MILAN AREA SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
Wednesday June 25, 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 25, 2025.

Board Members Present:

Board Members Absent: None

Signed in Staff: Bryan Girbach, Ryan McMahon, Krista Hendrix, Sara Beckman, Margaret Durkee, Mary Hagley

Signed in Guests: Larry Biederman, Sean Meyer, Melissa Brown, Laylah Hagley, Ethan Hagley, Denise Williams, Karen Lambert

Pledge of Allegiance

Public Comment: None

Motion by Heikka supported by Burdette to approve the minutes of the budget hearing of June 4, 2025. All Ayes. Carried 7-0

Motion by Heikka supported by Prior to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of June 4, 2025. All Ayes. Carried 7-0

Motion by Faro supported by Gutierrez to approve the 2025-2026 Board Meeting Dates as detailed in Attachment A. All Ayes. Carried 7-0

The Board held a discussion regarding the 2025-2026 Big Red Chat Dates

Motion by Prior supported by Burdette to authorize borrowing up to $2,100,000 against anticipated state aid for the 2025-2026 fiscal year as specified in the borrowing resolution included as Attachment B. All Ayes. Carried 7-0

Motion by Meray supported by Heikka to repeal and adopt Board policies as described in Attachment C. All Ayes. Carried 7-0

Motion by Faro supported by Heikka to approve Mary Hagley as a Kindergarten teacher, Jill Wodowski as a 5th Grade Teacher Consultant, Sara Vaughn as a 6th-7th Grade Resource Room Teacher, and Daniella Fay as a 7th Grade Science teacher effective for the 2025-2026 school year. All Ayes. Carried 7-0

Motion by Prior supported by Gutierrez to approve Sara Beckman as the Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent and Board effective July 1, 2025, and furthermore to approve the salary schedule included in Attachment D as an amendment to the Non-Affiliated Salary Schedules approved on November 11, 2024. All Ayes. Carried 7-0

Motion by Gutierrez supported by Meray to approve Dan Douglas as the Director of Buildings and Grounds effective immediately, and furthermore to approve the salary schedule included in Attachment E as an amendment to the Non-Affiliated Salary Schedules approved on November 11, 2024. Motion failed 4-3. (No Votes by Burdette, Prior, Heikka, Faro)

The District Communication Committee presented to the Board their Communication Plan as in Attachment F.

Public Comment: None

Assistant Superintendent Comments were heard on the following topics:

- Literacy grant application update
- Potential upcoming curriculum purchase
- Development of the new district branding
- Thanks to Anne Foor for her support
- Thanks to Mr. Girbach for his years of service and compassionate leadership

Superintendent Comments were heard on the following topics:

- Smooth end to the school year
- Leadership transition progress
- Passing of Allison Davis's mother
- Farewell address, reflecting on 33 years of service, with thanks to family, colleagues, and community.

Board Member Comments were heard on the following topics:

- Prior thanked Mr. Girbach for his support and congratulated him on his retirement. She expressed gratitude to the communications committee and suggested more board involvement in community activities. She also mentioned upcoming sports fundraisers and wished everyone a good summer.
- Heikka raised a concern about the pool's humidity and blowers. She thanked the communications committee members for their hard work and dedication. She praised Mr. Girbach for his long-term commitment and for leading with his heart.
- Faro thanked the communications committee and congratulated Sara Beckman on her new role. He also offered specific thanks to Anne Foor for her professionalism and assistance. He expressed deep gratitude for Mr. Girbach, recalling how impressed he was with the district's positive atmosphere when first moving to the area and attributing his children's success to his leadership.
- Burdette thanked Mr. Girbach for his service and congratulated the newly hired teachers and Ms. Beckman. He also thanked the communication committee for their presentation and wished everyone a happy and safe summer.
- Gutierrez thanked the communications committee for their efforts and shared her delight in receiving thank-you cards from scholarship recipients. She congratulated Ms. Bookout on her new position, noted that contract talks with the MEA have begun, and asked about the release of the school calendar. She concluded by thanking Mr. Girbach for his outstanding leadership, particularly during the pandemic.
- Meray congratulated the new staff members and offered detailed thanks to the communications committee. She promoted the Milan Library's summer programs and called for the community to contact state lawmakers to demand finalizing of the overdue education budget, noting that the uncertainty harms school districts' ability to plan

effectively. She ended with a heartfelt thanks to Mr. Girbach, noting he leads with his heart and that she is a better educator from having worked under his leadership.

- Cislo echoed concerns about the overdue state education budget, noting the difficulty of engaging in contract negotiations without an accurate budget. He also thanked the communications committee for their work and recommendations. He also shared thanks to Anne Foor for her years of service and support to the Board. He congratulated new staff and welcomed Sara Beckman to her position. He then thanked Mr. Girbach for his years of service, friendship, and mentorship. He shared a story about Mr. Girbach washing the high school softball team's uniforms during a state tournament as a perfect example of his character and willingness to do anything for the students.

Motion by Heikka supported by Burdette to enter into closed session pursuant to Section 8(1)(c) of the Michigan Open Meetings Act for Negotiation Strategies. All Ayes. Carried 7-0

Time entered closed session 8:47 p.m.

Time returned to open session 10:01p.m.

Time of Adjournment: 10:01p.m.