
MINUTES OF THE MILLVILLE SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD MEETING
MONDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2024

The Millville Area School Board held their regular meeting on Monday, October 28, 2024 in the Millville Jr./Sr. High School Library beginning 7:03 pm. Prior to the meeting, the Board held an Executive Session regarding negotiations and legal matters.

1. ROLL CALL

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

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

2. GUEST RECOGNITION AND COMMENTS

Guests Gwen Utt, Wendy Faatz, Klohe Faatz, Lindsey Shultz, Kayleen Jenkins, Katie Downs, Christopher Rebeck, Doug Bennett, and Nelly Swisher all signed the register but did not request to speak.

3. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Transportation Committee

- Mr. Rasmus began his report by reviewing the items from the most recent Transportation Committee held on October 22, 2024. He shared that the Committee discussed the definition of after school care and that the goal was to write updated guidelines that would be more generalizable for a variety of situations. Going further, he shared that there would be a meeting held soon with members of the Greenwood Friends School board to discuss the transportation concern recently broached.

Bullying Concerns

- Mr. Rasmus then shared an update on the recent bullying concerns raised by the community and students. He explained that at the previous board meeting, a student raised a concern to the board about incidents of bullying. Mr. Rasmus shared that he met with this student and another about similar concerns. From that meeting, he shared that the bullying incident had been addressed by Mr. Mills. Additionally, Mr. Mills met with student groups affected to discuss a potential "unity day" in the future to bring together support from all groups of students. Mr. Rasmus wanted to thank the principals, members of administration, the Guidance department, and other staff who helped to address these bullying concerns and worked to provide a workshop to students from grades five to eight, with the help of the Aevium club. Mr. Rasmus encouraged the community members who hear of any continued concerns to share them with the administration and guidance department so that they could be addressed. Finally, he added that the option to report concerns anonymously through the Safe2Say platform was also available for those who wanted to use that method.

Updated PIAA Policy

- Mr. Rasmus then shared with the board that the Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association (PIAA) recently updated their language about CTE student participation in athletic programs at other schools. He explained that our district has a policy 115 that outlines the participation of CTE students in athletics, as well as explaining the implications of that policy for the district to provide tuition and transportation to those schools with whom the CTE students are enrolled. However, Mr. Rasmus added, there was not clear language in our policy previously about athletic program participation prior to that policy adoption.
- Mr. Rasmus then shared that he met with a representative from PIAA on October 18, 2024 to discuss this issue, along with Superintendents from other local school districts, and express concern that when the

PIAA policy was changed, there was no forum with which sending school districts could share their concerns. He explained that he would update the Board further as more information became available.

- Ms. Maize asked that the Superintendent's report be made available to the Board with the agenda or well prior to the meeting moving forward.
 - Mr. Rasmus said that he would do so in the future.
- Then, Ms. Maize shared that she was a participant in the Transportation Committee meeting and believed that the Board would be given a summary of the meeting as well as the next steps to move forward in the conversation, which was not received. She added that she wanted to see this issue continue to move forward in the process and not lose momentum for the community.
 - Mr. Rasmus responded by sharing that the district has not yet received feedback from the attorney in response to this issue. Additionally, he shared that the minutes would be prepared for the next board meeting.

4. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

4.1 Monthly Reports

- Members of the administration had previously submitted their monthly report for the consideration of the Board.
- Ms. Maize asked if the reports from Mrs. Longacre had been submitted for ACCESS reimbursement as previously mentioned.
 - Mrs. Davis answered that in order for these reports to be submitted for reimbursement, the students have to be eligible for ACCESS.
 - Ms. Maize asked to receive an update on this because she had not received any information.
 - Mr. Hemsarth asked if there was a new system for these submissions to ACCESS.
 - Mr. Rasmus answered that yes, there was a new online system for this and asked what the timelines for submission were to Mrs. Davis.
 - Mrs. Davis answered that the district has to first receive the evaluation report for the student, review eligibility for ACCESS and send home appropriate documentation to receive parent permission, and then send in for reimbursement. She explained that the shortest it could be would be 95 days in some cases.
 - Ms. Maize asked to be given a report with the submissions.
 - Mrs. Holloway answered that she could provide the Board with a report of ACCESS eligible reimbursements.
- Mr. Gordner then wanted to highlight some items in his report. He explained that the district held two events recently related to bullying prevention. Mr. Gordner shared that grades five through eight met in the high school to watch the movie, "Wonder" and held a panel discussion with the leadership of the Aevidum club. The Aevidum club members shared their experiences with bullying, where to turn for help, and provided some scenarios to illustrate these topics. Then, Mr. Gordner shared that he and Mrs. Kishbach, the Elementary Counselor, went into classrooms for Kindergarten through fourth grade to read a story about what to do as the bystander of a bullying situation and how to stand up for peers and yourself. Additionally, he gave a shout out to Mrs. Pell for her work on the Fall Festival, sharing that it had a variety of meaningful activities and that family members were able to come in to view their children in the costume parade.
- Mrs. Davis then asked to highlight items from her report for the Board. She shared that the district recently held the Title I literacy night and reported that this was the largest event they have had to date. Additionally, she added that there would be a Book Bingo coming up soon that the parents are always excited to attend. Mrs. Davis asked if anyone had gently used books that could be given as prizes or awards or to the Book Nook, to please let her know.
 - Ms. Maize asked how donations could be made.
 - Mrs. Davis answered that individuals could call or bring them to the Elementary School office to donate to the Book Nook at any time.
 - Mrs. Whitmoyer asked if there was anything planned like this event for the high school.
 - Mrs. Davis answered that no, not at present; however, she encouraged the community to remember the Columbia County Traveling Library that stops in our area regularly.

- Mr. Mills added that the high school is working on having some programs available to students during Activity Period time in the school day. He explained that there would be some “nooks” in the library with STEM activities available to students.
- Mr. Mills highlighted some items from his report, including the presentation made to students regarding bullying prevention and conflict resolution. Additionally, he shared that he was working to find resources for staff to use during morning time on how to manage behavior and relationships.

5. REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

CSIU Representative – Mrs. Susan Myers

- The monthly CSIU report was submitted to the Board for their consideration, and no additional questions were asked.

6. APPROVAL OF BOARD MINUTES

6.1 Board Meeting Minutes - October 14, 2024

A motion by Gena Maize and seconded by Jessica Whitmoyer that the Millville Area School Board consider and approve the Millville Area School District October 14, 2024 Board meeting minutes.

The motion carried by voice vote. 6 Yea; 0 Nay; 3 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 October 28, 2024 general expenditures in the amount of \$314,043.23 and athletic expenditures in the amount of \$312.70.

- Ms. Maize asked for clarification on the soccer uniforms on the expenditures report, if this expense was due to the cooperative arrangement with Benton for soccer.
- Mrs. Holloway confirmed that yes, these uniforms were needed due to the cooperative arrangement with Benton for girls soccer.
- Ms. Maize then asked for clarification on the hotspots expenditure on the report.
- Mr. Rasmus answered that he would review the list with Mr. Savage to find any reductions to the list.

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

7.2 Monthly Reports

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

7.3 Pitney Bowes

A motion by Heather Mausteller and seconded by Gena Maize that the Millville Area School Board consider and approve the lease agreement with Pitney Bowes for 60 months at a monthly rate of \$100.80 to provide postage meter services and equipment. The current equipment is end of life and can no longer be utilized after December 1, 2024.

- Ms. Maize asked if this item was included in the budget.
- Mrs. Holloway answered that no, this expense was unknown at the time of the budget but that the machine is now at end of life and could not be avoided.

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

7.4 School Resource Officer Bid

A motion by Greg Hemsarth and seconded by Gena Maize that the Millville Area School Board put the School Resource Officer contract out to bid for a start of January 1, 2025.

- Mrs. Whitmoyer asked if the district would be looking at other options besides Hemlock Township.
- Mr. Rasmus answered that yes, this bid process would give the district the chance to look at other options.
- Mrs. Myers asked if there would be the potential to extend the current district contract with Hemlock Township for six months to give more time to go through the bid process.

- Mr. Rasmus answered that Hemlock Township had proposed a one-year extension but that he would need to ask about a six-month extension rather than a year. He added that the Hemlock contract indicated they were interested in getting the district contract on the same timeline as the Borough and Madison Township for renewal.
- Mrs. Myers commented that an extension for the school year would be helpful, adding that when the district previously considered other options, there were many additional variables to consider other than just hiring a school resource officer such as insurance, substitute coverage, training, etc.
- Mrs. Mausteller asked if the district were to hire someone full time as a school resource officer, would there need to be someone in charge of that individual and if the lawyer would include those figures in the request for proposals.
- Mr. Rasmus answered that he did send the current information and agreement to our solicitor to have a request for proposals written.
- Mr. Hemsarth asked if the Board should consider removing the date of January 1, 2025 from the motion because that deadline would be tight and it would be easier to have the contract run through the whole school year as opposed to the calendar year.
- Mrs. Myers asked Mr. Rasmus to reach out to the Hemlock Township contact to see about a six-month extension to the contract.

Amended Motion: A motion by Greg Hemsarth and seconded by Gena Maize that the Millville Area School Board put the School Resource Officer contract out to bid.

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

8. POLICY

8.1 Second & Final 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 second and final readings of the revised Millville Area School District Board Policies, as recommended by PSBA.

- 8.1 A - 103 - Discrimination/Title IX Sexual Harassment Affecting Students
- 8.1 B - 103.1 - Nondiscrimination - Qualified Students with Disabilities
- 8.1 C - 104 - Discrimination/Harassment Affecting Staff
- 8.1 D - 234 - Pregnant/Parenting/Married Students
- 8.1 E - 247 - Hazing
- 8.1 F - 249 - Bullying/Cyberbullying
- 8.1 G - 252 - Dating Violence
- 8.1 H - 317.1 - Educator Misconduct
- 8.1 I - 336 - Personal Necessity Leave
- 8.1 J - 807 - Opening Exercises/Moment of Silence/Flag Displays
- 8.1 K - 824 - Maintaining Professional Adult/Student Boundaries

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

9. ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

9.1 Curricular Excursions & Field Trips

A motion by Greg Hemsarth and seconded by Gena Maize that the Millville Area School Board consider and approve the curricular excursions and trips as presented.

- 9.1 A - October 22, 2024 - Benton Halloween Parade (Retroactive Approval) - Mrs. Sweeney
- 9.1 B - October 24, 2024 - Danville Halloween Parade (Retroactive Approval) - Mrs. Sweeney
- 9.1 C - October 31, 2024 - Aavidum Conference - Ms. Schroy
- 9.1 D - November 9, 2024 - Veterans Day Parade - Mrs. Sweeney
- 9.1 E - February 1-2, 2025 - ACES Conference - Mrs. Hall

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

9.2 CSIU NTESP Agreement 2024-2025

A motion by Greg Hemsarh and seconded by Heather Mausteller that the Millville Area School Board consider and approve the agreement with Central Susquehanna Intermediate Unit (CSIU) to provide Nontraditional Educational Support Program Services for the 2024-2025 school year, as outlined in the agreement.

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

9.3 Updated Student 2024-25 Student Handbook

A motion by Greg Hemsarh and seconded by Gena Maize to postpone the following recommended action until the next regular business meeting:

- A motion is needed to consider and approve updated language to the 2024-25 Student Handbooks relative to district-provided transportation.

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

10. CURRICULUM / EDUCATIONAL ITEMS10.1 Waiver of Expulsion Hearing and Stipulation

A motion is needed to approve the Waiver of Expulsion Hearing and Stipulation for student #35470 for the remainder of the 2024-2025 school year.

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

Combined Consent (10.2 – 10.3)

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

- 10.2 Updated 2024-2025 Elementary Faculty Handbook
 - A motion is needed to consider and approve the updated 2024-2025 Elementary Faculty Handbook. Updates were made to the faculty meetings and induction meetings sections.
- 10.3 Updated 2024-2025 Secondary Faculty Handbook
 - A motion is needed to consider and approve the updated 2024-2025 Secondary Faculty Handbook. Updates were made to the faculty meetings and induction meetings sections.

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

10.4 Math Curriculum Resource - KUTA Software

A motion by Greg Hemsarh and seconded by Gena Maize that the Millville Area School Board consider and approve the acquisition of curricular resources with a three year license for Geometry, Algebra 2, Precalculus, and Calculus from KUTA Software as per the quote at a total price of \$1,016.00.

- Mr. Hemsarh asked if this curricular software was a renewal from previous years.
- Mr. Rasmus answered that this software was missed and that yes, this math resource was being renewed.

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

10.5 Elementary Social Studies Curriculum Resource - SAVVAS

A motion by Heather Mausteller and seconded by Gena Maize that the Millville Area School Board consider and approve the acquisition of social studies curricular resources with a six year license for grades 2 through 5 from SAVVAS as per the quote at a total price of \$33,247.50, to be paid over two school years.

- Mr. Hemsarh asked if this resource was also a renewal.
- Mr. Rasmus confirmed that this was also a renewal for this social studies resource.
- Ms. Maize asked why the renewal was for six years.
- Mr. Rasmus answered that this is standard for curricular resources.
- Mrs. Holloway commented that the administration sought out a shorter contract but the cost for a two-year renewal was almost equal to the amount for six years.

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

11. BUILDINGS & GROUNDS**11.2 Replacement Doors & Hardware Project**

A motion by Greg Hemsarth and seconded by Heather Mausteller that the Millville Area School Board consider and approve the proposal from Gordian to replace the doors and hardware of the High School, as outlined in the quote, at a total cost of \$28,553.70, to be funded by the PCCD grant.

- Ms. Maize asked if the district received multiple quotes for this project.
- Mr. McWilliams explained that items in this quote would also be for the Elementary School and that this purchasing agency was a consortium vendor approved by the state to allow the district to forego the bidding process.

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

11.3 Fire Company Facility Use - LifeFlight Training

A motion by Greg Hemsarth and seconded by Jessica Whitmoyer that the Millville Area School Board consider and approve the request of the Millville Fire Company to use the Baseball Field on November 23, 2024 for the purpose of LifeFlight training. Pending receipt of refundable deposit as per Administrative Regulation AR-707-1. Certificate of liability insurance on file.

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

12. PERSONNEL & ACTIVITIES**Combined Consent (12.1 – 12.8)**

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

- **12.1 FMLA**
 - A motion is needed to consider and approve FMLA for employee #996 beginning on or about December 18, 2024 for a maximum period of 60 days. The FMLA will run concurrent with the use of sick time and vacation days.
- **12.2 FMLA**
 - A motion is needed to consider and approve FMLA for employee #978 beginning on or about December 19, 2024 for a maximum period of 60 days. The FMLA will run concurrent with the use of sick time and personal days.
- **12.3 Unpaid Leave**
 - A motion is needed to consider and retroactively approve a half (0.5) unpaid leave day, October 25, 2024 for employee 1057.
- **12.4 School Employee Driver Approval**
 - A motion is needed to consider and approve employee MATTHEW MILLS, as a driver of Millville Area School District vehicles.
- **12.5 Teacher Substitute**
 - A motion is needed to consider and approve CHELSEA BASSETT, as a day-to day teacher substitute for the 2024-2025 school year, pending completion of all certification requirements upon graduation in December 2024. Clearances on file.
- **12.6 CSIU Guest Teacher Substitutes**
 - A motion is needed to approve DESIREE PETRICK and ADISON NOSS, as CSIU Guest Teacher Substitutes for the 2024-2025 school year. Clearances on file.
- **12.7 Game/Event Staff - Hippenstiel**
 - A motion is needed to consider and approve EMILY HIPPENSTIEL, as game/event staff for the 2024-2025 school year.
- **12.8 Additional Transportation Drivers Approval**
 - A motion is need to consider and approve the additional Rhinard Transportation Drivers, GEORGE SCOTT BOWMAN and RUBY WHITMOYER for the 2024-2025 school year. Pending receipt of all completed mandatory training.

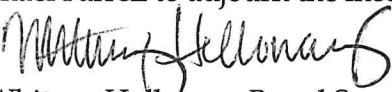
CLOSING DISCUSSION


- Ms. Maize asked if it would be possible to add an item on all board agendas moving forward with the last date when each Board Committee met.

- Ms. Rosenberger answered that yes, this item could be added to all upcoming agendas.
- Mr. Christopher Rebeck then asked to address the Board, wondering if the bullying issues had been addressed from social media.
 - Mr. Rasmus answered that yes, those were addressed. However, he explained, there were some anonymous users who commented regarding bullying concerns who did not call into the school. Therefore, Mr. Rasmus urged the community members to continue calling the administrative team to discuss all bullying concerns.
- Mr. Rebeck then asked what the concerns were with PIAA doing away with their previous rule.
 - Mr. Rasmus answered that the new language is vague for the district to interpret and could lead to multiple different interpretations, depending on who is interpreting it. He explained that the first concern with the rule would be clarity in the language and the second concern would be how to handle situations where the PIAA decision does not line up with district policy.
 - Mr. Rebeck commented that he believed that he read that PIAA policy supersedes district policy.
 - Mrs. Myers shared her concern that many of the students in these programs are only completing one class towards a program per semester or year and nothing else while the district pays for their tuition and transportation.
 - Mr. Rebeck commented that he understood the financial concern.
- Mr. Rebeck then asked about the status of the teacher's contract negotiations.
 - Mrs. Myers read a statement as an update of the negotiation process outlining that the district has come to agreement on most terms of the contract, with the exception being how to apply the salary increases. She added that the district negotiation team held a work session to discuss plans to work through this outstanding issue.
- Mr. Rebeck asked for clarification about the soccer uniforms expense.
 - Mrs. Holloway explained that the Benton students are now coming to Millville for girls soccer, and since Millville was hosting this program, the district had to pay for additional uniforms.
- Mr. Rebeck then asked about the School Resource Officer and whether the Board had reached out to other schools for information on their contracts.
 - Mr. Farrell answered that the last time the contract was up for renewal, the Board did quite a bit of research. He explained that in addition to the salary of the school resource officer, the district would need to have substitute coverage for the officer as well as all necessary items for their certification.
 - Mrs. Mausteller added that included in the contract with Hemlock Township was substitute coverage as well as all mandatory training. She explained that the district has gone through the bid process previously but that no other vendor has been able to provide all the resources that Hemlock does. Additionally, Mrs. Mausteller said that all local school districts are constantly putting out needs for security officer coverage.
 - Mr. Rebeck commented that he has spoken to other school districts, and none of them seems to be spending the amount of money that Millville is on this contract, adding that there must be other ways to manage this coverage.
- Mr. Rebeck shared his concern that the district needs to be looking forward and continue to be concerned with what will be happening in the future; adding that he has heard the district already has plans to raise taxes again.
 - The Board answered this discussion has not yet begun, and no plans have been made to raise taxes. They thanked the community members present and encouraged them to keep coming and sharing their concerns and voicing their opinions for the betterment of the community.

13. ADJOURNMENT

A motion by Heather Mausteller and seconded by Michael Farrell to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 8:13 pm.


Whitney Holloway, Board Secretary


Chelsea Rosenberger, Assistant Board Secretary