

Mr. Rasmus called the Millville Area School District Policy Committee Meeting to order at 5:41 pm.

Those present in the High School Library were Joseph Rasmus, Superintendent; Whitney Holloway, Business Manager; Greg Hemsarh, Board Member/Policy Committee Member; Susan Myers; Board President/Policy Committee Member; and Chelsea Rosenberger, Board Recording Secretary.

❖ Title IX Updates

- Mr. Rasmus began the meeting by reviewing the updates to the Title IX related policies and the corresponding administrative regulations as well as the federal reasons for the updates. He shared that we are considering naming Mrs. Alexa Longacre, Director of Interventional Supports, as Title IX Coordinator moving forward. Mr. Rasmus explained that previously, these policies read that the Title IX Coordinator and Compliance Officer were one person, Mrs. Dee Davis, but that moving forward, he would like to see the district split these roles into two people, one being himself as the Compliance Officer and the other as Mrs. Longacre as the Title IX Coordinator.
  - Mr. Hemsarh asked that the titles for the policy 103 and 104 attachments be differentiated for staff versus students for clarity when using those forms.
  - The Committee agreed with this change.
- Mr. Rasmus reviewed the remaining Title IX policies slated for update.
  - Mr. Hemsarh asked about policy 234 and the administrative regulation, asking if students who have experienced pregnancy are allowed to bring their children into the school building.
  - Mr. Rasmus answered that there are some schools who have care centers for children of staff and students.
  - Mr. Hemsarh asked if the district would ever be required to have such a care facility.
  - Mr. Rasmus answered that school code and mandates follow the rule of what is reasonable, so it would probably not be required. However, he clarified that the district may need to excuse students at times to care for their children.
- Mr. Rasmus concluded the Title IX policy review by sharing that he will review the revised policies thoroughly with administration to ensure that all know the expectations and procedures implied within these policies.
  - Mr. Hemsarh shared his desire for a refresher on bullying with students to remind them that true bullying is not one instance, but rather repeated over time.
  - Mr. Rasmus agreed and shared that this has been a discussion lately in SEL lessons as well as student led presentations and assemblies.
- The Committee was amenable to the proposed updates.

❖ MASD Policy 246: School Wellness

- Mr. Hemsarh said that he had questions about this policy, including when the last Wellness Committee meeting was held.
  - Mrs. Holloway answered that we last held a meeting in November 2022 which was because we were having a nutrition review and needed the documentation.
  - Mr. Rasmus commented that the district should have a report from the Wellness Committee every year and that he believed the last report cited the need for more gym overall.
  - Mr. Hemsarh asked if the concern was about physical activity in general.
  - Mr. Rasmus answered that no, he believed it was related to the personnel concerns at the time and as a result, the reduction of gym in the Elementary gym cycle rotation. He added that the frequency requirement for physical education was a concern as well.


- Mrs. Myers added that the Board talked about giving the students who played sports credit towards gym class but that would only be considered for those playing at the varsity level.
  - Mr. Rasmus commented that there would be legal concerns with that model.
  - Mr. Hemsarth shared a concern with the “nutrition promotion” language on page four of the policy.
    - Mr. Rasmus said that he spoke with Metz about doing more to promote nutrition in the future while originally looking at this policy, adding that they were open to this and would put a section on the website related to nutritional concerns.
  - Mr. Hemsarth then stated his concern with language at the bottom of the same page as far as operationalizing it. He explained that the Elementary school was already having indoor recess that was silent and felt the language would be a concern.
    - Mr. Rasmus shared that he would look into the silent recess concern, but sometimes the shared spaces are limited by the schedule and how many can be in there at one time.
  - Mrs. Myers asked that we reach out to the rest of the Board to share concerns about this policy.
    - Mrs. Holloway added that we also needed a Board member to sit on the Wellness Committee.
  - Mr. Hemsarth then shared a concern about language on page five with the lack of resources to sustain the policy language.
    - Mrs. Holloway commented that we do have a subscription that is utilized in the physical education classes with fidelity called FitnessGram.
  - Mr. Hemsarth then asked for some language to be removed on page 7 related to federal and state nutritional guidelines.
    - The Committee was amenable to these recommendations.
  - Mr. Rasmus then highlighted some concerns shared previously about class parties and food being brought in for such celebrations because of nutrition and allergies.
    - Mrs. Myers commented that there could be a line added encouraging parents to reach out to or use a bakery for such items.
- ❖ Medical Marijuana Policy Language Updates
- Mr. Rasmus explained that our solicitor’s suggestion instead of a new policy related to this topic was that the district could update three existing policies to satisfy the concerns.
  - The Committee began by reviewing the updates to policy 227.
    - Mr. Hemsarth asked if a vape pen was considered paraphernalia.
    - Mr. Rasmus answered that yes, it is but at the moment, the district does not have testing to know if the vape device has THC. Therefore, it is hard to suspend or expel a student without the ability to expediently know if it has marijuana in it or not.
  - The Committee then reviewed the updates to policy 210.
    - Mr. Rasmus reviewed the language changes.
    - Mrs. Holloway asked if the individual would need to notify the district of a medical marijuana card before or after they start using it.
    - Mr. Rasmus answered that it would have to be before and be treated like a 504 plan accommodation.
    - Mr. Hemsarth shared his concern with those in CTE or tech classes having a medical marijuana card while potentially operating machinery due to safety.
    - The Committee shared this concern and discussed some options.
      - Mr. Hemsarth asked if it could be in the syllabus about students who are impaired not operating machinery or other things that may cause a safety concern



- The Committee then reviewed the updates to policy 317.
  - Mr. Rasmus shared his concern about some of the language regarding teachers who are under the influence due to a medical marijuana card not being able to be disciplined. He explained his concern that teachers need to be able to operate and function for the safety and welfare of students. Mr. Rasmus would be consulting with the solicitor further on this language. He cited his concern with the implementation of this policy language.
    - Mr. Hemsarth commented that this is to safeguard the district overall. He added that he would like to have potential language put in the student handbook giving the teachers the right to deny certain access to certain things that may be a safety concern with the use of medical marijuana.
  - The Committee was amenable to moving forward with these but needed to look further at some of the language for policy 317.
- ❖ Policy 308 - Employment Contract/Board Resolution
  - Mr. Rasmus reviewed the updates and highlights of this policy and administrative regulation.
    - Ms. Rosenberger commented that the changes to this were related to setting parameters for resignations and naming the Superintendent as the designee of the Board to accept resignations prior to Board action.
  - Mr. Rasmus explained that some of the language for the administrative regulation document was too strong, using the term irrevocable for resignations that was not appropriate for our use in the district. Additionally, he and Mrs. Holloway made some changes about the receipt and calculation of the employee's final paycheck.
- ❖ Policy 618 - Student Activity Funds
  - Mr. Rasmus explained that this policy was simply for review purposes with the change of principals and the fact that there were some concerns related to procedures.
  - The Committee asked that this policy be formally reviewed with the Board.
  - Mrs. Holloway commented that we need to consider policy language regarding what to do with earned interest funds in these accounts.
    - Mrs. Myers commented that she felt the money should be pooled into a scholarship fund or in the case of the elementary account, an award.
    - The Committee was amenable to this suggestion.

### ADJOURNMENT

The Committee adjourned the meeting at 6:41 pm.

  
Chelsea Rosenberger  
Board Recording Secretary