MILAN AREA SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
WEDNESDAY, April 8, 2026
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 Faro at 7:00 p.m. on April 8, 2026.

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

Board Members Absent: Gutierrez

Staff Present: Ryan McMahon, Jennifer Bookout, Margaret Durkee, Sara Beckman

Guests Present: Jennifer Elrod, Nathan Elrod, Ashley Eichner Pendell, Jayne Randles, Jennifer Corker

Board President Faro read Paraprofessional Appreciation Resolution

Motion by Prior supported by Burdette to thank the Paraprofessionals of Milan Area Schools as recorded in Attachment A. All Ayes. Carried 6-0.

Student Board Member Comments: None

Public Comments:

- Jenny Elrod voiced her concerns regarding student safety protocols and administrative responses to behavioral incidents.
- Ashley Eichner-Pendell expressed her views on paraprofessional compensation, staff retention, and the impact of personnel turnover on students. Suggested improvements to the notification process for staff assignments at the start of the school year.
- Jennifer Corker expressed support for Ms. Elrod and shared her concerns regarding escalating student behavior and school communication.

Motion by Heikka supported by Meray to approve the minutes of the special meeting of March 11, 2026. All Ayes. Carried 6-0.

Motion by Heikka supported by Cislo to approve the minutes of the special meeting closed session of March 11, 2026. All Ayes. Carried 6-0.

Motion by Cislo supported by Prior to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of March 11, 2026. All Ayes. Carried 6-0.

Motion by Cislo supported by Burdette to approve the minutes of the regular closed session meeting of March 11, 2026. All Ayes. Carried 6-0.

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

Motion by Prior supported by Burdette to approve the 2026-2027 Board Meeting Dates as detailed in Attachment B. All Ayes. Carried 6-0.

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

Motion by Heikka supported by Meray to revise, repeal and/or adopt Board policies as described in Attachment D. All Ayes. Carried 6-0.

Public Comments:

- Jenny Elrod expressed her views on student placements and potential staff conflicts of interest.

Assistant Superintendent Comments:

- Assistant Superintendent Bookout provided a brief update on our spring assessment schedule, as testing is now underway across the district.

- At Symons Elementary, students took the Math M-STEP test today and will complete the ELA M-STEP next Tuesday. At Milan Middle School, our 8th grade students completed the PSAT earlier today. Next Tuesday, Milan High School 9th graders will take the PSAT, 10th graders will take the PSAT 10, and 11th graders will take the SAT with essay.

- The following day, Wednesday, April 15, our 11th grade students will also complete the WIN Work Readiness Assessment. I'd like to share a bit more information about the WIN Work Ready assessment, since this is the first year Michigan has transitioned to this assessment to replace ACT WorkKeys. The WIN Work Readiness assessment measures workplace skills in three areas: Math, Reading, and Data. Students receive a score from Level 1 to Level 5 in each area, and their overall credential is based on their lowest score. Students who score at least a Level 2 in all areas earn a National Work Readiness Credential, while a Level 1 in any area means a credential is not awarded. As this is our first year with this assessment, we'll be reviewing the results closely to better understand student performance and support their readiness for college and careers.

- On a non-testing note, Assistant Superintendent Bookout shared that parent feedback forms will be emailed to current Paddock and Symons families on Monday. These forms provide an opportunity for families to share input regarding their child as we begin planning class placements for the next school year. This feedback is one of several factors we consider as we work to create balanced classrooms that support student learning and

success. Assistant Superintendent Bookout encouraged families to look for that email and make sure they respond to the form before the deadline of April 24.

Superintendent Comments:

- Superintendent McMahon shared highlights from the recent choral festivals.
    - The Middle School 6th-7th-8th Choir, at the District Choral Festival on March 6th, earned a 30 out of 30 for the sightreading assessment as well as an overall Excellent rating (highest available).
    - The Milan High School Choirs performed at the District Choral Festival on March 12. The Concert Choir earned a 29 out of 30 and the Chamber Choir earned a 30 out of 30 on the sightreading assessments. Both choirs also earned an Excellent rating at the festival. The Chamber Choir advanced to the State Solo & Ensemble, which will be held at Jackson Northwest High School..

- Superintendent McMahon reminded the community about the upcoming Big Red Board Chat next Thursday, April 16th, at 6:30 pm at Symons.

- Superintendent McMahon shared with the community a number of Appreciation days that occurred recently:
    - April 2nd World Autism Awareness Day, on the heels of March being Developmental Disabilities Appreciation Month
    - April 3rd Paraprofessional Appreciation Day
    - April 4th Librarian Appreciation Day
    - April 6-10 is Assistant Principal Appreciation Week

- Superintendent McMahon shared that the Milan Adult Education Graduation will be held on May 20th, at 7pm at MHS. We are looking forward to celebrating the accomplishments of this year's Adult Ed graduates!

- Superintendent McMahon shared that Milan Area Schools will be conducting a stakeholder survey from April 20th through May 8th. The parent survey will be distributed via School Messenger in the prior to the survey window.

- Superintendent McMahon shared that the district is now accepting school-of-choice applications for the 2026-2027 school year. Interested applicants can contact Sara Beckman in the District Office with questions or click on the School-of-Choice link at the bottom of the Prospective Families page of our website (accessed through the Enroll tab on the main page).

Board Member Comments:

- Burdette highlighted upcoming district events, including the state choral festival and the middle school theater production. He also noted his attendance at the MASB spring conference and thanked the district for supporting his professional development.

- Prior outlined the organization of upcoming policy reviews and expressed appreciation for the coordination of the adult education graduation schedule. She also shared information regarding grant opportunities through the GMACF.
- Faro reminded the board to review specific personnel and administrative policies prior to the next meeting. He also noted ongoing discussions regarding the teacher association and the upcoming academic calendar. Faro also shared his intent to attend the MASB spring conference and thanked the district for supporting board member education.
- Meray acknowledged her absence at the March 11th board meeting and thanked Prior for acting as secretary. She commended the middle school staff for their execution of the sixth-grade camp program and congratulated adult education graduates. She encouraged the community to support the middle school musical, and reminded board members to complete mandatory cyber-security training.

Time of Adjournment 7:34 p.m.

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Sara Meray, Secretary