

Mrs. Holloway called the Millville Area School District Finance Committee Meeting to order at 5:02 pm.

Those present in the High School Library were Joseph Rasmus, Superintendent; Whitney Holloway, Business Manager; Corey Whitmoyer, Board/Committee member; Alex Cavallini, Board/Committee member; Greg Hemsarh, Board/Committee member; Jonathan Richards, Board/Committee Member; Matt Mills, Secondary Principal; Wendy Faatz; Klohe Faatz; Betsy Riera-Gomez; and Chelsea Rosenberger, Board Recording Secretary.

Capital Reserve Fund Discussion

- ❖ Mrs. Holloway began with a review of the district's current Capital Reserve balance and the district's historical practice of transferring funds from the General Fund into Capital Reserve for future facility improvements and major repairs. She stated that the district is considering moving additional funds into the Capital Reserve and indicated that a tentative goal of approximately \$500,000 is being considered, pending final budget balancing needs.
 - Dr. Rasmus emphasized that Capital Reserve funds are intended for facility repairs and infrastructure projects.
 - Mrs. Holloway added that the reserve is used for large, non-routine expenses and emergency repairs, adding that once funds are moved into the Capital Reserve, they cannot be transferred back into the General Fund.
 - Mr. Richards asked whether the funds could later be used for educational initiatives.
 - Mrs. Holloway explained that Capital Reserve funds are legally restricted to facility and capital improvement purposes only.

Final Budget Discussions

- ❖ Tax Impacts and Assessed Values
 - Mrs. Holloway reported that updated assessed property values had been received from the county, noting only a minimal increase overall. The final values are still pending.
- ❖ Homestead/Farmstead Update
 - Mrs. Holloway reported no significant changes to Homestead/Farmstead allocations, aside from a small Sterling Act rebate adjustment related to an individual taxpayer. She explained that accurate taxpayer impact calculations cannot be finalized until the Board determines a proposed tax increase percentage.
- ❖ Tax Increase Discussion
 - Mrs. Holloway shared updated spreadsheets reflecting potential tax increase scenarios and reviewed projections for no increase, 25% of the index, 50% of the index, 75% of the index, and 100% of the Act 1 index.
 - Dr. Rasmus asked for clarification regarding how assessed values impact projected tax increases.
 - Mrs. Holloway reviewed how the various percentage increases affect taxpayers at differing assessment levels.
 - She noted that the district is still facing an approximate \$400,000 budget deficit.

❖ CMAVTS Budget

- Mrs. Holloway reported that the Columbia-Montour AVTS budget had not yet been finalized and that district projections currently reflect a “worst-case scenario” estimate.

❖ Funding Updates

- Mrs. Holloway informed the committee that declining interest rates are negatively impacting district revenues generated through investments and reserves.

Discussion Items

❖ Field Trips and Student Travel

- Mrs. Holloway explained that many neighboring districts rely on PTOs or outside fundraising organizations to subsidize field trips rather than utilizing district funds.
- Dr. Rasmus stated that the Elementary PTOs assist significantly with elementary trips at other schools, as well as at Millville. He added that the high school curricular excursions do not have comparable support structures and that many high school trips are tied directly to instructional programming.
- Mrs. Faatz asked how much financial support the PTO contributes.
- Mrs. Holloway stated the district contributes approximately \$1,000 per grade level.
- Mrs. Faatz suggested the possibility of developing business-sponsored funding opportunities for student experiences.
- Mr. Whitmoyer expressed concern regarding the frequency of travel associated with FFA programs.
- Dr. Rasmus acknowledged those concerns while also noting the significant achievements of the district’s agricultural program.
- Mr. Mills explained that students participate in competitions at multiple levels and that FFA progression is similar to music competitions. Therefore, travel is often necessary for advancement opportunities. He highlighted several accomplishments of the agriculture program, including nine students earning Keystone Degrees; thirty-eight chapter members; nine students receiving FFA jackets at the Mid-Winter Convention; recognition as the third highest-ranking chapter in Pennsylvania, and receipt of the highest national chapter recognition.
- Dr. Rasmus reiterated that the district is attempting to find a balance between supporting high-quality opportunities and maintaining fiscal responsibility.

❖ Music Program Instruments and Repairs

- Mrs. Holloway discussed the district’s inventory of musical instruments and the ongoing costs associated with repairs and maintenance.
- The Committee discussed the costs associated with instrument rentals and repairs as well as the district’s practice of providing instruments to students. There was discussion related to equity concerns with student access to music participation.

- Dr. Rasmus noted the issue has been under discussion for some time. He added that the Elementary music teacher dedicates significant time to instrument management and repair coordination. He shared that the district currently provides many instruments directly to students.
- Mr. Whitmoyer compared the issue to athletics, where families are generally responsible for purchasing equipment and supplies.
- The Committee further discussed the distinction between curricular participation and extracurricular participation.
 - Mr. Hemsarh noted that music participation differs from athletics because music courses often receive academic credit.
 - Dr. Rasmus clarified that Elementary participation is more extracurricular in nature while High school band participation includes curricular credit.
 - The committee agreed that maintaining student opportunity while controlling costs remains important.
- ❖ Technology and Program Expansion Discussion
 - Mr. Richards expressed concern regarding the idea of reducing programs and stated that he would prefer to see additional educational opportunities added rather than eliminated.
 - Dr. Rasmus acknowledged the challenge, explaining that the district's primary limitation is revenue. He explained that previous staffing reductions eliminated some traditional technology courses and that the district is currently meeting state requirements through integrated technology usage across curriculum areas.
- ❖ CMAVTS and CTE Programming Discussion
 - The committee discussed CMAVTS costs and local Career and Technical Education opportunities.
 - Mrs. Holloway stated that CMAVTS costs are increasing approximately 4.9%. She added that the district currently pays approximately \$16,000 per student annually.
 - Mr. Cavallini explained that tuition calculations are based on district enrollment and the number of students attending CMAVTS programs.
 - Mr. Richards asked whether the district could create comparable programs locally to bring students back into the district.
 - Dr. Rasmus explained that the district cannot legally duplicate programs using the same CIP codes as the CMAVTS programs and that enrollment sustainability must also be considered when adding new programs.
 - The Committee discussed the district's Perkins eligibility requirements.
 - Dr. Rasmus noted that the district currently only has one Perkins-eligible program, however, three eligible programs are required for additional Perkins funding. He added that some potential programs for future programming could include an education-based CTE pathway.
 - Mr. Hemsarh suggested that the district look into a first responder or EMS-related program.

MILLVILLE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

Finance Committee Meeting Minutes

May 4, 2026

- Mr. Mills stated that several students are already involved with EMS and local fire departments.
- Dr. Rasmus stated the administration would continue exploring those possibilities while balancing enrollment realities and sustainability.

❖ Transportation Routes and Costs

- Mrs. Holloway discussed the need to review transportation routes and efficiencies district-wide.
- Mr. Whitmoyer noted that transportation is partially reimbursed by the state.
- Mrs. Holloway explained that reimbursement calculations depend on several factors, including the bus age, mileage with and without students, and route structure.
- The committee discussed possible route adjustments, though concerns were raised regarding timing conflicts among schools and programs.

❖ Athletics Transportation Discussion

- Mrs. Holloway discussed the added transportation expenses associated with the Northwest track cooperative agreement.
- Mrs. Riera questioned why district transportation had been provided for Northwest track while transportation was not previously provided for Berwick volleyball participants.
- Committee members acknowledged the need for continued discussion regarding consistency and equity in transportation decisions for cooperative athletic programs.

❖ Tax Certification Fees and Duplicate Bills

- Mrs. Holloway discussed potentially increasing fees associated with tax certifications, duplicate tax bills, and duplicate receipts.
- Mrs. Heather Mausteller, Board members, asked how the district fees compare to surrounding areas.
 - Mrs. Holloway stated that rates vary significantly between districts.
 - Betsy Riera asked whether the fee is charged one time.
 - Mrs. Holloway explained that the charges are generally associated with property sales or refinancing transactions.

❖ Extracurricular Stipend Review

- Dr. Rasmus discussed ongoing review of extracurricular stipends and noted that discrepancies currently exist among various stipend positions. He shared that the administration plans to review stipend structures, compare workload expectations, and examine consistency among assignments and compensation levels.

ADJOURNMENT

The Committee adjourned the meeting at 6:07 pm.

Chelsea Rosenberger
Board Recording Secretary