

**MILAN AREA SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
WEDNESDAY, November 12, 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 November 12, 2025.

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

Board Members Absent: Heikka, Gutierrez

Staff Present: Ryan McMahan, Jennifer Bookout, Krista Hendrix, Gen Saylor Margaret Durkee and Sara Beckman

Guests Present:

- Ron Stark

Public Comments:

- Ron Stark requested the review of a book in Milan Middle School Library, citing concerns regarding age-appropriate content.

Motion by Prior supported by Burdette to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of October 29, 2025. All Ayes. Carried 5-0.

Motion by Prior supported by Meray to approve the minutes of the regular meeting closed session of October 29, 2025. All Ayes. Carried 5-0.

Motion by Burdette supported by Faro to approve the bills/reimbursement of expenses. All Ayes. Carried 5-0.

Sinking Fund Update:

Superintendent McMahan and Executive Director of Finance Hendrix provided an overview of the Sinking Fund budget, including purchases already made and purchases on the list to be made through the remainder of the year.

Motion by Faro supported by Meray to approve the purchase of a Maintenance Vehicle as presented in Attachment A. All Ayes. Carried 5-0.

Public Comments:

- Ron Stark shared additional comments regarding his request for a library book review.

Student Board Member Comments: None

Assistant Superintendent Comments:

- Mrs. Bookout began with an update on student assessment. Milan Middle School has been selected to participate in the National Assessment of Educational Progress, or NAEP. NAEP is a federally mandated assessment that provides a national picture of student learning. NAEP selects schools through a random sampling process so that results reflect the state and the nation as a whole. A sample of our 8th graders will take Math and Reading assessments on February 24. We are working closely with NAEP staff to ensure all logistics and communication are in place, and we will keep families informed as we get closer to testing.
- Milan Middle School also held its Veterans Day Assembly yesterday. The program featured musical performances from our students—our 5th graders sang, and members of the middle school band performed for veterans and community members. It was a meaningful opportunity for students to express appreciation and honor those who have served.
- At Paddock, our 1st-grade students completed a service project on Monday connected to their Social Studies unit on community. Students worked together to make pumpkin pies for Aid in Milan. Promoting community service is one of our district goals this year, and while we don't yet have a formal structure in place, many of our teachers are already finding authentic ways to incorporate service into their classrooms. This project is a great example of that work in action. We want to thank Mrs. Gerbens and Mrs. Pinkowski for organizing this experience for our students.
- Symons 4th graders are also enjoying two special arts experiences this week: they attended a string quartet concert on Tuesday, and tomorrow they will travel to see a performance by the Toledo Symphony. These opportunities expose students to the arts, and we are grateful to the GMACF for funding these experiences and to Mr. Adams for facilitating the trips. In addition, the Paddock and Symons PTOs are partnering to host a family movie night at Milan Middle School this Friday at 6 p.m., offering another fun, community-centered event for our families.
- Finally, Mrs. Bookout has attended the MTSS Conference in Lansing today and tomorrow, where she is learning new strategies to support and strengthen our district-wide MTSS work. Mrs. Bookout appreciates the district's commitment to providing these kinds of professional development opportunities.

Superintendent Comments:

- Superintendent McMahon shared the sad news of the passing of former colleague, Cathi Casper. Cathi worked for the district for the previous 28 years, only deciding to retire this past Fall. She managed Paddock's kitchen making sure our youngest students were faded every day. Cathi's daughter, Cassidy, also works in Paddock in the PECC. Cathi will be deeply missed and we ask that everyone keep Cassidy and her family in their thoughts during this difficult time. There will be a visitation and service this Saturday at Ochalek-Stark.
- Superintendent McMahon shared with the Board that York Township will be holding a Special meeting next Tuesday, the 18th at 6:30pm, to discuss an application from White Tail Solar for a Solar Energy Facility Tax Exemption.
- Superintendent McMahon shared with the Board he, Mrs. Bookout, and two members of the Board were able to attend the FCI Commencement to honor their 19 graduates from the Class of 2025. It was a fine ceremony and we were honored to be included to recognize our newest graduates.
- Superintendent McMahon congratulated the MHS Girls' Swim Team on earning their 26th consecutive Huron League Championship, with a number of our athletes qualifying for the upcoming State Finals meet. Also, our Girls' Volleyball Team advanced to the Regional Final with a win over Divine Child last night. The Regional Final will be held tomorrow night at Flat Rock, against the Flat Rock Rams.
- Superintendent McMahon thanked all of our teachers for the extra work they put into Parent-Teacher Conferences two weeks ago. Conferences make for long evenings, but the value in connecting with our parents is immeasurable, so we appreciate the extra work.

Board Member Comments:

- **Burdette** spoke about attending the recent volleyball match and the high school football banquet, praising the recognition of the seniors. He also announced that the high school play, *The Odd Couple*, will begin performances next Thursday with two different casts.
- **Faro** thanked Carrie Mink and his fellow Trustees for attending the FCI graduation. He also thanked the voters for approving the WISD CTE millage. Lastly, he announced that winter sports have begun and encouraged interested students to reach out to the Athletic Director.
- **Meray** thanked the voters for passing the CTE millage, noting it as a source of historic funding, and thanked the WISD team for their efforts on the millage. She congratulated the FCI graduates and the volleyball team on their recent success. She also expressed her best wishes to the cast and crew of *The Odd Couple*.

- **Cislo** spoke about the cancellation of the upcoming Big Red Board Chat as the format is being reorganized. He discussed the initiation of the Board self-evaluation process with the MASB. He also congratulated the volleyball team and reflected on the FCI graduation, reading a thank-you note from one of the graduates.

Motion by Burdette 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 5-0.

Time entered closed session 8:00 p.m.

Time returned to open session 11:13 p.m..

Time of Adjournment 11:13 p.m.