
MINUTES OF THE MILLVILLE SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD MEETING

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2025

The Millville Area School Board held their regular business meeting on Monday, February 24, 2025 in the Millville Jr./Sr. High School Library beginning 7:01 pm.

1. ROLL CALL

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

Also present were Joseph Rasmus, Superintendent; Whitney Holloway, Business Manager/Board Secretary; Dee Davis, Director of Student Services; Brandon Gordner, Elementary Principal; Matthew Mills, Secondary Principal; Alexa Longacre, Director of Interventional Supports; Dyson Savage, Director of Technology; Thomas Marshall, School Solicitor; and Chelsea Rosenberger, Board Recording Secretary.

2. GUEST RECOGNITION AND COMMENTS

Guests Bob Strozyk, Josh Allen, Hadleigh Allen, JD Stanley, Natalie Stanley, Zane Sewall, Renee Sewall, Gwen Utt, Wendy Faatz, Lindsey Shultz, Mary Schrader, Alex Cavallini, and Emily Bloom all signed the register.

- Ms. Hadleigh Allen, high school student, began by addressing the Board. She asked the Board to consider providing transportation to our district cooperative track team with Northwest School District. She explained the history of the team's initiation last year and shared accomplishments for her and her teammates as a result of this team's creation. Finally, she urged the board to consider transportation to help her and her teammates attain their goals in the sport.
 - Mr. Rasmus thanked Ms. Allen for sharing her request. He explained to the Board that the creation of this cooperative team went through the Co-Curricular Committee the year prior and through that process, the district was unable to reach an agreement with another bordering school, to which we would provide transportation. Mr. Rasmus shared that Northwest agreed to the agreement with Millville for a cooperative team; however, they are not a bordering school and therefore, the district has historically not transported students participating.
- Mr. Josh Allen, father of Hadleigh, then asked to comment on this request. He explained that last year, the Board was gracious to allow for the creation of this team and that last year, the upperclassmen were able to transport the students with them in their vehicles. However, he shared that it was not an option this year and not feasible as a plan moving forward. Mr. Allen further explained that the request for transportation can be one way from Millville to Northwest and the parents would facilitate transportation home from there.
- Mr. JD Stanley then addressed the Board, explaining that his daughter is a freshman on the track team and is looking forward to her season. However, he added, he would like to request that the Board reconsider transportation for these students.
 - Mr. Hemsarh asked Mr. Rasmus to explain the timeline if the Board would like to reconsider and take formal action and if it needed to go before the Co-Curricular Committee again.
 - Mr. Rasmus answered that since this topic was brought before the whole board, it could be a motion placed upon the next meeting agenda for the full Board's consideration.
 - Mr. Berger asked that if the Board would choose to move forward with this transportation, would there even be a driver available.

- Mr. Allen commented that the Board meeting minutes from last year mentioned that there would not be transportation and that maybe it should be reconsidered by the Co-Curricular Committee before moving forward. However, the Board decided to take action at that meeting. He added that Benton School District, who is also in a cooperative arrangement with Northwest for track, does not transport their students either.
- Mr. Rasmus commented that we could reach out to Benton to see if there would be an opportunity for coordination of transportation to Northwest.
- Mr. Hemsarh thanked him, adding that given the interest of the students and families, it is worth exploring.

3. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Job Descriptions for DO Staff

- Mr. Rasmus began his report with an update on the district office job descriptions on the agenda for consideration of the Board that evening. He explained that the review and updating process was a great discussion and a thorough review of the job descriptions, sharing that the whole district office team met to discuss the roles and responsibilities as well as align the duties to what is presently happening in the office. Additionally, he shared that the team defined backup positions for all of the jobs with the exception of one that would not be feasible and that there would be a training plan for the summer to learn those backup positions.

FID Days

- Mr. Rasmus then discussed the idea of Flexible Instruction Days (FID) in the future. He explained that this topic was discussed previously around the time of Co-Vid, but the Board was not receptive to the continuation of these days. Mr. Rasmus shared that FID Days are an option afforded to schools in school code whereby schools develop a model for students to receive either synchronous or asynchronous instruction virtually when the district is closed. He explained that every school utilizes a different model and that this would allow the district to still offer continuity of education on closure days, where we would normally not be providing educational services and have to make up the day. Finally, he shared that the motion before the Board that evening was allowing him as the Superintendent to apply for these FID days, not actually employ a model. He explained that the application for FID Day use had to be submitted by the end of June.

Safety Committee – February 20, 2025

- Mr. Rasmus then shared an update from the most recent Safety Committee meeting on February 20, 2025. He explained that it was a beneficial meeting to look at the safety officer options for the upcoming school year. Mr. Rasmus shared that several representatives from other school districts (Benton, Berwick, CMAVTS, Bloomsburg, and Northwest) shared information on their security options in their schools. He added that this was great information to understand the pros and cons of each model, with the next meeting to look into the total financial considerations. Finally, Mr. Rasmus shared that he spoke with the solicitors to review the request for proposals and create a bid that would work for all of the proposed models, rather than specific to one type of security option.

Schneider Electric Kickoff Project

- In closing, Mr. Rasmus shared that the administrative team recently met with Schneider Electric to review and discuss the scope of the Guaranteed Energy Savings Project, including the replacement of the multi stack, the air cool chiller at the high school, the rooftop replacement at the high school, and work on the building operational systems in the elementary school. He shared that the lead times for many of these systems and parts is upwards of twenty weeks. Finally, he shared that representatives from PFM, our recently acquired financial advisors, would be meeting with the Finance Committee to review the financial options for this project.

4. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

4.1 Administrative Reports

- The members of the administrative team had previously submitted their reports for the consideration of the Board. Mr. Mills wanted to give a student spotlight for athletics, naming Larissa Evans as the MVP for the Mid-Penn League as well as other students mentioned on the all-star teams.
- Mr. Gordner wanted to give a shout out to Mrs. Miranda Pell for all her work in the recent Heart Health day, whereby students raised over \$4,000. He explained that the students participated in a masked singer program and gave a shout out to the Elementary teachers who went above and beyond to make this day a success.
- Mrs. Longacre then shared that the Millville team recently won first place at the WVIA Stem Competition.
 - The Board congratulated these students for their hard work.

5. REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

CMAVTS Representative – Mr. Hemsarth

- Mr. Hemsarth shared that the recent budget discussions at CMAVTS have been contentious. He explained that the school is looking for a new principal and named Mr. Edward Sanders as their interim Principal.

CSIU Representative – Mrs. Myers

- The CSIU representative report was previously submitted for the consideration of the Board.

6. APPROVAL OF BOARD MINUTES

6.1 February 10, 2025 - Board Meeting Minutes

A motion Greg Hemsarth and seconded by Gena Maize that the Millville Area School Board approve the February 10, 2025 Millville Area School District 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 Jessica Whitmoyer and seconded by William Berger that the Millville Area School Board consider and approve February 24, 2025 general fund expenditures in the amount of \$306,203.93, cafeteria expenditures in the amount of \$30,200.95 and athletic expenditures in the amount of \$907.00.

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

8. POLICY / GOVERNANCE

8.1 MASD Board Policies Review

A motion by Greg Hemsarth and seconded by Michael Farrell that the Millville Area School Board consider and approve the review of MASD Board Policies as presented.

- 8.1 A - MASD Board Policy 601 - Fiscal Objectives
- 8.1 B - MASD Board Policy 609 - Investment of District Funds
- 8.1 C - MASD Board Policy 622 - GASB Statement 34
- 8.1 D - MASD Board Policy 624 - Taxable Fringe Benefits
- 8.1 E - MASD Board Policy 626.1 - Travel Reimbursement - Federal Programs
- 8.1 F - MASD Board Policy 827 - Conflict of Interest
- 8.1 G - MASD Board Policy 918 - Title I Parent and Family Engagement

-Ms. Maize asked what the changes were to these policies.

-Mr. Rasmus answered that no changes were made to these policies but that they were being reviewed as required by law and an upcoming audit.

-Ms. Maize asked if it was typical to have this before the Board without first going to the Policy Committee.

-Mr. Rasmus answered that typically the Committee reviews only policies that are locally generated or updated, while with PSBA recommendations, we do not typically.

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

8.2 First Reading Updated Policy 246

A motion by Gena Maize and seconded by Michael Farrell that the Millville Area School Board consider and approve the first reading of the updated MASD Policy 246: School Wellness.

- Mr. Hemsarh asked if this policy could go before the Policy Committee for review prior to Board approval.
- Mr. Rasmus answered that yes, it could be postponed until that can happen.

A motion by Greg Hemsarh and seconded by Gena Maize that the Millville Area School Board postpone the recommended action to approve the first reading of the updated MASD Policy 246: School Wellness until the second business meeting in March.

- Both Ms. Maize and Mr. Farrell were amenable to the change of action.

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

9. ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

9.1 The Meadows Agreement

A motion by Jessica Whitmoyer and seconded by Gena Maize that the Millville Area School Board consider and approve the agreement with The Meadows Psychiatric Center, for the 2025-2026, 2026-2027, and 2027-2028 school years, in the event services are needed.

- Ms. Maize asked if this was a new agreement.
- Mr. Rasmus answered that it was an existing agreement that was being reapproved.

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

9.2 Job Descriptions

A motion by Greg Hemsarh and seconded by Jessica Whitmoyer that the Millville Area School Board consider and approve the updated job descriptions as presented.

- Administrative Assistant for Payroll and Benefits
- Administrative Assistant for Child Accounting (PIMS and Tax Collection)
- Administrative Assistant to the Business Manager (Transportation & Accounts Payable/Receivable)
- Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent/Board Recording Secretary

-Ms. Maize asked if the employees were pleased with this process.

-Mr. Rasmus answered that he felt the process was collaborative and a healthy discussion.

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

9.3 Flexible Instructional Days (FID)

A motion by Gena Maize and seconded by Jessica Whitmoyer that the Millville Area School Board consider and approve authorizing the Superintendent of Schools to submit an application for Flexible Instructional Days (FID) for the 2025-26 School Year.

- Mr. Hemsarh commented that he has concerns with this proposal, asking how much input the Board would have in how this is structured.
- Mr. Rasmus answered that the Board could set the framework so that administration knows the parameters for this endeavor. He commented that the community had feedback about these days previously but that there were newer models being employed at other school districts, which

may allow for a better plan this time. Mr. Rasmus clarified that this motion would be the Board allowing for the application for FID days to occur.

- Mrs. Whitmoyer asked for clarity of staff engagement on this topic.
- Mr. Rasmus answered that he knows staff are frustrated by the loss of instructional time, adding that the administration has also looked into a three-hour delay in certain circumstances.
- Mr. Hemsarth reiterated his concern with this proposal being that so far in this academic year, the school has lost the equivalent of three days of instructional time with two-hour delays alone. He was concerned that the district has already lost so much time and with this idea plus Act 80 days for next year, we may lose even more.

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

10. CURRICULUM / EDUCATIONAL

10.1 Curricular Excursions & Field Trips

A motion by Greg Hemsarth and seconded by Jessica Whitmoyer that the Millville Area School Board consider and approve the curricular excursions and trips as presented. District will sponsor field trip costs up to the \$20 per student threshold, as indicated in the Millville Area School District Administrative Regulation 121-AR-1: Field Trips, Curricular Excursions, and Community Based Instruction.

- 10.1 A - Bucknell Workshop for Writing/Circuit Building - Schrader - 3/3/25
- 10.1 B - PMEA Region IV Band Festival - Sweeney - 3/5/25
- 10.1 C - Youth Mental Health Summit - Uranko - 3/11/25
- 10.1 D - Farmers Care Supply Drive Dropoff - Hall - 3/11/25
- 10.1 E - 2nd Grade Field Trip to Paws and Claws - 5/16/25

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

11. BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS

11.1 Steamer

A motion by Jessica Whitmoyer and seconded by Greg Hemsarth that the Millville Area School Board approve Millville Area School District to purchase a full size insulated warmer for the elementary cafeteria at a price of \$1,787.48 from WebstaurantStore.

- Ms. Maize asked for clarification on this item.
- Mrs. Holloway answered that this was a purchase of a warmer for the cafeteria to keep the food warm between the lunch periods.
- Mr. Berger asked about the variety in the quote amounts. He asked how the district would be able to ensure the quality.
- Mrs. Holloway answered that Mr. McWilliams reviewed these quotes.

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

12. PERSONNEL AND ACTIVITIES

12.1 Leave of Absence

A motion by Greg Hemsarth and seconded by Susan Myers that the Millville Area School Board consider and approve a paid leave of absence for employee #152 beginning on or about February 24, 2025 through June 6, 2025. The leave of absence will run concurrent with the use of sick time.

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

Combined Consent (12.2 – 12.7)

A motion by Greg Hemsarh and seconded by William Berger that the Millville Area School Board consider and approve the combined recommended action as presented.

- 12.2 Teacher Substitute - E. Hippenstiel
 - A motion to consider and approve EMILY HIPPENSTIEL, as a day-to day teacher substitute for the 2024-2025 school year. Clearances on file.
- 12.3 CSIU Guest Teacher Substitute
 - A motion to consider and approve MADISON SLATER, as a CSIU Guest Teacher Substitute for the 2024-2025 school year, pending receipt of clearances and all necessary documentation.
- 12.4 Commonwealth University Student Teacher Approval
 - A motion to consider and approve the Commonwealth University Student Teacher Placement of SIERRA PAYNE (Early Child Education (PK-4)) with co-op teacher TRAVIS BODNAR from March 24, 2025 through May 9, 2025.
- 12.5 Commonwealth University Nursing Student Practicum Placement
 - A motion to consider and approve the Bloomsburg University Nursing Student Practicum observation hours of ALEXANDRA GRESH with co-op School Nurse KARA FERRO, beginning March 10, 2025. Clearances on file.
- 12.6 Assistant Softball Coach
 - A motion to consider and approve the appointment of MORGAN DIFEBO, as Assistant Softball Coach, for the 2025 spring sports season, pending receipt of clearances and all required documentation. (Roll Call)
- 12.7 Volunteer Personnel
 - A motion to consider and approve the list of Volunteer Personnel for the 2024-2025 school year as presented: Bobbi Jo Boyer.

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

13. ADJOURNMENT

A motion by Greg Hemsarh and seconded by Jessica Whitmoyer to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 7:51 pm. Immediately following adjournment, the Board met for an Executive Session for legal matters.



Whitney Holloway, Board Secretary



Chelsea Rosenberger, Board Recording Secretary