

Dr. Rasmus called the Millville Area School District Curriculum Committee Meeting to order at 7:03 pm.

Those present in the High School Library were Joseph Rasmus, Superintendent; Corey Whitmoyer, Board/Committee member; Jessica Whitmoyer, Board President; Greg Hemsarh, Board/Committee member; Jonathan Richards, Board Member; Brandon Gordner, Elementary Principal; Matt Mills, Secondary Principal; Whitney Holloway, Business Manager; Dr. Meadows, Director of Interventional Support; Katie Peachey, teacher; Mary Schrader, teacher; Becky Richards, teacher; Tiffany Anderson, teacher; Chandra Johnson, teacher; and Chelsea Rosenberger, Board Recording Secretary.

Middle School ELA Curriculum – CommonLit

- ❖ Dr. Rasmus introduced the curriculum CommonLit as a potential comprehensive ELA resource for middle school, noting that the district currently lacks a unified curriculum. He stated that the resource is currently being piloted.
 - Dr. Peachey reported that CommonLit provides relevant and engaging topics for students, strong alignment with instructional goals, meaningful culminating tasks, and availability across grades 6–12 for continuity.
 - Mrs. Schrader noted that the program includes three benchmark assessments, allowing analysis of specific standards across the curriculum.
 - It was also discussed that the resource pairs well with existing novels
 - Dr. Rasmus commented that the district currently relies on softcover novels and other teacher resources without a comprehensive program.
- ❖ The Committee discussed the acquisition and concerns were raised regarding cost sustainability.
 - Mr. Hemsarh shared his concerns regarding the cost for only a few classes in the high school. He asked if the district should consider a six year subscription to mirror other similar curriculum programs.
 - The teachers shared that other districts, including Berwick and Milton, are currently using the program.
 - Dr. Rasmus confirmed that teacher input and piloting informed the recommendation.
- ❖ The Committee expressed general support but requested continued evaluation of cost structure and long-term sustainability.

Elementary ELA Curriculum (Future Planning)

- ❖ Dr. Rasmus noted that the current Elementary Wonders program will sunset at the end of the 2026–2027 school year and that the administration is beginning to explore replacement resources.

Middle School Math Curriculum (RCL – Grades 7 & 8, Algebra I)

- ❖ Dr. Rasmus introduced the RCL Math Series as a potential curriculum to address performance gaps in middle school math. He reminded the Committee that the current data indicates that student proficiency in grades 7 and 8 is below expectations. Dr. Rasmus shared that this program would provide alignment with PA Core standards, consistency with the K–6 continuum, and structured and scripted instructional support.

- Mrs. Anderson raised several concerns with iReady, including pacing issues and excessive time spent on certain topics; gaps in content (e.g., foundational skills such as telling time); concerns about long-term sequencing and sustainability; and the need for more flexibility in instruction.
- ❖ The Committee and those present discussed the iReady curriculum and the alignment between curriculum and iReady diagnostic assessments.
 - There were questions raised about whether iReady accurately reflects student knowledge as well as concerns that teachers are expected to use data that may not be fully reliable or transparent.
- ❖ The Committee agreed to pause decision-making on this curriculum to gather additional information and further evaluate the alignment between curriculum, assessments, and instructional needs.

Aimsweb Universal Screener (Act 47 Requirements)

- ❖ Dr. Rasmus discussed new requirements under Act 47, including the implementation of structured literacy in elementary grades and the requirement for a universal screener (K–3) administered three times per year. He stated that the administration is proposing the acquisition of Aimsweb at a cost proposal of approximately \$5,000 annually. Dr. Rasmus explained that this is currently used in special education and is considered a “gold standard” for evaluations, progress monitoring, and literacy and math diagnostics. He added that the CSIU believes that because of our work with them for MTSS, they may be able to help us cover the cost of this with grant funding.
 - Dr. Meadows shared some key features of the platform including phonemic awareness, letter sounds, fluency, and comprehension measures, as well as, math assessments focused on problem-solving and fact fluency.
 - Dr. Rasmus noted the possibility of replacing DIBELS and STAR testing.
- ❖ The Committee expressed support for continued exploration of Aimsweb as the district’s universal screener.

K–3 Standards-Based Report Card

- ❖ Mr. Gordner then introduced a proposed standards-based report card model for elementary grades. He explained that these report cards are designed to clearly communicate what students know and what they are able to do relative to grade-level expectations. He added that some benefits are improved clarity for parents, more meaningful academic conversations, and alignment with instructional standards.
- ❖ The Committee was amenable to moving forward with development and planning, with the intention of further work over the summer.

Kindergarten Transition Camp Proposal

- ❖ Then, Mr. Gordner presented a proposal for a 2-week Kindergarten Transition Camp. Its purpose would be to support incoming students with little or no preschool experience and provide a gradual introduction to school routines, building familiarity, and social expectations.
- ❖ The Committee discussed this proposal, noting that transportation would not be provided. However, nursing coverage would be required.

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- Dr. Rasmus suggested that it could be scheduled to overlap with Extended School Year in the summer to save on nursing costs. He explained that the administration will continue exploring logistics, staffing, and feasibility.

Act 2 of 2026 – Cursive Instruction

- ❖ Dr. Rasmus reviewed new requirements under Act 2 of 2026, mandating cursive handwriting instruction. He shared that the administration would like to implement this in grades 3-5 with the proposed program of Zaner-Bloser.
- ❖ Dr. Rasmus then explained the cost breakdown at \$630 per bundle, needing two bundles per grade. Therefore, a total would be \$3,780 for the three grades. Additionally, there would be a cost of \$1,200 for staff professional development. He added that most sending districts are using similar programs.
- ❖ The Committee discussed implementation and cost considerations, with general support for compliance planning.

ADJOURNMENT

The Committee adjourned the meeting at 8:41 pm.

Chelsea Rosenberger
Board Recording Secretary