

**MILAN AREA SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 25, 2023
AGENDA**

I. Call to Order

II. Pledge of Allegiance

III. Communications / Community Engagement

This meeting is a meeting of the Board of Education in public for the purpose of conducting the School District's business and is not to be considered a public meeting. There are two times for public participation during the meeting as indicated in the agenda. When addressing the Board, you will be asked to state your name. The Board determines the amount of time granted to individuals or groups to speak. Each person shall be allowed to speak for up to 3 minutes. Board members may question speakers, but are not obligated to answer questions or make statements or commitments in response to issues raised by the public. In general, such items will be referred to the superintendent for advisement, investigation, study, and/or recommendation or designated as future agenda items for Board consideration.

A. Public Comments

IV. Routine Matters for Approval

A. Minutes of the Regular Meeting of January 12, 2023

V. Milan Area Schools Strategic Plan Business

A. Finance / Operations

1. General Fund Budget Amendment - Attachment A

B. Learning Environment / Culture

1. Book Study of "Why Meadow Died"

C. Communications / Community Engagement

1. WISD PAC Update - Andrea Bennink

2. Public Comments

3. Student Board Representative Comments

4. Superintendent Comments

5. Assistant Superintendent Comments

6. Board Member Comments

a. Board Committee Assignments

VI. Adjournment

**MILAN AREA SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 25, 2023
RESOLUTIONS**

I. Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Milan Area Schools Board of Education was called to order in the Milan High School Theater located at 200 Big Red Drive, Milan MI, 48160, by President Cislo at _____ p.m. on January 25, 2023.

Board Members Present:

Board Members Absent:

Signed in Staff:

Signed in Guests:

II. Pledge of Allegiance

III. Communications / Community Engagement

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A. Public Comments

IV. Routine Matters for Approval

A. Minutes of the Regular Meeting of January 12, 2023

Motion by _____ supported by _____ to approve the minutes of the Regular meeting of January 12, 2023.

Moccio _____ Rosen-Leacher _____ Cislo _____ Faro _____ Frait _____ Heikka _____ Meray _____
Carried _____.

V. Milan Area Schools Strategic Plan Business

A. Finance / Operations

1. General Fund Budget Amendment - Attachment A

Motion by _____ supported by _____ to approve the 2022-2023 General Fund Budget Amendment as included in Attachment A.

Rosen-Leacher _____ Cislo _____ Faro _____ Frait _____ Heikka _____ Meray _____ Moccio _____
Carried _____.

B. Learning Environment / Culture

1. Book Study of "Why Meadow Died"

C. Communications / Community Engagement

1. WISD PAC Update - Andrea Bennink

2. Public Comments
3. Student Board Representative Comments
4. Superintendent Comments
5. Assistant Superintendent Comments
6. Board Member Comments
 - a. Board Committee Assignments

VI. Adjournment - Time of Adjournment _____.

DRAFT

**MILAN AREA SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
Thursday, January 12, 2023**

The regular meeting of the Milan Area Schools Board of Education was called to order in the Milan High School Theater located at 200 Big Red Drive, Milan MI, 48160, by President Cislo at 7:00 p.m. on January 12, 2023.

Board Members Present: Cislo, Rosen-Leacher, Moccio, Heikka, Meray

Board Members Absent: Frait, Faro

Signed in Staff: Bryan Girbach, Ryan McMahon, Yvette Kashmer, Krista Hendrix, Jennifer Barker, Lindsay Kriner

Signed in Guests: Michael McVey, Rachel Hobbs, Andrea Bennink, Sydney Smith, Jayme McElvany, Jacob Bennink, April Nicks, Shannon, Lake Foster, Izzy, Logan Tisdale, Holli Vallade, Josh McElvany, Carolyn Wetzler, George Elder, Trish Parker, Elizabeth Satterly, Annie Kruise, Doug Charles, George Wilkins, Stacy Terassi, Darryl Ansel, Mike Charter, Ashley St. Clair, Eric Rice, Michael Orr, Kurt DeMars, Jessica Leacher, Jill Tewsley, John Leacher, Jodi Overbeek, Pam Ackerman, Larry Biederman, Amy Bissell, Mike Angstadt, Heidi Johnson, Jennifer Bolanos, Laila Jasper, Alecia Powell, Jessica Lubke, Anthony Carvalho, Catherine Pucci, Dallas Aitson, Nicholas Wilson, Yvonne Smiley, Mary Kerkes, Maya Faro, Avery Powell

Pledge of Allegiance

The Oath of Office was ceremoniously performed by President Cislo for our two recently elected Board Members (Betty Rosen-Leacher: re-elected and Sara Meray: newly elected). Betty and Sara will be serving 6 year terms. The official Oath of Office was performed at an earlier date.

In recognition of National School Board Month, Superintendent Girbach recognized the Board for their hard work and tireless efforts to support our students.

Motion by Heikka supported by Moccio to elect Andrew Cilso for President of the Milan Area Schools Board of Education for a one year term. All Ayes. Carried 5-0

Motion by Heikka supported by Moccio to elect Betty Rosen-Leacher for Vice President of the Milan Area Schools Board of Education for a one year term. All Ayes. Carried 5-0

Motion by Moccio supported by Rosen-Leacher to elect Michelle Heikka for Secretary of the Milan Area Schools Board of Education for a one year term. All Ayes. Carried 5-0

Motion by Heikka supported by Moccio to elect Tom Faro for Treasurer of the Milan Area Schools Board of Education for a one year term. All Ayes. Carried 5-0

Motion by Rosen-Leacher supported by Moccio to approve the appointments listed below:

Washtenaw School Board Association Representative Kirsten Frait

Legislative Relations Network Representative Kirsten Frait.

All Ayes. Carried 5-0

Public Comment:

- Michael McVey of the Saline Area School Board of Education and the Washtenaw Association of School Boards (WASB) spoke in support of the Board and the WASB.
- Rachel Hobbs asked if the Board had reached out to legal counsel regarding an ACLU letter received by the Board and presented her own research to rebut the statements in the ACLU letter.
- Andrea Bennink asked questions about the criteria used by the book review committee, suggested segregating books based on ratings, and suggested compromises.
- Syndney Smith spoke of Governor Whitmer's focus on education and pointed out that students sign appropriate use forms when issued a chromebook and that the school uses filters to prevent access to obscene material.
- Jaime McElvany read excerpts from books she finds objectionable and Penthouse magazine.
- Jacob Bennink spoke about the upcoming Big Red Board Chat and sought clarification on the status of providing paraprofessionals keys. He also described positive interactions at the High School.
- April Nicks expressed concern regarding certain books available in the library.
- Shannon read excerpts from books she finds objectionable in the library.
- Lake Foster expressed his opinion that the reading of books during board meetings was getting old.
- Izzy admitted she is only 17 years old and read books she finds objectionable in the library.
- Logan Tisdale, of Temperance, quoted the Bible, shared his religious beliefs, and reminded the Board of their duty to avoid stumbling blocks to education.
- Holli Vallade spoke in favor of the Board reading Why Meadow Died and spoke of bullying and discipline policies.
- Ashley St.Clair read an article from author Stephen King regarding book banning.
- Josh McElvany spoke of Jayme McElvany and his concerns regarding her reading materials she finds objectionable.
- Carolyn Wetzler spoke favorably about teachers, staff, and the Board.
- George Elder read books he finds objectionable in the library.
- Trish Parker quoted the Boy Scout oath, expressed concern about certain materials in the library, and the treatment of paraprofessionals.

- Elizabeth Satterly spoke in favor of certain materials in the library, parental choice, and allowing victims to process sexual assault without belittling their experience. She also read quotes from teenagers expressing their thoughts on book banning.
- Annie Kruse congratulated newly elected Board members and sought clarification on the Superintendent's annual evaluation, the Board's handling of conflict of interest issues, and FOIA requests.

Motion by Rosen-Leacher supported by Moccio to approve the minutes of the Special meeting of December 21, 2022. All Ayes. Carried 4-0 Abstention from Meray

Motion by Moccio supported by Rosen-Leacher to approve the minutes of the Special meeting closed session of December 21, 2022. All Ayes. Carried 4-0 Abstention from Meray

Motion by Rosen-Leacher supported by Moccio to approve the minutes of the Regular meeting of December 21, 2022. All Ayes. Carried 4-0 Abstention from Meray

Motion by Rosen-Leacher supported by Moccio to approve the minutes of the Regular meeting closed session of December 21, 2022. All Ayes. Carried 4-0 Abstention from Meray

Motion by Meray supported by Heikka to approve the bills/reimbursement of expenses. All Ayes. Carried 5-0

The Board heard the First Reading of the General Fund Budget Amendment as included in Attachment A

Motion by Heikka supported by Moccio to approve the purchase of two 77 passenger buses from Midwest Transit Equipment as described in Attachment B. All Ayes. Carried 5-0

Motion by Heikka supported by Rosen-Leacher to approve a future book student of "Why Meadow Died" by Andrew Pollack and Max Eden. All Ayes. Carried 5-0

Public Comments:

- Jayme McElvany alleged that providing certain materials to minors is a felony, accused the Board of hiding behind educational exceptions in the law, spoke of the ACLU and their attempts to avoid book banning, provided her interpretation of the First Amendment, and indicated that the Board would receive a letter from the St. Thomas Moore Society regarding books in schools.
- Holli Vallade spoke again about the Board's book study, alleged that concerns regarding books are limited to the books and not teachers, read excerpts from a book allegedly at Paddock Elementary School, and alleged that the book, the Bluest Eye, normalizes pedophilia.
- Annie Kruse alerted the Board that the audio on the live feed was cutting in and out.
 - President Cislo indicated that while the live feed may be an issue, the meeting was recorded and would be posted on YouTube in its entirety.
- Doug Charles read an excerpt from the Bible discussing sex.

- George Wilkins expressed concerns about books in the library and stated that he believes the Bible is different.
- Stacy Terassi read excerpts from books she finds objectionable.
- Rachel Hobbs gave her thoughts on the First Amendment and its relationship to books in the library, indicated that she appreciated the Board's upcoming book study, stated that she believed that the book Fun Home was donated to the GSA and that the donation was unlawful and should be investigated, asked if the District uses the EBSCO database, and welcomed new Board members.
- Trisha Parker expressed concern with students attending Board meetings for classes.
- Sydney Smith expressed that she was glad the Board is conducting the book study, mentioned the lack of keys for paraprofessionals, addressed certain alleged inaccuracies in public comments, addressed middle aged women reading books, her belief that sex in the Bible is not explicit, and encouraged Board members to grow up and take a stand.
- Darryl Ansel, a former officer in Monroe, expressed concern related to certain books in the library.
- Mike Charter expressed that the Board meetings are a democracy in action.
- Ashley St. Clair expressed concern regarding who is actually exposing children to books they find objectionable, the Board's new policies allowing parental consent, and her belief that kids are now reading these books because they are being read at Board meetings.
- Eric Rice expressed his belief that kids are now checking out certain books because individuals are reading them at Board meetings.
- Michael Orr read excerpts from a book he finds objectionable.
- Kurt DeMars spoke in favor of the Bible.

Student Board Member Comments:

- Faro provided information on upcoming High School events and congratulated DECA students on their recent success.
- Powell provided information on Mama Mia and other upcoming school events.

Superintendent's Comments were heard on the following topics:

- Welcome Back to Students and Staff
- Reminder - No School on Monday, January 16th - Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- Resignation of Early Childhood Director
- Welcomed Sara Meray and Betty Rosen-Leacher to the Board
- Sex Education Advisory Board Update

Assistant Superintendent Comments were heard on the following topics:

- Reimbursement Grant for Board Trainings
- Title III Grant Amendment for Carry Over Funds

Board Member Comments:

- Cislo reminded Board members to provide their preferred committee assignments, discussed building sponsors from the Board, addressed questions regarding the Superintendent's annual evaluation, reminded the community about the upcoming Big

Red Board Chat, provided the Board Policy addressing Board Conflicts of Interest, and provided the Board Policy addressing Community Complaints/Book Challenges.

- Meray thanked the community for the opportunity to serve and thanked the Board for the warm welcome.
- Rosen-Leacher thanked the community for the opportunity to serve and indicated that she and Ms. Meray would attend MASB training related to the Superintendent's evaluation.
 - Mr. Cislo clarified that Ms. Meray would attend the MASB training as soon as possible.
- Heikka read death and rape threats received by Board members against them, their spouses, and their children as a result of the hyperbolic language used to describe them and encouraged the community to come together to solve issues facing the District.
- Moccio spoke of the death and rape threats made against her children and the steps she had to take to notify her employer to keep her fellow teachers and students safe while at work.

Time of Adjournment: 9:23 p.m.

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**MILAN AREA SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION
General Fund
2022-2023 Budget Amendment**

		FY 22-23 Adopted Budget	Dec. Amended Budget	Increase/ Decrease
<u>REVENUE:</u>				
100	Local	\$ 4,671,575	\$ 4,719,563	\$ 47,988
300	State	18,755,567	19,550,561	794,994
400	Federal	2,186,815	2,860,702	673,887
500/600	Incoming Transfers	2,794,822	3,381,210	586,388
Total Revenues		\$28,408,779	\$ 30,512,036	\$ 2,103,257
<u>EXPENDITURES:</u>				
110	Basic Programs	\$ 12,579,542	\$ 12,556,173	(23,369)
120	Added Needs	2,614,023	3,456,021	841,998
130	Adult/Cont. Ed.	226,840	238,103	11,263
Total Instruction		\$15,420,405	\$16,250,297	\$829,892
210	Pupil Support Services	\$4,173,751	\$3,787,054	(386,697)
220	Instructional Support	1,118,416	1,139,545	21,129
230	General Administration	570,845	598,646	27,801
240	School Administration	1,537,625	1,594,417	56,792
250	Business Support	441,885	451,930	10,045
260	Operation/Maintenance	3,427,959	3,902,223	474,264
270	Transportation	1,473,608	1,432,181	(41,427)
280	Central Support	855,557	865,659	10,102
290	Support Service Other	610,591	710,831	100,240
300	Community Services	846,015	1,039,169	193,154
400	Site Improvement Services			-
600	Transfers			-
Total Supporting Services		\$15,056,252	\$ 15,521,655	\$ 465,403
Total Expenditures		\$30,476,657	\$ 31,771,952	\$ 1,295,295
Excess of Revenues Over Expenditures		(\$2,067,878)	\$ (1,259,916)	\$ 807,962
Audited Fund Balance @ 7/1/22		\$4,931,946	\$4,931,946	\$5,924,740
Beginning Fund Balance as % of Expenditures		16.18%	15.52%	#DIV/0!
Est. Ending Fund Balance @ 6/30/23		\$2,864,068	\$3,672,030	\$6,732,702
Ending Fund Balance Assignments				
	Assigned Harkness Estate	(50,000)	(50,000)	-
	Assigned Curriculum	(90,000)	(90,000)	-
	Assigned PECC	(341,600)	(341,600)	-
	Assigned Athletics	(20,965)	(20,965)	-
	Assigned Technology	(75,000)	(75,000)	-
	Assigned Building & Grounds	(75,000)	(75,000)	-
	Assigned Buses	(90,000)	(90,000)	-
Unassigned		2,121,503	2,929,465	
Total Ending Fund Balance as % of Expenditures		9.40%	11.56%	
Unassigned Ending Fund Balance as % of Expenditures		6.96%	9.22%	

Milan Area Schools
2022-2023 Budget Amendment - December 2022

Proposed revenue increase/(decrease) for the amendment: **2,103,257**

Revenue

Grants w/offsetting expenses	878,159
Additional Act 18 Dec. 2022 payment	586,388
Foundation Allowance Adjustment: Assumed an increase of \$400 per pupil, actual increase was \$450 per pupil and adjusted special education funding formula	255,333
MPSERS UAAL contribution adjustments	319,202
State Aid adjustments	16,893
Miscellaneous adjustments	47,282

Total Revenue Change	2,103,257
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Proposed expense increase/(decrease) for the amendment: **1,295,295**

Expenses

Grants w/offsetting revenues	878,159
MPSERS UAAL contribution adjustments	319,202
Back-up lighting repairs at Symons	13,300
HVAC repairs at Milan High School	20,000
New light poles through out the district	21,000
Elevator repair/maintenance at Milan High School	15,188
Consortium tuition reduction based on consortium enrollment	(70,673)
Interpreter for hearing impaired students	76,000
30% increase for electricity based on MISEC recommendation	165,000
New diving boards	31,000
Elimination of one high school teaching position	(79,571)
Elimination of one elementary teaching position	(97,649)
Elimination of one bus run/driver	(36,551)
Miscellaneous adjustments	40,890

Total Expense Change	1,295,295
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Resulting in an increased/(lower) use of fund balance of: **(807,962)**

Fund Balance as of July 1, 2022	4,931,946
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Revenues over Expenditures based on amendment	(1,259,916)
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Estimated Fund Balance as of June 30, 2023	3,672,030
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