MILAN AREA SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
WEDNESDAY, October 21, 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 October 21, 2026.

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

Board Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Superintendent McMahon, Assistant Superintendent Bookout, Executive Finance Director Krista Hendrix, Dr. Heidi Phelps, David Middlin, Margaret Durkee, Amy Hertler and Sara Beckman

Guests Present: Danette Talbot, Jaydyn McElyea, Destynee McElyea and Olivia Mitchell

Public Comments: None

Motion by Burdette supported by Cislo to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of October 7, 2026. All Ayes. Carried 7-0.

Motion by Prior supported by Gutierrez to approve the minutes of the regular meeting closed session of October 7, 2026. All Ayes. Carried 7-0.

Motion by Heikka supported by Burdette to accept the 2026 Annual Audit as presented in Attachment A. All Ayes. Carried 7-0.

Public Comments: None

Assistant Superintendent Comments:

- Assistant Superintendent Bookout reminded families that parent-teacher conferences are coming up next week, on Wednesday evening and Thursday afternoon and evening. Conferences are a valuable opportunity for families and teachers to connect and work together to support student success.

- One thing that will be new for our K–5 families this year is information from our mCLASS with DIBELS literacy screener. As we've shared previously, Michigan's new K–12 Literacy and Dyslexia Laws are designed to strengthen reading instruction and ensure that students who

may be experiencing reading difficulties are identified and supported early. The laws include new requirements for literacy screening, evidence-based instruction, and intervention. While the requirements take full effect in the 2027–28 school year, we've begun implementing our new screening tool this year as part of our continued work to strengthen literacy instruction.

- Assistant Superintendent Bookout clarified something important for families. Despite its name, a "dyslexia screener" is not a test for dyslexia. It doesn't test for or diagnose a disability. Instead, the screener identifies patterns or characteristics that may indicate a need for additional reading support.

- The mCLASS with DIBELS assessment gives teachers information about students' foundational reading skills, helping them identify strengths and specific areas where additional instruction may be needed. It also allows us to monitor student progress over time and determine whether the supports we're providing are making a difference. For families, these results provide another piece of information about how their child is developing as a reader and an opportunity to talk with teachers about ways to support that growth both at school and at home.

- Finally, a quick reminder for high school families: AP test registration closes tomorrow. Please don't let cost stand in the way; financial support is available, and we want to make sure every student who wants to take an exam has the chance to do so. You can check out the MHS AP website for details.

Superintendent Comments:

- Superintendent McMahon thanked Krista Hendrix for all the time and effort she put into completing the audit process.

- Superintendent McMahon shared a reminder about upcoming events. The Middle School will be hosting their “MMS Fun Run” on Friday (10/23), we have Parent-Teacher Conferences next week, starting on Wednesday (10/28), and there is a half-day for students on Friday (10/30).

- Superintendent McMahon reminded the Board that there is a special meeting scheduled for Wednesday, Nov 4, at 6pm to hear a presentation from Performance Services Incorporated regarding sinking fund plans.

Board Member Comments:

- Prior: Thanked the district for the opportunity to attend the MASB ALC conference.

- Heikka: Thanked Krista Hendrix for her efforts in completing the audit, and then recommended the board consider its approach to budgeting, and shared her view that we may be budgeting too conservatively.

- Gutierrez: Thanked the district for the opportunity to attend the MASB ALC conference. Dr. Gutierrez would like to think about facilities review, general assessment review/strategic plan, board organization and board self evaluation. Dr. Gutierrez acknowledged Fall sports are winding down and thanked families for supporting their athletes. She noted upcoming parent/teacher conferences and that buildings are looking for support to provide food to staff working late in conferences. Dr. Gutierrez shared she will miss the Special Board Meeting November 4th due to work-related travel. Lastly, WISD School Finance Town Hall information was shared - November 12, 6:30 p.m.

- Meray: Thanked the district for supporting the board and their continuing education.

- Burdette: Thanked the district for the opportunity to attend the MASB ALC conference. Congratulations to the soccer team for a great season and shared Friday is the last football game and senior night.

- Faro: Thanks to the district for their continued support in being able to attend the MASB ALC. President Faro also shared with the board that Scott Morrell will help with the superintendent's annual performance review on December 9th, and closed by asking the board to review policies 5419-5511 in advance of the next meeting.

Motion by Meray supported by Burdette to appoint Attorney Robert Dietzel of the Thrun Law Firm, P.C. to serve as the Board's Hearing Officer for the student discipline hearing. All Ayes. Carried 7-0.

Motion by Cislo supported by Heikka to enter into a brief recess and resume at 9:35 p.m. All Ayes. Carried 7-0.

Time entered into recess: 9:25 p.m.

Time returned from recess: 9:35 p.m.

Motion by Prior supported by Cislo to expel student 2026-2027-1 in accordance with the attached resolution as read by President Faro.
Burdette Aye, Faro Aye, Gutierrez Nay, Heikka Aye, Meray Aye, Prior Aye, Cislo Aye. Carried 6-1.

Motion by Burdette supported by Heikka to enter into closed session pursuant of Section 8(1)(h) of the Michigan Open Meetings Act for Legal Counsel. All Ayes. Carried 7-0.

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

Time entered closed session 10:36 p.m.

Time returned to open session 12:06 p.m.

Time of Adjournment 12:06.