MILAN AREA SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
WEDNESDAY, May 6, 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 May 6, 2026.

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

Board Members Absent: Meray

Staff Present: Superintendent McMahon, Assistant Superintendent Bookout, Executive Finance Director Krista Hendrix, Margaret Durkee, Sara Beckman

Guests Present: Ashley Eichner Pendell, Sarah Norton and Jennifer Elrod

Board President Faro announced Board Secretary Sara Meray had an excused absence for tonight's Board Meeting and Board Treasurer Heikka would be arriving late.

Board Vice President Dr. Gutierrez made an announcement that she needs to leave the Board Meeting at 8:00 p.m.

Motion by Gutierrez supported by Burdette to thank the Educators of Milan Area Schools as recorded in Attachment A. All Ayes. Carried 5-0.

Board Treasurer Heikka arrived at 7:05 p.m.

Student Board Member Comments: None

Public Comments:

- Ashley Eichner Pendell wished all educators a happy teacher appreciation week and expressed thanks for an extended school year. She thanked the district for the upcoming meet and greet with Dr. Phelps. She asked that the district work toward assigning paraprofessionals prior to start of the year and asked that we pay them more.

- Sarah Norton wanted to make the community aware of the upcoming meet and greet with Dr. Phelps occurring on May 18th at 6pm.

Motion by Heikka supported by Gutierrez to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of April 22, 2026. All Ayes. Carried 6-0.

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

Motion by Prior supported by Gutierrez to approve the 2026-2027 Schools-of-Choice Resolution as provided in Attachment B. All Ayes. Carried 6-0.

Board President Faro ran Michigan Association of School Boards (MASB) Board Self Assessment and discussed the results.

The Board heard the First Reading of the 2026-2027 WISD Budget Resolution as included in Attachment C1, C2, C3 C4, and C5

Public Comments: None

Assistant Superintendent Comments:

- At the last meeting, Assistant Superintendent Bookout shared some of the transition activities taking place between Paddock and Symons. As we move into the last month of the school year, we also have several additional transition experiences underway across the district to help students and families feel prepared and supported for next year.

- At Paddock, our preschool students have begun transition activities for Young 5s and Kindergarten. Even though preschool and kindergarten are housed in the same building, the experiences are very different for students, so staff have intentionally planned opportunities to help ease the transition. Each preschool classroom has been paired with a Young 5s and Kindergarten class, and students will visit those classrooms multiple times throughout May to learn the routines and get familiar with those spaces. They are also practicing routines like eating in the lunchroom and visiting specials classrooms to help build their confidence for next year.

- We also have transition activities planned for students moving from Symons to MMS. On Monday, our current 4th grade students will visit Milan Middle School for a tour and orientation experience with student buddies. They will get to learn about the activities at MMS and practice opening lockers. 4th grade families are invited back the following Monday for a presentation and tour, which will also coincide with the MMS Art Show at 6:00 p.m.

- We are also preparing for our 8th grade transition activities. On Tuesday, May 26, 8th grade students will visit Milan High School to learn more about the programs, activities, and opportunities available to them as incoming freshmen.

- Assistant Superintendent Bookout also provided a quick spring testing update. Symons has completed both M-STEP and NWEA testing and is officially finished with spring testing for the year. Our 5th graders at MMS have also completed NWEA and will do their final M-STEP test tomorrow. Our 6th-8th graders

completed M-STEP testing last week and have now moved into NWEA testing. They expect to finish all required testing by the end of next week. Spring testing can be a challenging time for our students and staff and we appreciate their resilience and continuing to give it their all over the last few weeks.

- Assistant Superintendent Bookout shared that there will be two open meetings for parents and community members to review new resources being considered by the Sex Education Advisory Board, or SEAB. Those meetings will take place at 5:30 p.m. on May 29 and June 3 prior to the regular board meetings.

Superintendent Comments:

- Superintendent McMahon shared appreciation for staff during Teacher Appreciation Week. A special thanks to our PTO, parents, community members, and local businesses that have provided support this week to help honor our staff. May 1st was also School Principal's Day and School Lunch Hero day and today, May 6 is School Nurse Appreciation Day, so this week provides a good time to recognize and appreciate all of our employees.

- Superintendent McMahon shared with the community the Board will be conducting the annual Budget and Truth-in-Taxation meeting at 6:45 on Wednesday, June 3, just prior to the regularly scheduled Board meeting.

- Superintendent McMahon shared an update that the Sinking Fund Committee was able to meet last week. The committee includes the Director of Technology, Athletic Director, Director of Facilities and Maintenance, and the Executive Director of Finance. The committee reviewed current expenses and looked towards future planning. With the committee's work, the district should be on target to spend down the average annual Sinking Fund allocation of just over 1 million dollars in this first year.

- Superintendent McMahon shared that the 2026-2027 PD Advisory committee will be meeting soon to discuss the professional development plan for next year. The Board will officially approve the committee membership at the next Board meeting. This committee is a legal requirement in order to count any professional development as instructional hours.

Board Member Comments:

- Gutierrez - gave congratulations to the cast of Newsies who put on a great show. Said she was able to take two CBA courses at MASB spring institute last Friday, both were on school finance. She said she is grateful to the district for providing the opportunity to participate in the training. Thanked the school staff and PTOs for their hard work and support.

- Burdette – gave a shoutout to the cast of Newsies. He was also able to attend the MASB Spring Institute where he took four courses on school finance. Commented on the board self assessment and said he was appreciative of how

well this board works together. He was able to see the state choral music festival and congratulated them on their performance. He was present at the first Tri-M induction ceremony. He notified the community that the spring band concert is next Tuesday.

- Prior – said she was able to attend the MASB conference where she took courses on finance. Discussed making the financial picture of the district more transparent to the community as well as highlighting the usage of bond and sinking fund dollars. She offered to take short videos of what we have spent money on in order to show the community how we are spending those dollars. Attended the scholarship breakfast on May 2 for the Community Foundation and was able to see several of our students receive scholarships. Winners of the trade scholarship get selected Friday and that will be announced with the other scholarships on May 20, 2026.

- Cislo - sent out appreciation to the staff and educators. Told the community to remember that the FFA greenhouse opens this weekend. He said Happy Mother's Day to all the district's mothers.

- Heikka – acknowledged and thanked teachers for all they do for the district. Said she was appreciative to the community members and businesses who support the teachers. Thanked Hungry Howies for being a huge supporter of the school. Suggested we explore a decision day for our district, not just for school but for whatever kids decide for after high school. Told community Dance Explosion will have a recital May 15-16th and invited everyone to attend. Congratulations to Middle School on their production of the Newsies. Publicly thanked the new band director for all the changes being made to celebrate them and get them out into the community.

- Faro – told the community he attended the MASB conference where he attended the board presidents workshop and two classes on finance. He thanked the district for the learning opportunities. He reminded the board to review policies 3408-4105 prior to the next board meeting. For community awareness we do not have an update for the upcoming school calendar from the MEA but once we get notification from the MEA we will update the community. Updates from the sinking fund will be upcoming on the district website. Said he will not be able to attend graduation this year due to work so Mr. Cislo will give remarks. Thanks to Sara Beckman for all her work. Also, thanked all educators for their commitment to Milan.

Board Vice President Gutierrez left the meeting at 7:54 p.m.

Time of Adjournment 8:00 p.m.

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Sara Meray, Secretary