

**MILAN AREA SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
WEDNESDAY, October 29, 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 29, 2025.

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

Board Members Absent: Heikka

Staff Present: Ryan, McMahon, Jennifer Bookout, Margarete Durkee and Phillip Hayes

Guests Present: None

Pledge of Allegiance

Public Comments: None

Motion by Prior supported by Burdette to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of October 8, 2025. All Ayes. Carried 6-0.

Motion by Gutierrez supported by Faro to approve the minutes of the regular meeting closed session of October 8, 2025. All Ayes. Carried 6-0.

Motion by Faro supported by Burdette to accept the 2025 Annual Audit as presented in Attachment A. All Ayes. Carried 6-0.

Motion by Prior supported by Meray to approve the PowerSchool Litigation Resolution (as listed in Attachment B). All Ayes. Carried 6-0.

Motion by Gutierrez supported by Meray to approve the FCI Graduates (as listed in Attachment C) contingent upon their completion of all graduation requirements. All Ayes. Carried 6-0.

Motion by Faro supported by Burdette to approve Phillip Hayes as a Milan Middle School PE Teacher effective October 29, 2025. All Ayes. Carried 6-0.

Public Comments: None

Student Board Member Comments:

- Ms Heikka - Swim Prelims this week starting Thursday going through Saturday. Thursday Dive Prelims for Huron league. Friday is Swim prelims and Saturday are the finals.

- Unified Soccer has 2 more games left and Ms Heikka encouraged everyone to check out the Unified Soccer program and the Unified Basketball program once that starts.
- The Dance Team has tryouts this Sunday 11/2 that starts at 3:00 p.m.
- Ms Lozen - Volleyball V, JV has a tri starting at 5:00 p.m., tomorrow Thursday 10/30. Districts start on Monday 11/3 and MAS is hosting this year.
- The Odd Couple fall play 11/20 4:00 p.m., 21st at 4pm and 11/22 at 2:00 p.m.

Assistant Superintendent Comments:

- Mrs. Bookout started by reminding families that Parent-Teacher Conferences are being held tonight and again on Thursday afternoon and evening. Conferences are a great opportunity for our staff and families to connect, celebrate growth, and talk about how we can continue supporting learning at home. We encourage all families to attend and take advantage of that partnership time with teachers.
- Our first *31a At-Risk report for 25-26* has also been submitted to the state. This report identifies students who may need additional support based on factors such as attendance, academic performance, or family circumstances. The percentage of students qualifying across our district increased from 77% last year to 81% this year, which will result in a higher level of state funding next year to help us provide targeted interventions and support services for students.
- Mrs. Book out shared an update on our AI Task Force, which has been an exciting new initiative this fall. The group includes 16 participants—teachers, support staff, and administrators—from all four of our buildings who are exploring the ethical and effective use of artificial intelligence in education. We've partnered with Advanced Learning Partnership through REMC, and I want to thank Sara Meray for helping make this opportunity available to our district at no cost. In mid-October, the team participated in a full day of professional learning, and each member is now working on an individual action research project with ongoing coaching over the next two months. The group will reconvene in December to share their findings and consider how this work can inform future district practices and policy.

Superintendent Comments:

- Superintendent McMahon shared with the Board that he and Gary Cox met with SEC to conduct security audits in each of the buildings yesterday. This company was hired with grant funds three years ago and this was a follow-up visit to check on updates and review current plans.
- Superintendent McMahon shared that he was able to attend the New Superintendents' Meeting, hosted by MDE last week. It was a great day of making connections with staff at the MDE and a chance to share information with other new Superintendents across the State. I did have a chance to invite one of the Deputy Superintendents to visit MAS, which is scheduled for next week.

- Superintendent McMahon reminded stakeholders that the next two school days are half-days due to Parent-Teacher Conferences.
- Superintendent McMahon reminded stakeholders about the important CTE millage vote coming up next Tuesday, Nov. 4th. Please visit the WISD website to access all of the information on the millage, including the enhancement of current programming, the expansion of access to programs, and the development of PreK-12th grade career exploration programs. Superintendent McMahon asked voters to consider the greater impact that this millage could have on the future of our students and our local economy.
- Superintendent McMahon recognized Krista Hendrix for all the work she put into getting the district through another successful financial audit.

Board Member Comments:

Cislo: Thanked the district and community for allowing the Board to attend the Michigan Association of School Boards (MASB) annual conference, and thanked members for attending. He noted attending the Michigan School Attorneys fall conference, as well as 2 CBA courses regarding data and feedback. He shared ideas pertaining to the Big Red Board Chats and potential changes to location such as the Milan Library. He encouraged the community to research the CTE millage and vote on November 4th.

Prior: Shared gratitude for the opportunity to attend the MASB conference and network with other board members. She attended 5 CBA courses on topics including audits, media relations, legislative relations and advocacy, and board self-evaluations. She reiterated the importance of CTE programs, and encouraged attendance at future Big Red Board Chats. She shared about the Dance Team Dine-to-Donate event, and encouraged the community to support neighbors during the SNAP benefits pause.

Faro: Shared his positive experiences attending the MASB conference in person for the first time, noting the session led by George Couros on embracing the nation was meaningful. He also attended sessions on CTE programs, AI in classrooms, facility audits and master planning, legislative updates, employee benefits and healthcare, along with 3 CBA courses. He thanked the community for supporting his attendance.

Burdette: He congratulated the Milan High School Chamber Choir for their participation in the University of Michigan Flint Choir Invitational. He also thanked the community for allowing him to attend his first MASB conference, sharing that his highlights were sessions on board leadership, elections, student advisory councils, fraud risks to schools, and 3 CBA courses regarding data and the state legislature. He shared gratitude for the opportunity to attend and serve with a collaborative board.

Gutierrez: She thanked the community for supporting her attendance at the MASB conference, and noted the value of collaborating with board members across the state. She attended 5 CBA courses regarding labor relations, legislative process, school safety, superintendent relations, and strategic planning. She also highlighted clinic sessions on CTE programs, specifically the new

campus at KRESA in Kalamazoo, as well as the relevance of the strategic planning and safety sessions for our district. She also thanked the staff for their time and effort during parent/teacher conferences, and families for participating. She thanked Elise Hill for her presentation regarding McKinney-Vento eligible families, and encouraged the community to support those who are vulnerable to food insecurity. She highlighted the Full Plates Club at Aid in Milan as one option. She thanked Mrs. Barker and congratulated the National Junior Honor Society (NJHS) inductees, praising students' professionalism while volunteering at the Empty Bowls event. She wished families a fun and safe Halloween weekend.

Meray: Congratulated Milan Middle School for receiving the Dream Big Award from MyFutureFund, and thanked district teams for promoting the program. She encouraged the community to attend the MHS fall show, "The Odd Couple", noting that there are 2 casts performing. She also congratulated the Middle School NJHS inductees, the middle school choirs for their performance at the MSVMA Honors Choir, and the high school Dance Team for their homecoming performance. She also shared highlights from the MASB conference, noting that she participated in 4 CBA courses and several clinic sessions regarding legislative advocacy, equity in AI, and AI policy implementation. She expressed gratitude for the opportunity to attend, especially with 6 out of 7 members. She provided additional information about the AI training provided by ALP, and thanked administrators and teachers who will be serving on the district AI task force. She shared research findings regarding the CTE desert and millage rates in surrounding counties.

Cislo: Added thanks to student board representatives, Ms. Heikka and Ms. Lozen. He clarified several acronyms used; CTE (Career and Technical Education), and CBA (Certified Board Awards). He expressed gratitude for the service and collaboration of the Board, and wished the community a happy Halloween weekend.

Motion by Gutierrez 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 6-0.

Time entered closed session 8:26 p.m.

Time returned to open session 10:05 p.m.

Time of Adjournment 10:05 p.m.