that they be restored. Additionally, Ms. Hughes commented on a recent bullying issue for students who participate in band and chorus. She explained that after the recent Homecoming parade, some students had candy thrown at them, which was disheartening as the band was there to support their fellow students. Finally, Ms. Hughes asked the Board to consider getting Mrs. Sweeney, the band and chorus teacher, more help, either another music teacher or a part time assistant teacher.
 - Mr. Rasmus thanked Ms. Hughes for sharing these concerns and asked if he could meet with her to discuss these items further.

13. ADJOURNMENT

A motion by Heather Mausteller and seconded by Greg Hemsarth to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 7:35 pm. Immediately following the meeting, the Board met for an Executive Session to discuss legal matters.

Chelsea Rosenberger
Assistant Board Secretary