

**MILAN AREA SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
WEDNESDAY, August 27, 2025
MINUTES**

The regular meeting of the Milan Area Schools Board of Education was called to order in the District Office Boardroom located at 100 Big Red Drive, Milan MI, 48160, by President Cislo at 7:00 p.m. on August 27, 2025.

Board Members Present: Faro, Gutierrez, Heikka, Meray, Prior, Cislo and Burdette arriving at 7:36 p.m.

Board Members Absent:

Staff Present: Ryan McMahon, Jen Bookout, Margaret Durkee and Sara Beckman

Guests Present:

Pledge of Allegiance

Public Comments: None

Motion by Faro supported by Prior to approve the Directors' Salary Schedule as provided in Attachment A. All Ayes. Carried 6-0.

Motion by Heikka supported by Gutierrez to approve Gary Cox as the Director of Building and Grounds effective for the 2025-2026 school year. All Ayes. Carried 6-0.

Paddock Building Update:

- Paddock was able to open and start school as planned, despite the setback last week with the mold remediation.
- Our custodians are trained to clean small amounts of mold as found. This happens often in the summer as carpets are cleaned and take a longer time to fully dry. We found mold in a few areas, although it was more prevalent in areas that are used less often in the summer, and it was treated with normal procedures.
- The power outage on July 29th in this area knocked out our network for 26 hours which controls our HVAC settings and, as a result, the buildings experienced elevated temperatures and humidity during this time. The buildings' climate settings were regulated by July 31st.
- Following this episode, our staff reported more mold than usual, so on August 11th, we decided to hire a professional testing company to investigate.
- On August 15th, we received results that showed elevated levels, specifically in areas of the building that were not being used during the summer.
- We determined it could be circulating in the HVAC system, so we decided to remediate the entire building.

- By the morning of August 16th, we received several quotes: \$300,000 is the quote we went with and that is what got it done for us to start school on time.
- Work started on a Sunday morning and ended Thursday evening. Final testing happened Friday morning and results came back Friday afternoon and staff was back in the building Friday afternoon.
- The mold was remediated and the HVAC system fixed. Met with several companies to adjust the humidity.
- Excited to have everyone back. Thank you to our staff, all of those who did extra work. Administrators, principals, teachers, custodians, and maintenance workers. Thank you to staff and parents for being flexible. Thank you to families for all of the support.

Public Comments: None

Assistant Superintendent's Comments were heard on the following topics:

- Mrs. Bookout was able to visit all 4 buildings and witnessed great things in all of the buildings. It was great to see teachers greeting and interacting with students. Also want to acknowledge all of the hard work in buildings and grounds, maintenance, food service, teachers, and paraprofessionals for making a strong start to the school year.

Superintendent's Comments were heard on the following topics:

- Mr. McMahon welcomed everyone back from a long and busy summer.
- Mr. McMahon thanked Mrs. Bookout for planning and having a great opening day and PD days. In all of Mrs. Bookout's hard work is formalizing processes and Mrs. Bookout and the teachers deserve a lot of credit.
- CTE millage is coming up and absentee voting starts in September and the election is in November. Mr. McMahon shared more information to come on the CTE millage.

Board Member Comments:

- Cislo: Thanked board members for attending Open House and Mr. Faro for providing tents for Paddock's open house, as well as the community volunteers who regularly help maintain the grounds at Paddock. He noted concerns about the Michigan education budget and its potential impact on the district.
- Prior: Shared about attending the MASB Summer Institute and taking 5 courses. She shared information learned about recent changes in school law. She thanked all who contributed to the Paddock clean-up efforts and welcomed everyone back for the new school year.
- Heikka: Welcomed everyone back to school and noted the smooth transition. She thanked the entire staff of Milan Area Schools for their efforts in getting the district ready to start. She also thanked staff for their hard work with the Paddock clean-up, and recognized the administrative team, parents, and families for their flexibility. She praised the success of the Paddock Open House in light of the challenges. She announced the creation of a Dance Club at Milan High School, and congratulated the MHS Swim Team on achieving many state cuts already. She closed with concerns about the state education budget, noting the potential impact of a government shutdown and the inequities that could result from the House proposal.

- Faro: Thanked the administration for their prompt remediation of the Paddock mold issue, as well as staff and families for their help and flexibility during a stressful time. He added praise for the success of the Paddock Open House. He welcomed everyone back to school, and specifically thanked the administration and custodial teams for their professionalism. He noted the importance of student attendance on the upcoming fall count day, October 1st and its impact on district funding. He closed by noting that employee groups do not have approved contracts or bargaining agreements due to the delay in the state budget process.
- Gutierrez: Welcomed everyone back for the new school year and noted a new and positive energy felt across the district. She shared gratitude for the administration's efforts with the Paddock mold remediation and praised the focus on safety and health of our community. She also shared about attending the MASB Summer Institute, including a session on branding and marketing. She closed by echoing concerns regarding the state budget and encouraged the community to continue to contact representatives.
- Meray: She welcomed everyone back to school and noted the positive energy throughout the district. She thanked the administration for their tireless efforts with the Paddock mold remediation, and praised the clear communication with both the Board and the community. She also thanked the Paddock staff and families for their adaptability. She discussed the Washtenaw County CTE millage, and how the millage would support addressing the inequities of access to Career Technical Education. She encouraged the community to read about the millage at washtenawisd.org and thoughtfully consider that millage. She closed by encouraging families to get students enrolled in the MyFutureFund free savings account.
- Cislo: Shared about the invitation to junior class seeking a junior student board representative noting that Ms. Heikka will continue as the senior student board representative. He reminded the community about the upcoming Big Red Board Chat in the Symons Auditorium on 9-23-25 from 6:30-8pm. He closed by expressing appreciation for the hard work of staff and wishing everyone a restful long weekend.

Motion by Meray supported by Heikka 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 at 7:37p.m.

Time returned to open session at 8:52 p.m.

Time of Adjournment 8:52 p.m.