MILAN AREA SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
WEDNESDAY, April 22, 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 22, 2026.

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

Board Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Ryan McMahon, Jen Bookout and Margaret Durkee

Guests Present: Jennifer Elrod

Public Comments: None

Motion by Prior supported by Heikka to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of April 8, 2026. All Ayes. Carried 7-0.

The Board viewed an FFA program update presented by FFA teacher Todd Federer and students Jonathan Ringbloom and Ethan Rice.

The Board of Education and Superintendent McMahon engaged in a discussion regarding Board Policy (#3205) and potential revisions. Superintendent McMahon advised that a revised policy be brought to the next Board meeting for a vote.

Superintendent McMahon 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.

Public Comments: None

Assistant Superintendent Comments:

- Assistant Superintendent Bookout shared information about a new countywide initiative led by the Washtenaw Intermediate School District. The WISD is working with districts across the county to develop a shared Learner Profile — a common vision for the knowledge and skills we want all students in Washtenaw County to demonstrate. This work is intended to align expectations across districts while still allowing each district to define its own goals for student learning and success. As part of this initiative, teams from the WISD are conducting Learning Walks across the county to highlight the great things happening in our schools and

identify opportunities for districts to collaborate to support continued growth and improvement.

- Yesterday, we welcomed staff from the Washtenaw ISD, along with retired Saline Superintendent Steve Laatsch, into MHS and Symons for a Learning Walk where they visited classrooms and saw learning in action. They shared very positive feedback and were especially impressed with the level of student engagement, the strong sense of community, and the inclusive culture they observed. Assistant Superintendent Bookout thanked our staff at Milan High School and Symons for welcoming our guests at very short notice and for representing our district so well.

- Assistant Superintendent Bookout shared a brief update on our spring testing schedule. Due to the unexpected closure last week and some lingering Internet issues as a result of the storm, our 11th graders were only able to complete 1 out of 3 components of the WIN Work Readiness Assessment last week. Those have been rescheduled for next Tuesday. We appreciate our students' and staff patience as we worked through these challenges.

- As we get closer to the end of the year, our schools have some planned transition activities to help prepare students for their next step. Tomorrow our Paddock 1st graders will travel to Symons for a fun assembly with our current 2nd graders and then will have the chance to meet with a 4th grade buddy who will give them a tour of Symons. Next Wednesday evening from 4:30 to 6:00 p.m., Symons will host a family sneak peek event for incoming families to visit the building as well.

Superintendent Comments:

- Superintendent McMahon shared that today, April 22, is Administrative Professionals Day. Mr. McMahon thanked all of the district's administrative assistants for their dedication and hard work throughout the year.

- Superintendent McMahon shared that the district will be undergoing a switch in phone service providers this Friday. The vendors with which the district works were unwilling to do the switch outside of school hours, so the work will be conducted during the day. The start time of the switch is anticipated to be at 11:30. The District's Technology Team has staged all of the new phones and will be working diligently to avoid an extended disruption to the district's phone service. The main offices in each building will be prioritized to be switched first. An email notification will go out to families on Thursday sharing this information, along with email to use to contact the buildings in case there is an extended disruption.

- Superintendent McMahon reminded the Board that the WISD will be holding their annual Budget Meeting tomorrow, April 23rd, at 6pm. The Board will conduct a first reading of the WISD budget at the first meeting in May and then vote on the budget at the second May meeting.

- Superintendent McMahon shared that the Parent and Guardian Perception Survey is now available, the link was sent via School Messenger on Monday afternoon. We are looking forward to collecting as many responses as possible so we can collect and review data to inform our work towards continuous improvement. The survey is due May 8th and a reminder link will be sent on May 4th.

- Superintendent McMahon shared that the district has placed an RFP on the State Bid site, Sigma, as well as on our district website. We are soliciting proposals to replace the water main that runs partially beneath the middle school. Proposals are due on May 8th and 12:00.

- Superintendent McMahon shared that the district held the first Student Behavior Support Committee meeting this week. This first meeting was held with administrative staff for planning purposes and the second meeting will include staff representatives from each school and will be held on April 30th. This committee started in a conversation during negotiations with the MEA and will be designed to focus on improving behavior supports in the district to positively impact student behavior. Student and staff safety are of paramount importance in Milan and districts across the State and Nation have been working to respond to increasingly challenging behaviors. We are optimistic that this joint committee will help us creatively address local issues to improve our school experiences for all of our stakeholders.

- Superintendent McMahon shared that the Michigan House and Senate subcommittees proposed their budgets. No budgets will be finalized until the Consensus Revenue Estimating Conference on May 15 and we are optimistic that the Legislature and Governor will finalise the budget by July 1. Both the House and the Senate followed the Executive Recommendation by proposing a 2.5% foundation allowance increase. Major considerations include: Weighted funding (House: No weighting for categoricals, but increased At-Risk and ELL by 5%, Senate: Increased weighting by 25% for both categoricals), 31aa (House: refined definitions but still must waive privilege, Senate: eliminate the waiver), Section 164k (House: added posting requirements and penalties, Senate: eliminated section), and Literacy Efforts (House: increased $85.6 million and $75 million for LETRS, Senate: $10.5 million for for ISD for Literacy Coaches and $50 million for competitive grants).

Board Member Comments:

- Burdette congratulated the high school robotics team on their state competition performance and noted his attendance at a recent track meet. He encouraged community support for the upcoming chamber choir state festival and the middle school production of *Newsies JR*.

- Meray expressed gratitude for the many volunteers supporting the middle school theater production. She highlighted the upcoming WISD "Coffee and Conversations" event on May 12th regarding special education transitions and vocational community partnerships.

- Heikka commended the AP Research students on their high-level statistical analysis and formal project defenses. She congratulated the softball team on their recent victory and offered encouragement to seniors making final post-secondary decisions.

- Gutierrez apologized for her recent absence and noted the important contributions of district paraprofessionals, advocating for continued focused professional development for those staff members. She shared updates on the WISD budget meeting, scholarship committee progress, and praised the middle-to-high school theater mentorship. She expressed appreciation for Mr. Federer and the FFA program's technical skill-building and commended the district's transportation department for their operational excellence.

- Cislo detailed the success of the recent "Big Red Board Chat" regarding board service and candidacy. He thanked the participating trustees and community, and noted that dates for future community engagement sessions will be shared soon.

- Faro announced the Superintendent's mid-year evaluation for May 19th and requested that board members review policies 3204 through 3303 prior to the next board meeting. He noted upcoming discussions with the MEA regarding the school calendar and directed board members to review the recent MASB board self-assessment data. He thanked the trustees who attended the Big Red Board Chat for facilitating and expressed appreciation for the administration's sinking fund updates.

Time of Adjournment 8:13 p.m.