

**MILAN AREA SCHOOLS  
BOARD OF EDUCATION  
REGULAR MEETING  
WEDNESDAY, September 10, 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 September 10, 2025.

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

Board Members Absent: Prior

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

Guests Present: Andrea Bennink, Sarah Norton, Brittany Simmons

Pledge of Allegiance

Andrew Cislo offered an amendment for the meeting agenda, to remove the item WISD PAC Update and to add the item Board Discussion Concerning the Delays to the FY 2025-26 Michigan School Aid Fund Budget. Motion by Faro supported by Burdette to approve the agenda amendment as presented by President Cislo. All Ayes. Carried 6-0

Public Comments: None

Motion by Heikka supported by Gutierrez to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of August 27, 2025. All Ayes. Carried 6-0

Motion by Heikka supported by Faro to approve the minutes of the regular meeting closed session of August 27, 2025. All Ayes. Carried 6-0

Motion by Heikka supported by Faro to approve the minutes of the special meeting of August 27, 2025. All Ayes. Carried 6-0

Motion by Gutierrez supported by Heikka to approve the minutes of the special meeting closed session of August 27, 2025. All Ayes. Carried 6-0

Motion by Burdette supported by Heikka to approve the bills/reimbursement of expenses. All Ayes. Carried 6-0

Superintendent McMahon shared a presentation highlighting his plans and goals for the upcoming year, as illustrated in Attachment A. Mr. McMahon also shared a draft of formal goals for the year. The Board provided feedback and Mr. McMahon will provide an update on his goals at a future meeting.

President Cislo shared a draft resolution titled “Concerning Delays to the FY 2025-26 Michigan School Aid Fund Budget.” The Board discussed the draft resolution and potential amendments.

Motion by Faro supported by Gutierrez to amend the language in the third paragraph of the draft resolution from “Whereas, local school districts in Michigan are required by law to pass their own budgets for the upcoming school year by July 1” to “Whereas, local school districts in Michigan are required by law to pass their own budgets for the upcoming school year by June 30.” All Ayes. Carried 6-0.

Motion by Gutierrez supported by Faro to amend the language in the ninth paragraph of the draft resolution from “Whereas, every ongoing delay in funding certainty has already impacted our ability to plan and effectively support our students in the upcoming school year” to “Whereas, every ongoing delay in funding certainty has already impacted our ability to plan and effectively support our students in the current school year.” All Ayes. Carried 6-0.

Motion by Faro supported by Gutierrez to approve resolution titled “Concerning Delays to the FY 2025-26 Michigan School Aid Fund Budget”, as read by President Cislo, and included in the minutes as Attachment B. All Ayes. Carried 6-0.

#### Public Comments:

- Brittany Simmons: Expressed concern about bullying and proposed that schools implement parent coaching groups to teach conflict resolution. She shared personal stories about bullying and thanked the resource officer for his support.
- Andrea Bennink: Speaking as a parent, she praised Mr. McMahon for addressing the implementation of the Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS). She asked questions about staff professional development, particularly for co-teaching and lesson modifications. She also inquired about streamlining data collection to provide timely support to students and about using AI to modify curriculum.

#### Assistant Superintendent’s Comments were heard on the following topics:

- Mrs. Bookout thanked Ms. Bennink for her questions regarding MTSS.
- Mrs. Bookout gave a Spring MSTEP update. Big picture, grade levels performed at or above state level. She expressed continued focus on improvement.
- CKLA feedback from teachers has been very positive and student engaging.

#### Superintendent’s Comments were heard on the following topics:

- Superintendent McMahon provided an update on the impact of not having an approved State budget. Mr. McMahon shared that without an approved budget, the district is extremely limited in being able to forward plans for our staff and students. From not being able to continue the Free-Meals-For-All program after September 30, to being hamstrung on making essential purchases, and to our inability to productively engage in contract discussions with our stakeholders, the absence of a budget from the state is beyond just extraordinarily challenging. Mr. McMahon encouraged the district

stakeholders to contact their legislative representatives to urge them to look beyond political differences and get a budget approved without haste.

- Superintendent McMahon shared a reminder with the community the importance of their participation in the upcoming election on Nov. 4 and the important issue of the CTE millage. Please visit the WISD website for valuable information about the resources that could be made available through this millage vote.
- Superintendent McMahon shared that the district received a letter of resignation this week. Elementary Music teacher, C.J. Brooks has taken a position in another district. We have posted the position and will be filling it with a qualified candidate as soon as possible. Mr. Brooks' last day will be Friday, September 19.
- Superintendent McMahon shared with the Board that he attended his first Milan FCI Community Relations Board meeting this week. It was great to connect with the various departments as well as the community guests, to discuss the positive connections between the FCI and the greater community.
- Superintendent McMahon shared that our new Director of Buildings and Grounds, Gary Cox, started on Monday and is already making the rounds getting to learn our facilities and making connections with our stakeholders.

#### Board Member Comments:

- Cislo: Announced a "Big Red Board Chat" on Tuesday, September 23 at 6:30 p.m. at Symons Auditorium. He also noted that the deadline to find the next Junior student representative is this Friday.
- Faro: Shared that October 1st is student count day and emphasized the importance of student attendance for funding. He thanked administrators for their helpful newsletters. Announced that the homecoming parade is on Friday, October 3rd, and the football game will be at 7:00 p.m. against SMCC. He also requested a document detailing the district's standardized testing schedule be shared with the board and community.
- Burdette: Thanked administrators for their newsletters, which he believes have greatly improved communication across school buildings. He praised the new high school newsletter and the district's website, noting the new interactive features. He also applauded the social media presence for creating a "buzz" around school activities.
- Gutierrez: Praised the schools for their transparent communication and acknowledged staff who attend student events outside of school. She specifically thanked three teachers—Mr. Hawkins, Mr. McIntosh, and Mr. Vokey—for attending a middle school volleyball game and teaching students about good sportsmanship. Highlighted the importance of Career and Technical Education (CTE) and expressed appreciation for Mr. McMahon's focus on helping students think about their future careers from a young age. She also clarified that while universal free lunch ends on September 30th, students who qualify for the free and reduced lunch program will continue to receive it. She then expressed appreciation for the MSTEP results and thanked the staff for their work.
- Meray: Thanked Mr. Brooks for his service and wished him well in his new role. She acknowledged the Washtenaw Intermediate School District (WISD) for providing a communication toolkit for the CTE millage and urged voters to find more information on their website. She thanked the district's communications team for sending timely and clear

emails to families about the CTE millage and MyFutureFund enrollment. She thanked the board for their work passing a resolution regarding the state budget, noted that there are 14 business days remaining until a potential government shutdown, and urged lawmakers to complete the budget process.

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 6-0.

Time entered closed session at 8:34 p.m.

Time returned to open session at 9:34 p.m.

Time of Adjournment 9:35 p.m.