

**MILAN AREA SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
Wednesday June 4, 2025
MINUTES**

The regular meeting of the Milan Area Schools Board of Education was called to order in the Milan Area Schools District Board Room located at 100 Big Red Drive, Milan MI, 48160, by President Cislo at 7:00 p.m. on June 4, 2025.

Board Members Present: Cislo, Faro, Gutierrez, Burdette, Meray, Prior, Heikka

Board Members Absent: None

Signed in Staff: Bryan Girbach, Ryan McMahon, Krista Hendrix, Anne Foor, Luanne Latocki, Julie Oxley-Mossburg, Nichole McDaniel Kuenzel, Clara Thiry, Jay Bleifeld, Tracy Terris, Margaret Durkee, Kyle McIntosh, Sierra Moran, Cassidy Shettenhelm, Julz Meray

Signed in Guests: Rob Dietzel, Ashley St. Clair, Denice Lopez, Anthony Lopez, Ryleigh Lopez, Ryan Cagle, Leann Maziarz, John Terris, Ben Elliott, Kayleigh Elliott, Matt Slavicek, Sheena Slavicek, Rachel Gritt, Cam Gibbons, Danielle Hoover, Kirk DeMars

Pledge of Allegiance

Motion by Gutierrez supported by Heikka to thank Jay Bleifeld, Julie Mossburg, Luanne Latocki, Anne Foor, Nichole Kuenzel, Clara Thiry, Tracy Terris, Cara Payne, and Bryan Girbach for their service to Milan Area Schools. All Ayes. Carried 7-0

Public Comment:

- Cal Kirchen presented a formal Congressional commendation for Superintendent Girbach, highlighting his 33 years of service, including 17 as superintendent.
- Danielle Hoover, parent of 2 students, thanked Mr. Girbach for his leadership and teachers in the district. She also thanked the district for regularly replacing American flags.
- Andrea Bennink, speaking as a parent, thanked Luann Latocki for supporting her son, and wished her well in retirement. She also thanked the Sex Education Advisory Board and Ms. Kuenzel for seeking an appropriate curriculum for special education students.
- Ryan Cagle shared concerns about his daughters' school experiences, and shared support for Ms. Moran.
- Sheena Slavicek shared concerns about her daughter's school experience, and shared support for Ms. Moran.
- Leanne Maziarz shared her support for Ms. Moran.
- Kirk DeMars shared his support for Ms. Moran.
- Denise Lopez shared her support for Ms. Moran.
- Melissa DeMars shared her support for Ms. Moran.
- Rachel Gritt shared her support for Ms. Moran, and information from a petition she circulated on Ms. Moran's behalf.
- Ryleigh Lopez shared her support for Ms. Moran.
- Kaelyn Cagle shared her support for Ms. Moran.
- Lilah Ritz shared her support for Ms. Moran.
- Bailey Maziarz shared her support for Ms. Moran.

Motion by Prior supported by Burdette to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of May 20, 2025. All Ayes. Carried 7-0

Motion by Burdette supported by Heikka to approve the bills/reimbursement of expenses. All Ayes. Carried 7-0

Motion by Faro supported by Gutierrez to approve the 2025-2026 MHSAA Membership Resolution as included in Attachment A. All Ayes. Carried 7-0

The Board heard the First Reading of the 2025-2026 Board Meeting Dates as included in Attachment B

Motion by Faro supported by Burdette to approve the 2024-2025 General Fund Budget Amendment as presented in Attachment C. All Ayes. Carried 7-0

Motion by Prior supported by Heikka to approve the 2024-2025 Debt Funds Budget Amendment as presented in Attachment D. All Ayes. Carried 7-0

Motion by Heikka supported by Gutierrez to approve the 2024-2025 Food Service Budget Amendment as presented in Attachment E. All Ayes. Carried 7-0

Motion by Heikka supported by Faro to approve the 2024-2025 Student/School Activities Budget Amendment as presented in Attachment F. All Ayes. Carried 7-0

Motion by Heikka supported by Meray to approve the 2025-2026 General Fund Preliminary Budget as presented in Attachment G. All Ayes. Carried 7-0

Motion by Prior supported by Burdette to approve the 2025-2026 Debt Funds Preliminary Budget as presented in Attachment H. All Ayes. Carried 7-0

Motion by Faro supported by Meray to approve the 2025-2026 Sinking Fund Preliminary Budget as presented in Attachment I. All Ayes. Carried 7-0

Motion by Burdette supported by Gutierrez to approve the 2025-2026 Food Service Preliminary Budget as presented in Attachment J. All Ayes. Carried 7-0

Motion by Faro supported by Gutierrez to approve the 2025-2026 Student/School Activity Funds Preliminary Budget as presented in Attachment K. All Ayes. Carried 7-0

Motion by Faro supported by Gutierrez to approve the 2025-2026 General Appropriations Act as presented in Attachment L. All Ayes. Carried 7-0

Motion by Heikka supported by Meray to approve the Sex Education Advisory Board recommendation as provided in Attachment M2. All Ayes. Carried 7-0

Motion by Prior supported by Gutierrez to approve the 2025-2026 Sex Education Advisory Board Membership and Co-Chairs as provided in Attachment N. All Ayes. Carried 7-0

Motion by Meray supported by Burdette to approve Codi Benjamin as the Paddock Elementary School Behavior Specialist effective for the 2025-2026 school year. All Ayes. Carried 7-0

Motion by Faro supported by Gutierrez to approve the Superintendent's Contract for Ryan McMahon as provided in Attachment O. All Ayes. Carried 7-0

Motion by Faro supported by Gutierrez to approve the Administrative Salary Schedule as provided in Attachment P. All Ayes. Carried 7-0

Motion by Faro supported by Prior to approve Jennifer Bookout as the Assistant Superintendent effective July 1, 2025. All Ayes. Carried 7-0

Motion by Cislo supported by Faro to enter into recess.
All Ayes. Carried 7-0

Entered into recess at 9:12 p.m.

Returned from recess at 9:39 p.m.

Motion by Faro supported by Prior to non-renew Sierra Moran's probationary teacher contract in accordance with the resolution read by President Cislo.
Carried 5-2 (Gutierrez - No, Heikka - No)

Public Comment:

- Kaelyn Cagle shared concerns about her sister's experience at school and administration.
- Ryan Cagle shared his views about the Board's decision regarding Ms. Moran.
- Kirk DeMars wished Mr. McMahon well in his new position, and shared his opinion about the Board's decision regarding Ms. Moran.

Student Board Member Comments: None

Assistant Superintendent Comments were heard on the following topics:

- Reading Curriculum Grant and Vendor Contracts
- Retiree Thank You
- Welcome Mrs. Ignagni to Paddock Principalship

Superintendent Comments were heard on the following topics:

- Senior Honors Night
- Choir Concert
- MHS Graduation
- Young Adult Graduation
- Pre-School Graduation
- Announced 5th Grade Recognition Ceremony
- Announces 8th Grade Recognition Night
- Thanked Everyone for the Sip to the Supe Retirement Celebration
- Congratulated Mr. McMahon and Mrs. Bookout
- Thanked Nichole Kuenzel for her Contributions to the Sex Education Advisory Board

Board Member Comments:

- Prior congratulated retirees and graduates, and shared ways to be involved in the community by volunteering over the summer. She encouraged continued paraprofessional training as well as continuing the WISD Para Bootcamp.
- Gutierrez offered congratulations to all graduates and retirees. She shared a personal story and thanks to Clara Thiry, and thanked staff for their deep care and the relationships they

create with students. She gave an update on the WISD Board election, and echoed the request for continued paraprofessional training opportunities to be offered by the WISD such as the Paraprofessional Bootcamp, as well as at the district level. In a follow-up comment, she acknowledged the students who spoke at the podium for their courage to advocate before the board and share their perspectives.

- Heikka offered congratulations to Mr. McMahon on his appointment as Superintendent. She also congratulated Ms. Bookout on her promotion to Assistant Superintendent. She congratulated graduates, encouraging them to return to Milan in the future. She wished everyone a safe summer and encouraged reading over the summer. She requested a clarification about the ELA curriculum from Mr. McMahon. Additionally, she thanked the community for sharing their input at the meeting. Finally, she thanked all retirees for their service to the district, and the care they show to students, specifically sharing stories about Ms. Payne and Ms. Thiry.
- Faro apologized for missing graduation, and thanked board colleagues for attending. He commended the ceremony and wished seniors the best. He also thanked retirees for their many years of service and their immeasurable contributions. He congratulated Jennifer Bookout and Ryan McMahon for their appointments to their new positions and expressed confidence in their leadership. He thanked Mr. Cislo and Dr. Gutierrez for their work on the Personnel Committee. He concluded by wishing everyone a restful summer.
- Burdette thanked and congratulated retirees, and commended the graduation ceremony. He noted his positive experience attending the Young Adult Program graduation, and his experience volunteering at the High School Grill and Chill event.
- Meray added her thanks and congratulations to all retirees and shared a personal story about Ms. Thiry. She also shared congratulations to all graduates, and commended the ceremony and commencement speakers for their thoughtful addresses. She reiterated Dr. Gutierrez's thoughts about expanding opportunities like Paraprofessional Bootcamp both at the WISD and within the district. She closed by noting how the Federal Department of Labor decision to abruptly end Job Corp programs across the state and country is impacting students within Washtenaw County and urged voter advocacy for education.
- Cislo thanked the retirees for their service and all they've given to Milan Area Schools. He acknowledged those who spoke during public comment and thanked them for their respectful dialogue. He offered congratulations to all graduates and commended them for representing Milan well. He wished the community a great summer, noting that the board will have lots of important hiring work to do over the summer as the district moves into its next chapter.

Time of Adjournment: 10:17 p.m.