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MINUTES OF THE MILLVILLE SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD MEETING

MONDAY, JULY 21, 2025

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The Millville Area School Board held their regular business meeting on Monday, July 21, 2025 in the Millville Jr./Sr. High School Library beginning 7:06 pm. Prior to the meeting, the Millville Area School Board held an Executive Session meeting for personnel matters.

### **1. ROLL CALL**

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

Also present were Joseph Rasmus, Superintendent; Whitney Holloway, Business Manager/Board Secretary; Brandon Gordner, Elementary Principal; Matthew Mills, Secondary Principal; Alexa Longacre, Director of Interventional Support; Matthew McWilliams, Supervisor of Buildings and Grounds; and Chelsea Rosenberger, Board Recording Secretary.

### **2. GUEST RECOGNITION AND COMMENTS**

Guests Wendy Faatz, Gwen Utt, Lisa Leighton, Sandy Whispell, Christopher Sassaman, Alex Cavallini, Val Anderson, Marissa May, Rachel Verstraeten, Chris Hughes, Kyle Bogart, Catherine Girton, Rachel Allbeck, Carrie Hughes, Veronica Horner, Kali Hall, Cindy Ludwig, Rachel Jacobs, Rebecca Betz, Brandi Roberts, Brandi Ellis, Jennifer Boyunegmez, Jodi Brokenshire, Jonathon Brown, Claire Riera-Gomez, Suzie Mizzer, Ray Swank, Aydin Boyunegmez, Chase Reynolds, Thomas Krintz, Isaac Irvin, Shane Johnson, Dylan Brokenshire, Michael May, Blake Hall, Grayson Betz, Keaton Brokenshire, Andrew Girton, Noah Hall, Jovaughn Thompson, Landon Ellis, Xavier Hughes, Caleb Krintz, Zeki Boyunegmez, Lis Irvin, Corey Whitmoyer, Janel Valencik, Brandi Bacon, and Joshua Bacon all signed the register.

### **2. GUEST RECOGNITION AND COMMENTS**

*Peter Morisco*

- Mr. Morisco began by thanking the Board for giving him a chance to speak and explained the situation before him, as he understood for his termination. He explained that the district believed he was holding a soccer camp on MASD property and did not follow the protocols last summer in 2024 or this summer in 2025. Mr. Morisco shared that he gave refuting documentation to this claim to the superintendent. He went on to explain that he understood the process from a Co-Curricular Committee meeting held in the spring of 2024 and from that meeting, decided not to proceed with the camp at Millville but rather in Jerseytown. He did concede that there was some miscommunication in a post and flyer with the wrong location but that the actual camp was held in Jerseytown. Mr. Morisco stated that there has been no communication from the superintendent's office outside of the notice of termination and asked the Board to reconsider their position and reinstate him as the soccer coach.

Catherine Girton

- Mrs. Girton, the mother of a Millville student athlete, explained that she understood the position of the school district and the Board in terms of discipline of staff. She then shared a message from Coach Morisco dated in the summer of 2024 detailing information about volunteering at the camp being held in Jerseytown, not at MASD. She further explained that she knew Coach Morisco prior to Millville and knew of his work ethic, thanking him for his time with her son as an athlete. Mrs. Girton stated that she was proud of Coach Morisco for his work in the district and urged the Board to consider how soon the season was starting in their decision.

Jenn Boyunegmez

- Mrs. Boyunegmez, mother of a Millville student, stated that she understood that personnel issues do not have anything to do with the community. She explained that she has a son entering his senior year, and the disruption in coaching will affect him yet again. She shared her concern with the lack of transparency from the district, citing the fact that there was no notification from the Board to the community with the plan for the coaching change. Mrs. Boyunegmez asked the Board to consider using a "cease and desist" letter for the soccer camp rather than termination because people make mistakes.

Tommy Kraintz

- Mr. Kraintz, recent Millville graduate, shared that he has had many coaches in his high school career, and he believed that Coach Morisco was one of the best coaches and mentors he has had thus far. He asked the Board to reconsider their position and reinstate Mr. Morisco.

Cindy Ludwig

- Mrs. Ludwig, mother of Millville students, shared that she has been a part of this community for some time. She explained that Coach Morisco has done everything for her son and gave him the chance to be successful. She shared that Coach Morisco cares so much about the students, even through the negative times in soccer. She asked the Board to reconsider their position.

Louis Horner

- Mr. Horner, Millville student, read a statement in support of Coach Morisco and shared his concern over his sudden firing. He asked the Board to reconsider their position.

Brandi Roberts

- Ms. Roberts shared that she has a child on the team and that this is a major disruption for his season. She also asked if this soccer camp was a concern why it was not addressed in Coach Morisco's evaluation last year.

Josh Bacon

- Mr. Bacon shared that he coached with Mr. Morisco this past spring and did not know anything about him prior to coaching. He explained that he saw the love and respect that these students have for him. He stated that he has seen many different coaching styles and that Coach Morisco's style is well-received, encouraging respect from his athletes.

Sandy Whispell

- Mrs. Whispell, a former Board member, explained that no matter what you think about sports, it is important to make students be successful. She stated that we no longer have the feeder program we once had in AYSO. Finally, she shared that we have to have

respect for everyone and that when students see respect displayed, it plays into their education.

### **3. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

#### *Hazmat Situation – July 17, 2025*

- Mr. Rasmus began his report by updating the Board on a recent hazmat situation on July 17, 2025 where the district had to evacuate all students and staff to our emergency site locations. He shared that all students were transported home by 11:30 am. Additionally, all mitigation steps were taken according to the plan. Finally, Mr. Rasmus explained that the district is in the process of updating the All Hazards Plan.

#### *Elementary Playground Pathways Bid*

- Mr. Rasmus shared that the district is looking to make some modifications to the Elementary School Playground to aid in accessibility for all students. He stated that the district received three bids and the chosen bidder would be considered by the Board that evening.

#### *Transportation Services Bid*

- Mr. Rasmus explained that the district had to undertake the bid process for transportation services and that one bid was received from the district's legacy provider, Rhinard Transportation, who bid at the state reimbursement rate.

#### *GESP Update*

- Mr. Rasmus shared an update on the Guaranteed Energy Savings Project. He explained that the new Multi Stack was delivered and demolition had begun on the previous one. In August, Mr. Rasmus shared that the roof top unit would be installed at the Elementary School and that the High School Chiller is installed.

#### *Teaching Positions*

- Mr. Rasmus explained that the Board would be considering a number of teaching positions that evening.

#### *Director of Student Services - August 4th*

- Mr. Rasmus shared that the district will be conducting interviews on August 4, 2025 for the Director of Student Services position.

#### *Freshmen Advisor Stipend*

- Mr. Rasmus explained that the stipend for the Freshmen Advisor position was not approved previously, so this needed to be considered by the Board for retroactive approval.

### **4. BUSINESS MANAGER'S REPORT**

- Mrs. Holloway had previously submitted her report for the consideration of the Board and shared a thank you to the district secretaries for their help with the preparation of the tax bills for mailing.

### **5. APPROVAL OF BOARD MINUTES**

#### *5.1 June 30, 2025 Board Meeting Minutes*

A motion by Greg Hemsarth and seconded by Gena Maize that the Millville Area School Board approve the minutes of the June 30, 2025 Millville Area School District Board meeting.

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

## **6. BUDGET AND FINANCE**

### **6.1 Expenditures**

A motion by Gena Maize and seconded by Greg Hemsarth that the Millville Area School Board consider and approve the expenditures since the June 30, 2025 meeting to present, general fund expenditures in the amount of \$393,334.15 and cafeteria expenditures in the amount of \$5,073.90.

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

### **6.2 Pay July Expenditures**

A motion by Jessica Whitmoyer and seconded by William Berger that the Millville Area School Board consider and approve allowing the Business Manager to pay July/August 2025 expenditures incurred that are due prior to the next scheduled meeting with final approval at the August 11, 2025 meeting.

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

### **6.4 Repurchase Time Deposit #xx386**

A motion by Gena Maize and seconded by Jessica Whitmoyer that the Millville Area School Board consider and approve Millville Area School District's repurchase of time deposit #xx386 at the rate of 4.25% for 6 months, with Journey Bank, down from the previous rate of 4.95% for 12 months.

- Mr. Hemsarth asked why this deposit would be for six months instead of twelve months.
- Mrs. Holloway answered that it was a lower rate for twelve months at a rate of 3.95%.

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

### **6.5 Transfer Funds from General Fund to Capital Reserve Fund**

A motion by William Berger and seconded by Matthew Deihl that the Millville Area School Board consider and approve transferring \$600,000 from the General Fund to the Capital Reserve to cover upcoming projects.

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

### **6.6 IDEA-B Agreement 2025-2026**

A motion by Jessica Whitmoyer and seconded by Gena Maize that the Millville Area School Board is needed to consider and approve the 2025-2026 IDEA-B Agreement with the Central Susquehanna Intermediate Unit.

- Ms. Maize asked if the district currently utilizes this program.
- Mr. Rasmus answered that yes, this is a yearly agreement with the CSIU.

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

## **7. POLICY & GOVERNANCE**

### **7.1 Second and Final Reading Revised MASD Board Policies and Policy Attachments**

A motion by Gena Maize and seconded by Jessica Whitmoyer that the Millville Area School Board consider and approve the second and final readings of the revised Millville Area School District Board Policies and Policy Attachments, as recommended by PSBA per recent changes to federal regulations.

- 7.1 A - Policy 626 - Federal Fiscal Compliance
- 7. 1 B - Policy 626 Attachment - Administration of Federal Funds: Types of Costs, Financial Obligations and Property Management

- 7.1 C - Policy 626 Attachment - Allowability of Costs - Federal Programs
- 7.1 D - Policy 626 Attachment - Cash Management - Federal Programs
- 7.1 E - Policy 626 Attachment - Grant Subrecipient Monitoring Procedures - Federal Programs
- 7.1 F - Policy 626 Attachment - Procurement - Federal Programs
- 7.1 G - Policy 626.1 - Travel Reimbursement - Federal Programs
- 7.1 H - Policy 827 - Conflict of Interest

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

### 7.2 First Reading MASD Board Policy 815.2 Use of Generative AI in Education

A motion by Jessica Whitmoyer and seconded by Gena Maize that the Millville Area School Board consider and approve the first reading of the new proposed MASD Board Policy 815.2 - Use of Generative Artificial Intelligence in Education.

- Mr. Berger asked if this policy language came from PSBA.
- Mr. Rasmus answered that yes, the template for this policy came from PSBA.

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

## **8. ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS**

### 8.1 Revised 2025-2026 MASD School Calendar

A motion by Gena Maize and seconded by Matthew Deihl that the Millville Area School Board consider and approve the following revision to the 2025-2026 District Calendar: June 3, 2026 will now be considered an "Open Campus" Day, which was formerly a regular full school day.

- Ms. Maize asked what "open campus" means for students.
- Mr. Rasmus answered that high school students come in only for the finals they have that day and are allowed to go home. He explained that this past year, we only had two days scheduled for open campus, which led to some students having too many finals in one day.

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

### 8.2 Award Transportation Contract 2025-2026

A motion by William Berger and seconded by Greg Hemsarth that the Millville Area School Board accept the bid from Rhinard Transportation for transportation services in the 2025-2026, 2026-2027, and 2027-2028 school years for district students as per the PA State transportation reimbursement rate. Extracurricular transportation rates will be \$3.70 per mile and \$16.00 per hour for vans.

The motion carried by roll call vote. 6 Yes; 0 No; 1 Abstention (J. Whitmoyer); 2 Absent

### 8.3 Bayada Agreement - 2025-2026

A motion by Jessica Whitmoyer and seconded by William Berger that the Millville Area School Board consider and retroactively approve the agreement with Bayada to provide substitute school nursing services, for 2025-2026 school year at a rate of \$55/hour (no change).

- Ms. Maize asked why this was being retroactively approved.
- Mr. Rasmus answered that the Board approved the agreement earlier in the year for the 2024-2025 school year, but services were needed in the summer ESY that were not yet approved.

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

Combined Consent 8.4 – 8.5

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

- 8.4 CMSU Behavioral Health Support Services Agreement 2025-2026
  - A motion to consider and approve the agreement between Millville Area School District and CMSU Behavioral Health to Support Prevention Specialist Services for the 2025-2026 school year.
- 8.5 CMSU Behavioral Health SAP Liaison Agreement 2025-2026
- A motion to consider and approve the agreement between the Millville Area School District and CMSU Behavioral Health to provide liaison services for the Student Assistance Program (SAP) in the 2025-2026 school year.

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

8.6 Settlement Agreement

A motion by Gena Maize and seconded by Jessica Whitmoyer that the Millville Area School Board is needed to consider and approve the agreement of settlement and waiver between the Millville Area School District and student #35920.

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

**9. CURRICULUM / EDUCATIONAL**

9.1 Early College Enrollment Agreement with LCCC

A motion by Jessica Whitmoyer and seconded by Gena Maize that the Millville Area School Board consider and approve the Agreement between Millville Area School District and Luzerne County Community College for the Early College Program from July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2030.

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

9.2 Co-Op Coordinator Position Approval

A motion by Gena Maize and seconded by Greg Hemsarth that the Millville Area School Board consider and approve the creation of the MASD Co-Op Coordinator position.

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

**10. BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS**

10.1 Blue Quake Soccer Facility Use - Fall 2025

A motion by Greg Hemsarth and seconded by William Berger that the Millville Area School Board consider and approve allowing Blue Quake Soccer to use the EIEIO Soccer Field on Mondays from August 25, 2025 through October 27, 2025 for practices and games, pending receipt of \$100 refundable deposit, consistent with Administrative Regulation 707 AR-3 District Facilities Fee Schedule. Blue Quake will provide a portable restroom for their use.

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

10.2 Concrete Sidewalks Services Quote - Benton Mobile Concrete, Inc.

A motion by Greg Hemsarth and seconded by Gena Maize that the Millville Area School Board consider and approve the quote from Benton Mobile Concrete, Inc. for sidewalk concrete services at the high school, at a total cost of \$4,497.30.

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

10.3 Elementary Playground Accessible Pathways Project Bid Award

A motion by William Berger and seconded by Gena Maize that the Millville Area School Board approve awarding the Millville Area School District Elementary Playground Accessible Pathways project to Robert C. Young at a total cost of \$77,277.

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

**11. PERSONNEL AND ACTIVITIES**

11.1 Administrator Merit-Based Increases

A motion by Gena Maize and seconded by William Berger that the Millville Area School Board consider and approve merit increases for Act 93 Administrators and the District Business Manager in a manner consistent with the 2025-2028 Act 93 Agreement.

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

11.2 Administrator Transition Days

A motion by William Berger and seconded by Greg Hemsarth that the Millville Area School Board consider and approve allowing DEE DAVIS up to 10 days of transition with the new the Director of Student Services, once appointed, to acclimate to the district at her daily per diem rate.

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

11.3 Appoint Professional Staff 2025-2026

A motion William Berger and seconded by Susan Myers that the Millville Area School Board consider and approve the following professional staff positions to start the 2025-2026 school year as presented.

- 11.3 A - Appoint EMILY HIPPENSTIEL as Secondary Social Studies Teacher at Bachelors Step 1, with a commensurate salary.
- 11.3 B - Appoint KATIE PEACHEY as Secondary English Teacher at Masters +30, Step 6, with a commensurate salary.
- 11.3 C - Appoint SUSHMA VAVILALA as Secondary Chemistry Teacher at Masters, Step 3, with a commensurate salary. Pending Pennsylvania certification.
- 11.3 D - Appoint VAL ANDERSON as Elementary Autistic Support Teacher at Masters Step 8, with a commensurate salary.

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

11.4 Mentor Teachers 25/26

A motion by William Berger and seconded by Greg Hemsarth that the Millville Area School Board consider and approve ANTHONY PRESTON as Mentor Teacher for the 2025-2026 school year to new Secondary English teacher, KATIE PEACHEY; KEN MARSHMAN as Mentor Teacher for the 2025-2026 school year to new Secondary Social Studies Teacher, EMILY HIPPENSTIEL; and SHERRY KAKALEY as Mentor Teacher to the new Secondary Chemistry Teacher, SUSHMA VAVILALA.

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

11.5 Administrative Assistant to the Director of Student Services

A motion by Susan Myers and seconded by Greg Hemsarh that the Millville Area School Board consider and approve appointing Lori Nafus-Jones, as the Administrative Assistant to the Director of Student Services at a rate of \$17.82 per hour.

The motion carried by roll call vote. 5 Yes; 2 No (G. Maize, J. Whitmoyer); 2 Absent

11.6 Co-Op Coordinator Appointment

A motion by Gena Maize and seconded by William Berger that the Millville Area School Board consider and approve appointing MATTHEW MARTONE as the newly formed position of Co-Op Coordinator, yielding a stipend of \$4,800 per year.

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

11.7 SAP Liaison Appointment

A motion by Gena Maize and seconded by Greg Hemsarh that the Millville Area School Board consider and approve appointing LAURA CASHNER as the Student Assistance Program (SAP) Liaison for the Millville Area School District.

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

11.8 Freshmen Class Advisor Stipend

A motion by Gena Maize and seconded by Susan Myers that the Millville Area School Board consider and retroactively approve a stipend of \$400 per year for the Freshmen Class Advisor.

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

11.9 Termination

A motion by Gena Maize and seconded by Susan Myers that the Millville Area School Board consider and retroactively approve the termination of employee 1002, effective July 1, 2025.

The motion failed by roll call vote. 1 Yes; 6 No (M. Deihl, M. Farrell, G. Hemsarh, G. Maize, S. Myers, J. Whitmoyer); 2 Absent

11.10 Varsity Boys Basketball Coach

A motion by Michael Farrell and seconded by Greg Hemsarh that the Millville Area School Board consider and approve appointing RYAN GOLLA, as Varsity Boys Basketball Coach for the 2025-2026 school year. Pending receipt of all necessary documentation.

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

**12. ADJOURNMENT**

A motion by Matthew Deihl and seconded by Greg Hemsarh to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 8:11 pm. Following the meeting, the Board held an Executive Session for personnel matters.

Whitney Holloway, Board Secretary

Chelsea Rosenberger, Board Recording Secretary