**MILAN AREA SCHOOLS**
**BOARD OF EDUCATION**
**REGULAR MEETING**
**WEDNESDAY, September 9, 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 September 9, 2026.

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

Board Members Absent: Gutierrez

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

Guests: Keith Rossi, Ash Eichner Pendell, Angela Chidester, Jennifer Elrod, Jennifer Swartzlander and Sadie Swartzlander

Public Comments:

- Ashley Eichner Pendell thanked the district for early staffing notifications and requested consistent individual pairings with paraprofessionals and teacher consultants to support neurodivergent students. She commended new paraprofessional training initiatives and offered to collaborate on future student support efforts.
- Keith Rossi introduced himself as a Monroe County Community College trustee candidate and outlined key platform priorities, including dual enrollment, vocational pathways, degree transfers, and tuition access.
- Jenny Elrod raised safety concerns regarding the recent severe weather incident during school dismissal and requested formal emergency dismissal protocols be shared with the community.

Motion by Cislo supported by Prior to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting on August 26, 2026. All Ayes. Carried 6-0.

Motion by Heikka supported by Meray to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting Closed Session on August 26, 2026. All Ayes. Carried 6-0.

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

The board observed a presentation by Andrew Hascher of PSI.

Motion by Prior supported by Burdette to approve Amanda Kraus as the Paddock Elementary Behavioral Specialist effective for the 2026-2027 school year.
All Ayes. Carried 6-0.

Motion by Burdette supported by Meray to approve the Master Agreement with the Milan Area Schools Support Staff (MASSS) as detailed in Attachment A.
All Ayes. Carried 6-0.

Motion by Prior support by Meray to approve the updated Non-Affiliated Salary Schedule (Attachment B), District Technology Staff Salary Schedule (Attachment C), District Office Staff Salary Schedule (Attachment D), Milan Directors' Salary Schedule (Attachment E), and Milan Building Administrator's' Salary Schedule (Attachment F).
All Ayes. Carried 6-0.

Public Comments:

- Angela Chidester commended Band Director Mr. Lopez and praised the positive atmosphere between the Milan and Riverview bands at the recent football game.
- Jenny Elrod praised bus drivers for keeping students safe during the severe weather event and reiterated the immediate need for clear, published emergency dismissal protocols.

Assistant Superintendent Comments:

- Our fall assessment cycle is getting underway. Students at Symons and Milan Middle School are beginning NWEA testing this week and next. These fall assessments give us a baseline for the year and provide teachers with information about student strengths and areas where additional support may be needed.
- We're also beginning an important science curriculum review this year at both the middle and high school. As part of our curriculum cycle, we evaluate and review subject-area curriculum on a six-year cycle. An important part of that process is giving teachers an opportunity to actually use potential materials with students before making a recommendation for adoption.
- At the high school, our Biology, Chemistry, and Physics teachers will pilot HMH Science during the first semester and OpenSciEd during the second semester. At the middle school, grades 6 through 8 will have the opportunity to pilot three different programs over the course of the year: Lab-Aids from September through November, OpenSciEd from December through February, and Amplify Science from March through June.

- Throughout the pilots, our teachers will be looking closely at the quality of the instructional materials, alignment with our science standards, how well the resources support teaching and learning, and ultimately how well they meet the needs of our students. That classroom experience and teacher feedback will be an important part of determining what we recommend moving forward.

Superintendent Comments:

- Superintendent McMahon thanked all of the MAS staff for helping our students get off to a great start to the school year. As a result of all the planning work coordinated throughout the summer, our students were able to quickly hit the ground running and the overall feeling in the buildings has been very positive.

- Superintendent McMahon shared that the administrative team is working on updating inclement weather procedures for arrival and dismissal time, which will be shared with our stakeholders. This is an opportunity to formalize our plans to help sharpen our response, should we encounter inclement weather during arrival and dismissal times. The district is also seeking a partnership with DTN to have access to their WeatherHub services, which provides real-time weather updates from their staff of meteorologists, including personalized alerts.

- Superintendent McMahon thanked Andrew Hascher from PSI for coming to the meeting tonight to share information about their services. We are looking forward to partnering with PSI for our facility planning purposes.

- Superintendent McMahon reminded the community that the Milan Chamber School Board Candidate Forum will be held on Monday, September 21, at 7:00 in the high school theater.

Board Member Comments:

- Burdette praised student and staff participation at Friday's football game, provided athletic schedule updates, and highlighted the new choir director Mr. Miner's efforts, including a new student choir leadership group.

- Prior also commended the football game atmosphere, efforts to involve the community, and the comradery with Riverview. She also announced the upcoming girls' basketball fundraiser, the Craft and Vendor Show at Milan Middle School.

- Cislo thanked public speakers and Mr. McMahon for his response regarding severe weather protocols. He noted the complexity of responding to weather concerns across both Monroe and Washtenaw Counties, and welcomed exploring localized weather-tracking software.

- Meray summarized the recent Board Communications Committee meeting, covering labor negotiation updates, website enhancements, and social media outreach. She thanked Ms. Beckman and Ms. Bookout for their work on district social media, and shared that the next committee meeting will be held October 6th.

- Faro shared arrival details for the September 25 homecoming parade and announced the next Big Red Board Chat to be held at Symons Elementary on September 22.

Time of Adjournment 7:59 p.m.