

MILLVILLE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

Policy Committee Meeting Minutes

September 22, 2026

Dr. Rasmus called the Millville Area School District Policy Committee Meeting to order at 5:34 pm.

Committee Members Present: Corey Whitmoyer; Alex Cavallini, Greg Hemsarth, and Jessica Whitmoyer

Administration/Staff/Others Present: Dr. Joseph Rasmus, Superintendent; Whitney Holloway, Business Manager; and Chelsea Rosenberger, Board Recording Secretary

Committee Schedule and Wellness Committee

- ❖ Dr. Rasmus discussed the current committee meeting schedule and the need to establish a more consistent schedule for the Wellness Committee. He explained that the scheduled October Wellness Committee meeting may need to be rescheduled. Because participation from certain staff members, including school nurses and physical education teachers, is required, administration discussed holding Wellness Committee meetings during the contractual workday.
 - The Committee discussed potentially scheduling the Wellness Committee during the winter months and meeting approximately twice during the year. One meeting could be used to establish priorities and identify required work, with a subsequent meeting used to review progress, make recommendations, and complete required reporting.
 - Administration will review the committee schedule and recommend revisions as necessary.

Board Committee Structure

- ❖ Dr. Rasmus discussed whether the Board may wish to consider a Committee of the Whole structure in the future. He explained that the current committee schedule was developed to minimize the number of separate evenings Board members and administrators are required to attend meetings; however, accommodating all committees within the current structure can be challenging. A Committee of the Whole structure could provide an opportunity for all Board members to hear the same discussions and background information before recommendations are forwarded to the regular Board meeting.
 - Potential advantages discussed included greater consistency in Board member awareness, a predictable meeting schedule, fewer scheduling conflicts, and an opportunity for the full Board to hear the same information before taking action.
 - The Committee also recognized that such a structure could result in longer meetings and a greater time commitment on a single evening.
- ❖ Dr. Rasmus indicated that he did not have a specific preference and saw advantages and disadvantages to both structures. If the Board wished to pursue a change, the matter could be discussed further with the full Board, potentially around Board reorganization.

Policy 226 – Searches

- ❖ Dr. Rasmus reviewed highlights of Policy 226 – Searches.
 - Mr. Hemsarh asked whether there were any changes to the policy.
 - Dr. Rasmus explained that there were no substantive changes and that the policy was being presented primarily for review, particularly in light of the District's implementation of weapon detection systems.
- ❖ Mr. Hemsarh asked how the policy relates to recent concerns involving athletic bags and other student belongings.
 - Dr. Rasmus explained that the policy addresses searches of student belongings and that the law permits certain random or generalized searches in addition to searches based upon reasonable suspicion.
- ❖ Mr. Whitmoyer asked about the language permitting random searches.
 - Dr. Rasmus explained that the District does not routinely conduct random searches but that maintaining the language provides the District with appropriate authority when circumstances warrant.
 - The Committee discussed examples involving student vehicles and situations in which school officials develop reasonable suspicion after observing an item or other circumstances.
 - Dr. Rasmus also indicated that he would like to have law enforcement conduct a canine sweep of the school during the current school year, consistent with practices previously used by the District. He noted that the policy also contains an annual family notification requirement. Given implementation of the weapon detection systems, he indicated that this would be an appropriate time to ensure that the required notification is completed.

Policy 619 – District Audit

- ❖ Dr. Rasmus reviewed the requirements contained within Policy 619 – District Audit and explained that the policy establishes requirements related to financial accountability, audits, documentation, corrective actions, and transparency.
 - Ms. Rosenberger noted a change regarding responsibility for review of audits, with responsibility shifting from the state to the Pennsylvania Department of Education.
- ❖ Dr. Rasmus recognized the work completed by Mrs. Holloway in maintaining the District's audit documentation and financial compliance.

Policy 102 – Academic Standards

- ❖ Dr. Rasmus reviewed the updated Policy 102 – Academic Standards. He explained that revisions include requirements related to Personal Finance and the addition of social media literacy within the academic standards. Dr. Rasmus stated that the administration will need to review the social media literacy requirement with the Secondary Principal to determine where the required content can best be incorporated into the secondary curriculum.

Early College Credit

- ❖ Mrs. Whitmoyer asked whether the Committee could revisit how Early College courses are treated for District credit.
 - Dr. Rasmus explained that the District previously provided students with considerable flexibility regarding Early College coursework. Students could select college courses that sometimes conflicted with required District courses, which created scheduling and graduation-requirement concerns. The District subsequently revised the program so that Early College courses count as electives rather than replacing core District graduation requirements.
- ❖ Mrs. Whitmoyer questioned how college courses should be treated for students who already have a full complement of elective credits and whether those courses should have an impact on GPA and class rank.
 - Mr. Whitmoyer expressed concern regarding the comparison between students taking college-level courses and students who remain at the high school and may have less academically demanding schedules.
 - Dr. Rasmus acknowledged the concern and stated that there are reasonable arguments on both sides.
 - The Committee agreed that the issue should be revisited through the Curriculum Committee, with input from the Secondary Principal, guidance counselor, and other appropriate personnel.
- ❖ Mr. Hemsarth expressed concern regarding students being moved from grade to grade without demonstrating appropriate academic proficiency.
 - Dr. Rasmus clarified that Pennsylvania does not permit the District to retain a student solely because the student does not achieve proficiency on a standardized assessment. He explained that the District can and does retain students when the totality of their academic performance demonstrates that they have not met appropriate requirements.
 - The Committee discussed discrepancies that sometimes exist between students' classroom grades and standardized assessment results.
 - Dr. Rasmus suggested that the Curriculum Committee could further discuss instructional rigor, alignment with state standards, and the use of state assessment examples in classroom instruction.

Policy 204.1 – Student Wellness Checks

- ❖ Dr. Rasmus reviewed the updates to Policy 204.1 and explained that the District had already incorporated the required procedures into its student handbooks but now needs to ensure that the Board policy reflects those requirements. Students participating in the District's virtual academy are required to participate in a face-to-face wellness check once each week. The weekly check-in occurs virtually at a scheduled time with designated District personnel. Students must participate visually rather than simply responding through a text or chat message.
- ❖ Dr. Rasmus reported that all participating students had complied with the wellness-check requirement to date. The policy also outlines the procedures that must be followed when a student fails to participate in the required wellness check, including notification and, when necessary, an in-person wellness check.

Policy 209 – Health Examinations/Screenings

- ❖ Dr. Rasmus reviewed Policy 209, including revisions addressing confidentiality requirements associated with student Body Mass Index (BMI) information. The policy establishes requirements for student health examinations, screenings, immunizations, parental rights, and maintenance of student health records.
- ❖ Dr. Rasmus explained that BMI information must be collected, recorded, and communicated in a manner that protects student confidentiality.
 - Ms. Rosenberger noted that the revised requirements should be specifically communicated to the District's physical education teachers and school nurses, as well as any other personnel responsible for collecting or using BMI information.
- ❖ Administration will ensure that appropriate staff members are made aware of the confidentiality requirements.

Policy 246 – School Wellness

- ❖ Dr. Rasmus reviewed Policy 246 – School Wellness and its relationship to the earlier discussion regarding the Wellness Committee. The policy establishes expectations for the District's nutrition and wellness program, including federal and state nutrition requirements, nutrition guidelines, physical education and physical activity opportunities, K–12 wellness education, Wellness Committee responsibilities, public reporting, and periodic assessment of the District's wellness program.
- ❖ Dr. Rasmus recommended that the District complete its required triennial assessment/review during the current school year.
 - Administration also discussed the need to review and expand wellness and nutrition information available through the District website.
- ❖ Mr. Hemsarth requested additional review of language providing that: "District food service personnel shall review and implement research-based..."
 - The Committee discussed language regarding the promotion of healthy eating and the use of research-based practices within the cafeteria.

246-AR-2

- ❖ The Committee reached 246-AR-2 in its review but stopped just after. The Committee will resume its review with the remaining policies and administrative regulations at a future meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

The Committee adjourned the meeting at 6:01 pm.

Chelsea Rosenberger
Board Recording Secretary