

Dr. Rasmus called the Millville Area School District Curriculum Committee Meeting to order at 5:01 pm.

Those present in the High School Library were Joseph Rasmus, Superintendent; Greg Hemsarth, Board Member/Curriculum Committee Member; Jessica Whitmoyer; Board President/Curriculum Committee Member; Corey Whitmoyer, Board Member/Curriculum Committee Member; Alex Cavallini, Board Member; Matthew Mills, Secondary Principal; Brandon Gordner, Elementary Principal; Nicole Hall, Agriculture Teacher; Matthew Martone, Engineering Teacher; and Chelsea Rosenberger, Board Recording Secretary.

2026-2027 Diversified Occupations CTE

- ❖ Dr. Rasmus began by introducing the proposed Diversified Occupations (DO) CTE program, describing it as a structured, work-based learning opportunity intended for students interested in entering the workforce following high school. The program would complement students' career interests while emphasizing employability and soft skills.
- ❖ Dr. Rasmus explained that the district has previously allowed work-release arrangements but lost Basic Education Funding (ADM) because students participating in off-site employment could not be counted for membership. The DO program would allow the district to retain ADM while improving oversight and safety.
- ❖ Mr. Martone then shared a presentation with the Committee detailing the proposed Diversified Occupations program. He shared that it is a work-based learning experience, with district staff supervising the students in an approved work-based setting. Mr. Martone clarified some financial information in regards to student earnings. He explained that this program would be based on a task grid like other CTE programs that would be shared with the prospective employers for the students.
 - Dr. Rasmus commented that every CTE program has a task grid such as this.
 - Mr. Martone concurred, adding that the tasks are based on what the employers are seeing as needs for employees as well as the requirements from the state. A training plan would be developed and continuously updated, with agreement from students, parents, and employers. Mr. Martone explained that only employers meeting safety and program requirements would be eligible. Employers would not be burdened with developing training plans, as the district would provide support and supervision at no cost. Additionally, the implementation of the DO program would allow the district to count students for daily membership, and in turn, funding, because this would put the district at two approved CTE programs.
- ❖ Mr. Martone explained that enrollment would be capped at approximately 15 students and that currently, about 12 students are projected to be in the program.
 - Mr. Hemsarth asked if this program would limit the number of students on work release.
 - Mr. Mills answered that no, the district currently has only seven students on work release at present.

- Mr. Hemsarth asked what the district does if the employer is unwilling to participate in the program.
 - Mr. Martone answered that the employer would not be eligible but that the district would work with them to support them in any concerns.
- Mrs. Whitmoyer asked what is needed from the employer.
 - Mr. Martone answered that the district would be working with them and there would be a meeting once per month but that the onus would be on the district to provide resources, not the employer.
- Mr. Hemsarth asked if the employers would be responsible for the training plan task list items as described.
 - Mr. Martone stated that he has talked to the employers so far and that this would not be a burden on them. They would follow the normal training plan, and the district would be providing the resources necessary to supervise the students.
- Mr. Hemsarth asked if the students can be dual enrolled in this program with another CTE program in the district.
 - Mr. Martone answered that no, they would not be able to dual enroll as the other CTE programs already have their own capstone courses that would give a similar experience.
 - Mrs. Hall added that the course selection guide will be updated to reflect all of these required courses.
 - Mr. Mills commented that the courses being discussed were not related to the courses in those other programs.
 - Dr. Rasmus explained that a distinct difference between this program and previous work-based experiences would be that this would be the only approved option for students and that the district would now receive full funding for those students.
 - Additionally, Mr. Mills shared that with the DO program, there is a hard end for the enrollment period because students have to hit the amount of work days required for the year. This was because the students would be receiving course credit with 15 hours required per week.
 - Mrs. Whitmoyer asked if weekend hours would be allowed to meet the requirements.
 - Mr. Mills answered that no, he felt that would not be allowed because of child labor laws.
 - Dr. Rasmus added that it has to correlate to the time that the district is responsible for students. He commented that every district that holds CTE programs has this program available for students.
 - Mr. Martone commented that the district is responsible for the students as soon as we have the training agreement and that the visits to the employer would happen during the agreed upon time.
 - Dr. Rasmus commended Mr. Martone for his willingness to do this program and that it would place significant demands upon his current teaching schedule.

- Mr. Mills shared that we were working on Mr. Martone's schedule to allow for this program to be undertaken.
- Mr. Cavallini asked if the district expects to receive parent push back from this program.
 - Dr. Rasmus answered that yes, there would be some push back and that the community would need to have the information in advance to plan.
- Dr. Rasmus asked the Committee if they were comfortable moving forward with this plan to the whole Board.
 - Mrs. Whitmoyer asked if all of the students already had a plan for this next year.
 - Mr. Martone answered that yes, most of them would be at Geisinger working in a variety of roles. The students already had to apply for these programs in December.
- The Committee held some discussion about students who changed their status mid year and if the district would suffer financially.
 - Mr. Hemsarh asked if the district would lose reimbursement if the student quits their job in the middle of the year.
 - Dr. Rasmus answered "yes, we would, but that Mr. Martone would have the ability to work out issues along the way, and the district would possibly be able to realign the student somewhere else." Additionally, the student would feel the need to finish in order to graduate.
- The Committee shared concerns about students who only want to participate in work release for half the year based on their credit requirement needs.
 - Mr. Mills commented that the district needs to do better to ensure that situations like that do not take place.
 - Dr. Rasmus acknowledged that while the program may feel restrictive, it reflects PDE expectations and addresses current funding losses. Similar programs exist across most districts offering CTE pathways.
 - Mr. Mills added that exceptions may need to be granted for students not enrolled in the DO program, including early college participants, when extenuating circumstances exist as we had to do this year.
- The Committee members expressed their concern about balancing district benefits with student needs but were reassured that limited exceptions would remain possible. The Committee agreed to move the DO CTE program forward for full Board consideration, with acknowledgment of anticipated questions and concerns.

2026-2027 Secondary Scheduling Process and Timelines:

- ❖ Mr. Mills shared with the Committee that on January 13, the high school would be holding a community night to discuss the secondary scheduling process and timelines. Information would be going out about this program and scheduling.
 - Mr. Hemsarh asked if parents will know what the course offerings will be at the meeting.

- Mr. Mills answered that for the most part, yes, but there would still be some minor changes due to issues with lunches and double period classes.
- Dr. Rasmus added that after course selection, these courses would be reevaluated and balanced based on enrollment and practicality in the schedule.

2026-2027 Graduation Credit Requirements

- ❖ Dr. Rasmus reviewed the updates as listed on the agenda and showed the changes to the graduation requirements to the Committee.
 - Mr. Mills explained that the district lost an elective with the removal of the Accounting program.
 - Mr. Hemsarth asked if this would affect Mr. Martone's new proposed role.
 - Mr. Mills answered that no, when looking at seniors, they have time for six credits worth of electives so there is plenty of room to get that extra half credit of an elective.

Eligibility for Honors Courses

- ❖ Dr. Rasmus explained that after much discussion with parents about the inconsistency of requirements and eligibility for students taking honors courses, the district was working with each department to make these requirements consistent.
 - Mr. Mills said that he has met with the departments and communicated the issues with this inconsistency to work towards a more consistent outcome.

Curriculum Writing Initiatives Update

- ❖ Dr. Rasmus shared that the district has invested a good deal of time in teacher in-service days towards curriculum writing at the secondary level.
 - Mr. Mills shared a document detailing the two courses each teacher is working to write curriculum for in that year. He explained that after two years, most teachers will have written the curriculum for most of their classes.

ADJOURNMENT

No additional questions were asked. The Committee adjourned the meeting at 6:03 pm.

Chelsea Rosenberger
Board Recording Secretary