MILAN AREA SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
WEDNESDAY, July 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 July 8, 2026.

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

Board Members Absent: None

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

Guests: None

Public Comments: None

Motion by Prior supported by Cislo to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting on June 24, 2026. All Ayes. Carried 7-0.

Motion by Cislo supported by Burdette to approve the minutes of Regular meeting Closed Session of June 24, 2026. All Ayes. Carried 7-0.

Motion by Burdette supported by Gutierrez to approve the bills/reimbursement of expenses. All Ayes. Carried 7-0.

Motion by Cislo supported by Gutierrez to adopt the following resolutions:

A. To name JP Morgan Chase/Chase Bank, Fifth Third Bank, US Bank, Michigan School District Liquid Asset Fund, Bank of NY Mellon, First Merchants Bank, and MBIA Michigan Class as depositories for General Fund, Payroll, Debt Retirement, Trust and Agency, Food Service, Athletic, and Internal Accounts for district moneys for the 2026-2027 fiscal year and that the following staff members' signatures be attached to the respective accounts as listed:
    - General Fund, Payroll & Invoice, Debt Retirement, Food Service, Trust and Agency, Athletics – Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent, and Finance Director
    - Milan High School – Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent, and Finance Director

- Milan Middle School – Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent, and Finance Director
- Symons Elementary School – Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent, and Finance Director
- Paddock Elementary School – Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent, and Finance Director

Be it further moved that the superintendent or designee is authorized to transfer funds from savings to checking and checking to savings and is authorized to buy time savings certificates and invest district monies in accordance with state and/or federal law and Board Policy.

B. To designate the Superintendent or designee to post notices of meetings.

C. That the law firm of Thrun Law Firm, P.C. be retained as the district's legal counsel for the 2026-2027 fiscal year. Further moved that the Superintendent is authorized to extend the retainer relationship with Thurn Law Firm, P.C. for one year upon its anniversary date. Further moved that other legal counsel may be retained for specific purposes as needed.

D. To approve the appointments listed below:

- Voting Delegates to MASB Gutierrez, Prior.
- Alternate voting Delegates to MASB Meray, Burdette.

All Ayes. Carried 7-0.

Motion by Heikka supported by Burdette to approve the Emergency Operation Plans as revised in accordance with MCL-Section 380.1308b of the Revised School Code. All Ayes. Carried 7-0.

AI Protocols Update

Assistant Superintendent Bookout shared the result of that work by bringing forward the draft AI guidance documents for your review.

The AI Task Force includes teachers, administrators, and support staff from all four of our buildings. Through the district's partnership with Advanced Learning Partnership and REMC, the team spent the past year learning together, conducting action research, gathering feedback from staff and students, and discussing what responsible AI use should look like in Milan Area Schools.

The district recognizes that AI is a topic people feel very differently about. Some people are excited about its possibilities, while others have concerns about its impact on teaching and learning. Rather than taking a position for or against AI, the goal has been to create guidance that helps staff, students, and families make informed, thoughtful decisions about when—and when not—to use it.

Assistant Superintendent Bookout shared three guidance documents: one for staff, one for students, and one for families. Although each is written for a different audience, they all

emphasize the same core ideas: protecting student privacy, maintaining academic integrity, using AI responsibly, and ensuring that AI enhances learning rather than replaces it.

Assistant Superintendent Bookout pointed out something that's very intentional in these documents: neither teachers nor students are required to use AI. The district believes educators should make professional decisions about when AI is appropriate in their classrooms, and students will always have a non-AI option for completing learning tasks. At the same time, the district also believes it's important that both students and staff understand how AI works and develop the knowledge needed to make informed decisions as this technology becomes more common in higher education, the workplace, and everyday life.

Finally, Assistant Superintendent Bookout emphasized that this is not the end of the work. The AI Task Force will continue meeting next year to support implementation, develop professional learning for staff, create AI literacy lessons for our secondary students, review emerging AI tools, and continue refining these guidance documents as the technology evolves.

Assistant Superintendent Bookout thanked the members of the AI Task Force for the time, thoughtful discussion, and collaboration they invested throughout this process. Assistant Superintendent Bookout expressed pride in the balanced, student-centered approach the team has taken and said she looked forward to hearing the board's feedback as the district continues refining these resources together.

Motion by Meray supported by Prior to approve Julie Mata as a Milan High School Social Worker effective for the 2026-2027 school year. All Ayes. Carried 7-0.

Superintendent McMahon provided updates regarding Milan Area Schools cafeteria, transportation and MASSS bargaining groups negotiations meetings.

Public Comments: None

Assistant Superintendent Comments:

- Assistant Superintendent Bookout recognized an outstanding accomplishment by several of our students.

  This year, 19 Milan High School students earned recognition through the College Board National Recognition Program. This includes 14 students from the Class of 2027 and 5 students from the Class of 2028.

  The College Board National Recognition Program celebrates students for their academic achievement and recognizes those who have demonstrated strong

performance in school and on SAT or PSAT while meeting program eligibility criteria.

Congratulations to these students on this well-deserved honor. We are proud of their hard work and accomplishments, and we look forward to seeing all they continue to achieve.

Superintendent Comments:

- Superintendent McMahon shared with the community that the MHS Homecoming Parade route will be changing for the 2026-2027 school year. The route will begin at Milan Nature Park, which will also serve as the staging area, then proceed south on Platt, west on Redman past the front of the high school, and then around to the back. The Student Council has been working to develop a Homecoming Gathering that will include games and food vendors for a pre-game celebration near the football field. The students were interested in creating a larger community event at the school and also reducing the existing route.

- Superintendent McMahon announced that our Transportation Mechanic, Doug Orr, was named the 2026 Bus Technician of the Year, on July 2, at the annual conference for Michigan Association for Pupil Transportation . We are honored to be supported by Doug's commitment to staff and student safety through the maintenance of our bus fleet.

- Superintendent McMahon shared an update on the tennis court proposal. In working with Thrun Law firm and the vendor that was approved to replace the court surface worked to redefine the category of the work that was potentially going to be uncovered by Sinking Fund dollars. The re-categorization will reduce the potential burden on the general fund down to $5,000.

- Superintendent McMahon updated the Board that he, Krist Hendrix, and Gary Cox have held additional meetings with two vendors for assistance with long-range facility management planning and potential energy bonding. Soon, they will narrow down to one vendor to conduct a deeper investigation into a potential partnership with the district. Any potential for a partnership will be brought to the Board for approval in the future as this work is still in the planning stages.

Board Member Comments:

- Heikka congratulated students on their AP test scores, emphasizing that taking the exams provides vital preparation for future collegiate challenges regardless of individual outcomes.

- Burdette noted ongoing summer district events, announcing that MHS Productions will host a show reveal party for current and prospective theater students on July 16 at 3:00 p.m. at the theater, followed by participation in Third Thursdays that evening. He highlighted a football clinic hosted by the coaching

staff from July 28 through July 30 for incoming seventh through twelfth graders and directed interested families to reach out to Coach Trot or Mr. Morelock for additional information.

- Faro thanked Superintendent McMahon and Ms. Hendrix for a productive finance committee meeting, noted that Secretary Sara Meray and the communications committee will meet soon, and reiterated that year-to-date fiscal year 2025–2026 sinking fund expenses are posted on the district website for community review. Acknowledging the state's adopted school aid budget, he observed that while a 2.5% foundation increase allows for better planning, public schools remain underfunded relative to inflation, federal special education funding remains uncertain, and necessary budget adjustments will be brought to the board. Additionally, he thanked the district for supporting his upcoming attendance at the MASB Summer Institute in Kalamazoo from August 7 through August 9. Lastly, he instructed board members to review policies 4229 through 4404 prior to the August 12 meeting.

- Heikka, adding to Mr. Faro's comments regarding the state budget, criticized the continuous diversion of School Aid Fund dollars toward higher education and other non-public school items. She urged the community to monitor these financial details to understand how such diversions contribute to state funding limitations or reductions.

Motion by Cislo supported by Burdette to enter into closed session pursuant to Section 8(1)(c) of the Michigan Open Meetings Act for Negotiation Strategies. All Ayes. Carried 7-0.

Time entered into closed session at 7:42 p.m.

Time returned into open session at 8:30 p.m.

Time of Adjournment 8:30 p.m.