

MILLVILLE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

Co-Curricular Committee Meeting Minutes

March 3, 2026

Dr. Rasmus called the Millville Area School District Co-Curricular Committee Meeting to order at 5:03 pm.

Those present via ZOOM were Joseph Rasmus, Superintendent; Corey Whitmoyer, Board/Committee member; Jessica Whitmoyer, Board President; Michael Farrell, Board/Committee member; Alex Cavallini, Board member; Matt Mills, Secondary Principal; Whitney Holloway, Business Manager; Danielle Fritz, Director of Student Services; Rachel Verstraeten, Athletic Director; Katie Sick, teacher; Carolyn Sweeney, teacher; Nichole Swallow, parent; Betsy Riera, community member; and Chelsea Rosenberger, Board Recording Secretary.

Winter Athletic Season Review

- ❖ Ms. Verstraeten provided a comprehensive review of the winter athletic season and recognized student achievements, coaches, and program highlights.
 - She shared that Boys Basketball had an overall successful season, with great improvements from last year. A highlight was given to Shane Johnson for scoring 1,000 career points.
 - The Cheerleading team had a great season, under new leadership.
 - The Girls Basketball team had some ups and downs and ended 8th place in the league. She explained that the team played very respectfully in the playoff game.
 - The Junior High Boys Basketball team has great new coaches who received positive feedback from players, parents, and officials for their leadership. A shoutout was given to Spencer Evans who scored 500 points in this junior high season.
 - The Millville athletes on the Benton Wrestling team qualified for sectionals, but none advanced to districts.
- ❖ Ms. Verstraeten then shared that two athletes were selected for the Mid-Penn All-Star Team: Shane Johnson and Julia Hippenstiel.

Mid-Penn Conference Updates

- ❖ Ms. Verstraeten then shared that the Mid-Penn Conference administrators are considering reinstating Academic All-Star recognition, potentially requiring student athletes to have a 3.5 GPA and varsity participation. The final approval will occur later this spring.
- ❖ Additionally, Ms. Verstraeten shared, Millville hosted a Mid-Penn play-in basketball game this season. Due to the success of the event and facility support, Millville was invited to host the Mid-Penn Boys and Girls Championship games next season, tentatively scheduled for February 3.

Athletic Association Fundraiser

- ❖ Next, Ms. Verstraeten shared that the Athletic Association held a fundraiser with Kenneth Marshman and Leading Edge, resulting in a profit of over \$12,000 with approximately \$10,000 profit being distributed amongst the athletic teams.

College Athletic Commitments

- ❖ Ms. Verstraeten congratulated three student athletes who have committed to play collegiate athletics: Caitlyn Ludwig to Susquehanna University for Women's Soccer; Chase Reynolds to Penn State Scranton for Men's Soccer; and Alexis Eyer to Wilkes University for Field Hockey. Signing events with families and coaches would be scheduled.

Spring Sports Update

- ❖ Ms. Verstraeten shared that spring sports officially began. For baseball, the roster currently has 24 players, and the JV schedule includes 8 games. For softball, the roster currently has approximately 16 participants. She finished by sharing that Junior High Spring sports begin on March 16.

Proposal: Junior High Cross Country Program - Mrs. Katie Sick

- ❖ Mrs. Sick shared a proposal with the Committee to start a Junior High Cross Country program beginning with the 2026-2027 school year. She gave an overview of the program stating that this would be open to 7th and 8th grade boys and girls; practices would be held on school grounds; there would be approximately 6 meets per season (mostly local); and transportation would likely be via a school van. Mrs. Sick explained that the benefits of this sport are that it is a low cost sport; it improves conditioning for other sports; it encourages participation and physical fitness; and supports student behavior, attendance, and health. She further explained that teams require five runners to score in competitions and that students can compete individually if fewer participants are available.
- ❖ Mr. Whitmoyer asked if this would affect our co-op with Northwest.
 - Dr. Rasmus answered that he did not believe that it would conflict being that they are different sports.
 - Mrs. Sick agreed that it is separate and that cross country is in the fall while track is in the spring.
- ❖ Ms. Verstraeten asked if it was a concern, would parents be able to transport their own students who are participating.
 - Dr. Rasmus answered that it was too early to make that decision but recognized the low financial burden associated with this sport.
 - Ms. Verstraeten added that this sport is something that can be done simultaneously with other sports.
- ❖ Mr. Mills asked what happens to students after their junior high eligibility when Millville does not have a varsity program.
 - Dr. Rasmus answered that it needs to be considered, adding that he imagined the Board would like to try to meet the need down the line.
 - Mrs. Riera Gomez commented that it was very beneficial to get them started in these sports earlier on in their athletic careers.
 - Mr. Scott Sick stated that it is very easy to compete in cross country and other sports at the same time with no interruption to either.
- ❖ The Committee was amenable to moving forward with this proposal, while checking the financial implications of the additional sport.

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- Dr. Rasmus asked Mrs. Sick to do a survey of students to ascertain the interest so that the Board could do some calculations.
 - Ms. Verstraeten said that she would ask Mrs. Lawton to send out a survey.

Jr. High Girls Wrestling Co-Op with Benton

- ❖ Ms. Verstraeten shared that Benton currently offers a girls wrestling program and that Millville could send students in this co-op if interested students are identified. She added that the girls would travel with the boys so there would not be additional transportation costs.
 - Dr. Rasmus asked Ms. Verstraeten to garner interest before the Board makes this commitment.

Junior High Volleyball Co-Op with Berwick

- ❖ Ms. Verstraeten explained that this potential co-op would take place in the fall and that the district already has an arrangement with Berwick for varsity which has been very successful. She added that it would compete with Junior High Softball and now potentially, cross country but that it would be good for those students who consider this their sport.
 - Dr. Rasmus was amenable to this and stated that this has not cost the district anything financially.
 - Mr. Farrell stated that he was not opposed to it but wanted to consider all financial implications as well as know the interest so that the athletes feel they are part of a team.
 - Mrs. Riera Gomez commented that both of her daughters have been successful in this program at Berwick and have made great friends there. She believed that we should let all students follow their passion.
- ❖ The Committee wanted to know the interest of students and numbers to know how to proceed with this topic. In fact, the Committee asked Ms. Verstraeten to garner the interest of students in cross country, girls wrestling, and Junior High volleyball.

Basketball Shooting Machine Request

- ❖ Ms. Verstraeten shared that the Boys Basketball Coach Ryan Golla has requested the purchase of a basketball shooting machine with an estimated cost of approximately \$8,000.
 - The Committee discussed sponsorship opportunities; fundraising limitations due to Athletic Association bylaws; and the possible use of the district sponsorship program.
- ❖ The Committee would revisit the topic after reviewing funding guidelines.

PIAA Updates

- ❖ Ms. Verstraeten explained that PIAA will require shot clocks for basketball beginning approximately 2028-2029 with an estimated installation cost of approximately \$13,000, largely due to wiring.
 - The Committee agreed to discuss planning and funding at future meetings.

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- ❖ Additionally, she explained that PIAA will require double first base bags in baseball for safety at a minimal cost.

Elementary Student Attendance at Athletic Events

- ❖ Dr. Rasmus explained that the Board enacted a new policy which will require elementary students to be accompanied by an adult at athletic events. He stated that administrative staff will assist with implementation during early events.

Legislative Discussion – House Bill 41

- ❖ Dr. Rasmus shared that there is currently a House Bill 41 proposing separating public and non-public schools for state playoff competition. The concerns cited as the reasoning for this bill are that non-public schools may recruit athletes whereas public schools are restricted to district boundaries. He stated that over 140 school districts have already signed the petition.
- ❖ The Committee expressed their support in signing the petition.

Band Uniform Replacement

- ❖ Dr. Rasmus reminded the Committee that the marching band has grown significantly and requires additional uniforms.
- ❖ Mrs. Sweeney explained that the current band may reach 80 students next year and that the existing uniforms are insufficient. She estimated the total cost to be approximately \$25,000. These new uniforms would be machine washable, adjustable for student growth and have lower long-term maintenance costs. She added that music boosters may be able to assist with partial funding.
- ❖ Dr. Rasmus said that it looked great and asked Mrs. Sweeney to get a formal quote to be shared with the Board for consideration.

ADJOURNMENT

The Committee adjourned the meeting at 6:07 pm.

Chelsea Rosenberger
Board Recording Secretary