

**MILAN AREA SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
WEDNESDAY, October 8, 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 October 8, 2025.

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

Board Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Ryan, McMahon, Jennifer Bookout, David Middlin, Mary Hagley, Codi Benjamin, Daniela Fay and Sara Beckman

Guests Present: Dan Merritt

Pledge of Allegiance

Introduction of New Teachers: Christopher West, Codi Benjamin, Jill Wodowski, Sara Vaughn, Mary Hagley, Daniella Fay, Abaigeal Collins, Joshua Nowak, Noah Penrose and Thomas Wall

Motion by Faro supported by Meray to thank the Milan Area Schools Administrators as recorded in Attachment A. All Ayes. Carried 7-0.

Public Comments: None

Motion by Burdette supported by Prior to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of September 24, 2025. All Ayes. Carried 7-0.

Motion by Gutierrez supported by Heikka to approve the minutes of the regular meeting closed session of September 24, 2025. All Ayes. Carried 7-0.

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

Motion by Meray supported by Faro to approve the Milan Area Schools 2025-2026 Course Offerings as detailed in Attachment B. All Ayes. Carried 7-0.

Motion by Prior supported by Gutierrez to approve the 2026 Resolution to Levy Summer Taxes as included in Attachment C. All Ayes. Carried 7-0.

Motion by Faro supported by Burdette to approve Brian Altevogt as the Paddock and Symons Elementary Music Teacher effective October 3, 2025. All Ayes. Carried 7-0.

The Board heard the First Reading of the 2024 Annual Audit from Daniel Clark of Rehmann as included in Attachment D

The Board heard an update on the newly approved State Aid Budget.

Public Comments: None

Student Board Member Comments:

- Virginia Heikka: Homecoming was a success and everyone enjoyed it. Thank you to all the teacher volunteers.

Assistant Superintendent Comments:

- Our Section 41 report has been submitted. This is the annual report that documents how we use state bilingual education funds to support English Language Learners. This report is an important accountability piece that helps ensure continued funding for our multilingual learners.
- In addition, our *Consolidated Application* has been submitted. Normally, this is completed earlier in the summer, but the federal government delayed the release of some of the Title funds that had already been allocated. We're glad those funds have now been released to us. Through this application, we've submitted Title II, Part A and Title IV, which continue to fund our literacy coach position at Paddock, and Title III, which also supports our English Language Learners.
- Mrs. Bookout was very excited to share that the Milan Middle School received a *School and Community Habitat Grant* from the Washtenaw County Conservation District. This grant will support the creation of a pollinator garden in the middle school courtyard. It's a wonderful opportunity for students to engage in hands-on learning and support local pollinator populations. I'd like to thank Jenny Croze for her work on sponsoring this project and the Milan FFA Alumni who pitched in this summer to clear the existing space and get it ready for the garden.
- Finally, Mrs. Bookout had an update to the district summative assessment calendar that I shared with the board at Mr. Faro's request. The state of Michigan recently made two changes to the required spring assessments. For our 11th-grade students, the *ACT WorkKeys* assessment has been replaced with the *WIN Work Ready Assessment*. While both measure essential workplace skills, the WIN assessment is designed specifically around Michigan's Career Readiness Standards. In addition, the *SAT/PSAT testing window* has been expanded from three weeks to four weeks, giving schools more flexibility in scheduling.

Superintendent Comments:

- Superintendent McMahon acknowledged the successful and event-filled Homecoming Week last week. All four buildings were filled with spirit all week and the pep assembly, parade, and halftime festivities were awesome. It's always a great week to be a Big Red, but Homecoming Week is always a little extra special for our district and community.
- Superintendent McMahon shared that this week is recognized as Mental Health Awareness Week. I would encourage our parents to review the school newsletters for resources acknowledging our support for mental health well-being and helping us focus on the whole-child aspect of our programming.
- Superintendent McMahon thanked the PTO for organizing the Paddock and Symons Fall Fest last week. I was not able to attend, but heard nothing but great reports from the event and that it was well-attended. We appreciate the PTO for all their work to support and enhance our schools.
- Superintendent McMahon re-emphasized the passing of the School Aid budget. While there are certainly pros and cons to the budget, we are grateful that we can at least move forward with an understanding of our funding for the year, despite being 20% into the year. Also, thanks to the students and parents for their patience with the Free Meals for All delayed decision. We are glad to be able to provide a free breakfast and lunch for every student, every day.
- Superintendent McMahon shared a reminder of the upcoming CTE millage election on November 4 and encouraged the community to visit the WISD website to access information about the election to inform their decision. Mr. McMahon also reminded the community that the CTE millage is geared to elevate CTE experiences for all students PreK-12, by creating opportunities for our younger learners to wonder and gain awareness of career opportunities and learner profiles as well as promoting the exploration and preparation for our older students.
- Superintendent McMahon thanked Krista Hendrix for all the work she put into executing a successful financial audit process.
- Superintendent McMahon encouraged the Big Reds community to keep the school spirit rolling. Our Fall athletic seasons are starting to wind down and there are only a handful of more opportunities to come see the Big Reds in action for the Fall season.

Board Member Comments:

- Cislo: Extended appreciation to the community for participating in activities, noting the school is the center of the community. Echoed thanks for the administrator newsletters, which are well done and appreciated by the Board. Announced the FCI graduation is scheduled for Wednesday, November 5th, and reminded members to submit their participation forms.
- Prior: Praised Homecoming as a great event. Highlighted upcoming events: the final football game and the FFA Hog Roast on Friday, encouraging attendance to support

fundraising for the National FFA Conference. Thanked the community for the success of the GMACF Philanthropy Playoffs, which raised approximately \$38,000 to start a new scholarship. Commented that the state budget was enacted three months late and noted that certain funding requirements may create challenges for school districts. Encouraged citizens to contact their legislators regarding the budget process beginning in May for the next fiscal year.

- Heikka: Thanked everyone who marched in the parade, especially administrators for their strong attendance. Shared positive parental feedback regarding the new middle school principal (Mr. Middlin), noting positive momentum, student connections, and immediate familiarity with students. Praised the inclusive atmosphere at the Homecoming Pep Rally, noting student support for peers demonstrated that the district's inclusive education efforts are successful. She thanked Ms. Gill and Ms. Mahaney for their efforts for the event. Congratulated the swim team for winning the county meet. Thanked Ms. Hendrix for the clean audit, acknowledging her professional expertise. Addressed the Governor's letter regarding free lunches during the budget impasse, stating the district was forced to make a difficult financial decision due to the lack of a state budget. Also announced the Dance Team will perform at halftime on Friday.
- Faro: Extended specific appreciation to Ms. Hendrix for her professionalism and promptness, noting the clean audit is a testament to her hard work. Raised a concern regarding the need to review increasing health insurance costs carefully in the coming year to determine necessary adjustments. Shared information about the upcoming PSAT testing on Wednesday, October 15th, for grades 9-11. Thanked the district for the opportunity to attend the MASB conference for professional development. Congratulated the Milan soccer team for winning their district match. Praised Mr. Middlin for his community presence and positive interaction with students.
- Burdette: Echoed praise and thanks for Ms. Hendrix's professional service. Enjoyed the homecoming parade and pep rally, specifically calling the dance team and cheerleaders "incredible." Expressed interest in following the district's teams in upcoming state tournaments.
- Gutierrez: Reiterated thanks to Ms. Hendrix for the consistent and flawless audits, noting they provide a sense of calmness regarding the district's financial health during recent state budget uncertainties.
- Meray: Apologized for missing Homecoming. Thanked Ms. Hendrix for her effective communication and work, noting she appreciates the education she provides to the Board and community. Thanked Miss Croze and the FFA alumni for securing a grant to create a pollinator garden in the courtyard at the middle school. Welcomed the new elementary music teacher, Mr. Altevogt. Thanked Sara Beckman for organizing the MASB conference and travel. Expressed concern over the 20% cut to adult education funding in the state budget and noted the ongoing structural issue of K-12 budget funds being directed to higher education, stating this forces the two sectors to lobby against one another. Wished the 6th-9th grade singers a successful weekend at the MSVMA Honors Choir event. Re-welcomed Mr. Middlin to the community and district staff.
- Cislo: Added gratitude and praise for Sara Beckman.
- Heikka: Added a reminder about the new Dance Team performing at the next football game.

Motion by Heikka supported by Prior 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 8:35 a.m.

Time returned to open session 10:22 p.m.

Time of Adjournment 10:22 p.m.