

**MILAN AREA SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION
WORKSHOP MEETING
WEDNESDAY, January 27, 2021**

The workshop meeting of the Milan Area Schools Board of Education was called to order by President Cislo at 7:00 p.m. on January 27, 2021.

Board Members Present: Faro, Moccio, Cislo, Kiger, Landingham, Frait, Heikka

Board Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Bryan Girbach, Ryan McMahon, Lon Smith, Aaron Shinn, Jennifer Barker, McKenzie Chappelle, James Brousseau, Courtney Jeffers, Melissa Fiederlein, Miranda Laskowski,

Guests Present: Scott Morrell, Jodie Franklin, Jeannie iPhone, Julie, Lamberts, J Brown, jmoreloc, Mom, HG, Kerri, MAS, Sarah Finch, Julie Brown, iPhone

Pledge of Allegiance

Location of Board Members Attending Virtually:

Cislo – Milan, MI

Faro – Milan, MI

Frait - Milan Township, MI

Heikka – Milan, MI

Kiger – London Township, MI

Landingham – Exeter Township, MI

Moccio – York Township, MI

Public Comments: None

Motion by Heikka supported by Frait to approve the FCI Graduates (as listed in Attachment A) contingent upon their completion of all requirements. All Ayes. Carried 7-0

Scott Morrell from Michigan Association of School Boards led the Board through a discussion regarding the Superintendent’s Evaluation Planning and Goal Setting.

Committee Assignments and Committee Chairs were discussed by the Board.

Board Member Kiger led the Board in a discussion regarding the development of a “Grow Your Own” Scholarship/Initiative.

Superintendent's Comments:

Students

- Our Girls Swimming and Diving Team had 9 girls attending the State meet. All 9 girls brought home a medal.
 - Medley Relay: 13th Elaina Malach, Rylee Mitchell, Mikala Muccino and Hailey Brady
 - 200 Free: 17th Phoebe Rhoney
 - 200 IM: 27th Elaina Malach
 - 50 Free: 6th Annabelle Williams
 - 100 Free: 9th Annabelle Williams
 - 500 Free: 10th Jillian Rhoney, 16th Phoebe Rhoney
 - 200 Free Relay: 15th Annabelle Williams, Hailey Brady, Reaghan Hines and Krista Cook
 - 100 Back: 17th Elaina Malach
 - 400 Free Relay: 6th Jillian Rhoney, Elaina Malach, Annabelle Williams and Phoebe Rhoney
- The current MDHHS Pandemic Order prohibits indoor contact sport competitions through February 21st. This includes basketball, wrestling, and ice hockey. Practices are allowed under very specific safety requirements. We believe that Boys Swimming and Diving will be allowed to practice and compete. The potential for our Bowling Team to compete and/or practice will depend on the MDHHS orders regarding bowling alley restrictions.
- Snow Days. While we hope there is not a need for a snow day this year, we all know that we live in Michigan and that weather can be unpredictable. As always, student and staff safety is of the utmost importance when making the decision to close school. If/when a snow day is called; both hybrid and virtual students will observe the school cancellation. With staff at home, it is not possible for all staff to conduct synchronous instruction or to upload new asynchronous materials. Students should take the day to work on any assignments they might have outstanding.

Staff

- At the end of last year, the counseling department secured a \$20,000 grant from MCAN to increasing our college-going culture. The department also just received a \$3500 mental health grant from the WCHD. These funds can be used to take more college field trips, invite speakers into the district, pay for REACHING HIGHER courses, fund GSA reading materials and field trips, and provide student rewards for college applications. Thank you to the counseling department and especially our EMU grad student, Alex Pattenaude.
- Denise Mitchell (HS Paraprofessional), recently lost her brother unexpectedly
- The Michigan Association of Community and Adult Education (MACAE) sent the district recognition for Connie Cox for her contributions to the MACAE Board of Directors. Connie has served as a member of the MACAE Board since 2011 and during that time she has made tremendous contributions to the association. Her contributions have led to increased membership, quality professional development, networking opportunities and a commanding vision for flexible learning options for adults and youth in Michigan.
- Rebecca Muessig, our Payroll and Human Resources Manager, recently earned her Human Resources Specialist certification from the Michigan School Business Officials (MSBO). This certificate reflects a high degree of academic and professional preparation established

by the MSBO Board of Directors through their Professional Development Committee. Please join me in congratulating Rebecca on her accomplishment.

- Vaccinations are rolling out slowly in Washtenaw County and across the country. This delay is caused by the lack of doses available. I am keeping the Milan Area Schools staff updated, but at this time, patience is going to be required. All of the district's employees became eligible for the vaccination on January 11th; however, eligibility does not mean that the vaccinations started occurring that day. As a district (like all the districts in the county) we are waiting for information regarding the accessibility of doses and the scheduling of appointments.

Communication

- The district currently has 1,035 Twitter followers. That is up 3 from the last meeting.
- The district currently has 2,319 Facebook followers. That is down 3 from the last meeting.

Legislative

- Mrs. Frait, Mrs. Landingham, Mr. Cislo, and Mr. Girbach attended a Washtenaw County Legislative Zoom session on Monday (1-25-21). The event allowed us time to discuss future funding and pupil accounting concerns.

General

- COVID Update
 - 1 positive staff member
 - 1 staff member awaiting test results
 - 4 positive students
 - 15 students on quarantine due to contact at school
- As the district begins to plan for the 2021-2022 school year, we are planning for a full in-person return. While that may change, we feel it is important to have that goal in mind. We will have alternative models planned as well, but will only move forward with them if it is absolutely a necessity. The focus of our planning for the 2021-2022 school year is on providing the support necessary to make up for delayed learning caused by COVID. Therefore, our initial planning includes evaluating every aspect of our instructional delivery model. This includes assessing student time spent in CORE classes, reviewing elective programming, considering alternative daily schedules for students, and evaluating numerous other aspects of daily operations. Over the next couple of months, stakeholder input will be sought on these topics.
- Milan Area Schools' Instructional Model Moving Forward
 - Governor Whitmer has urged all school systems to provide a model of instruction that allows for in-person delivery on or before March 1st. Milan's current hybrid model meets that request. The Governor's comments have been misinterpreted by many to mean that schools should return to all-day every-day instruction by March 1st. I do not believe that is the true intent of the Governor's statements. Instead, the Governor wants to see districts that are only providing virtual instruction to implement some type of in-person model.
 - While Milan Area Schools understands the importance of in-person instruction and maintains a true desire to have students in the classroom all-day every-day; staff, student, and family safety has to be factored into the decision making process. At this time, the slow roll-out of the vaccination, the presence of the new variant in Washtenaw County, and the 6-foot social distancing rules for close contact quarantining do not

support placing 28-32 students in a classroom. The hybrid model allows for appropriate safety measures when considering all factors. The Board of Education will continue to review our instructional model monthly.

Assistant Superintendent's Comments:

- Assistant Superintendent McMahon commented on the work that is beginning to take shape in the district in terms of planning for next year. The administrators and teacher leadership teams are engaging in conversations to begin mapping out options for next year, amidst all of the unknown variables and constraints still ahead.

Board Member Comments:

- Board Member Frait presented an update to the Board regarding the Legislative Coffee. Frait thanked Superintendent Girbach for offering to help organize the vaccine clinic and thanked Superintendent Girbach and Assistant Superintendent McMahon for the explanation on the Title COVID dollars. Frait thanked Mr. Alex for providing help to her daughter and gave Kudos to Connie Cox for her accomplishment.
- Board Member Cislo thanked Board Member Frait for her WISD Board work and thanked Superintendent Girbach for speaking up at the Legislative Coffee. Cislo also thanked Scott Morrell for his guidance during the Superintendent's evaluation process.
- Board Member Faro thanked Lon Smith for his presentation to the Board. Faro also extended a thank you to HS Counselor Mrs. Salas, Superintendent Girbach, and Assistant Superintendent McMahon. Faro shared an update regarding his MASB course work.
- Board Member Hiekka gave an update regarding proposed school funding legislation and encouraged the community to contact their legislators.
- Board Member Landingham spoke about the MASB and MASA workshops and inquired about future virtual requests for the 2021-2022 school year.

Student Board Member Comments: None

Time of Adjournment: 9:34 p.m.