

**MILAN AREA SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
Wednesday, October 13, 2021**

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 7:01 p.m. on October 13, 2021.

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

Board Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Bryan Girbach, Ryan McMahon, Krista Hendrix, Jennifer Barker, Yvette Kashmer

Guests Present: Aubrey Bukosky, Trish Parker, Alecia Powell, Jessica Keller, Debra Allen, Noah Allen, Tracey Kendall, Yo Gabba Gabba, George Elder, Rachel Hobbs, Louise Swoffer, Phil Heath, Mariela Pucci, Martin Richie

Pledge of Allegiance

Motion by Faro supported by Frait to thank the administrators of Milan Area Schools as recorded in Attachment A. All Ayes. Carried 7-0

Public Comments:

- Rachel Hobbs spoke about administration raises, loss of programs, and the use of ESSER funds. Mrs. Hobbs requested that the Board table the vote on the Administrative Raises.
- Holli Vallade read an anonymous letter about bullying.
- Mariela Pucci read an anonymous letter about bullying.
- Trisha Parker spoke about bullying.
- Alecia Powell spoke about administration raises, bullying, transportation concerns, and staff evaluations.
- Debbie Allen spoke about bullying.
- Phil Heath spoke about raises and the budget.
- George Elder read an anonymous letter about bullying.

Motion by Faro supported by Landingham to approve the consent agenda that includes the minutes of the workshop meeting of September 29, 2021, the minutes of the closed session meeting of September 29, 2021, the approval of bills/reimbursement of expenses, and the 2022 Resolution to Levy Summer Taxes. All Ayes. Carried 7-0

The Board heard a First Reading of the 2021 Annual Audit provided by Tracey Kendall of Rehmann as detailed in Attachment C

Motion by Faro supported by Landingham to approve the Administrators, Directors, Managers, Supervisors, Deans, Central Office Staff, Technology Staff, Mechanics, and Adult/Community Education Staff contracts as presented in attachment D. Motion carried 6-1 No vote by Frait.

Motion by Faro supported by Heikka to approve the Communication Committee Member Selection Process Survey as detailed in Attachment E. All Ayes. Motion carried 7-0

Public Comments:

- Debbie Allen asked a question about an RFP for the district's auditor.
- Rachel Hobbs spoke about the administrative raises, the district's fund balance, and program cuts.
- Holli Vallade spoke about the administrative raises and asked that the no parent volunteer policy be ended.
- Harold Powell thanked the Board and then spoke about bullying.

Superintendent's Comments:

Students

- The district wants to remind our students and families that, throughout the 2021-2022 school year, full meal equivalent breakfasts and lunches will be free to all students on scheduled school days. Individual milks and other food items will NOT be free.
- The MHS Boys Tennis Team won the 2021 Regional Championship and have advanced to the State Championships! This is Milan's first regional tennis championship in school history and marks Milan's first appearance at the state championships in boys tennis. Congratulations to Coach Rodriguez and the Boys Tennis Team!
- Contrary to a public comment, the district has not cut numerous programs or course offerings.

Staff

- Elizabeth "Grandma" Sands (Paddock Foster Grandmother) passed away
- Kathy Viets' (Retired MMS Teacher) husband passed away.
- Janet McGovern's (Retired Accounts Payable/Receivable manager) father passed away
- Lisa Francis's (Young Adult Paraprofessional) sister passed away - Bruce Francis (Custodian) is Lisa's Husband

General

- Michael Smith, Kelley Smith's (Paddock Teacher) husband, on behalf of DTE made a large donation of school supplies to Milan Area Schools. The donation included a large plotter/printer that will be used in our CAD/CAM and drafting programs.
- Milan COVID data can be viewed by visiting milanareaschools.org and clicking on the COVID Case Data (24 Hour Notifications & Weekly Dashboard) link.
- Contrary to public comments, bullying issues are addressed by Administration and progressive discipline is used to address inappropriate student behavior. It is also important to note that some of the public comments made about bullying were not factually correct.

Budget

- The United States Department of Education (USED) approved Michigan's education plan for the federal American Recovery Plan Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ARP-ESSER III) funding. These funds reimburse school districts to support safe, in-person instruction and meet the social, emotional, mental health, and academic needs of students—with a focus on the students most impacted by the pandemic. The approval of Michigan's ARP plan will allow for the use of **\$363 million in state equalization payments appropriated to districts that did not receive \$1,093 per pupil** in their ARP ESSER formula allocation. **At this time, we estimate that receiving the additional funds to bring Milan Area Schools up to the \$1,093 per pupil will bring in an additional \$1,045,009 in ESSER Funds.** These additional funds will help us continue to keep class sizes low for a longer period of time.
- Contrary to a public comment made, the Financial Statement numbers are not being manipulated by the district.
- While tax dollars from the Nexus Pipeline did benefit the Bond Debt budgets, no additional funds were provided to the operating budget because of the pipeline. All additional funds collected by the district for the pipeline are then equally subtracted by the state from future state aid payments.

Board

- Superintendent Girbach's evaluation is led by a representative from the Michigan Association of School Boards.
- Superintendent Girbach's evaluation calendar and the timing of his compensation decisions are scheduled by the Board of Education. The Board is aware that compensation decisions are made with respect to the most recent performance evaluation.
- Contrary to a public comment made, Board members are present during negotiation sessions with the Milan Teacher Association and the full Board is also kept up-to-date on all negotiation sessions.

Assistant Superintendent Comments:

- Assistant Superintendent McMahon provided an update on the Fall assessments across all four buildings. NWEA is nearly completed in grades K-8 and the SAT suite of assessments began today in grades 8-11.
- Assistant Superintendent McMahon provided an update on the Consolidated Application. MDE has decided to revert to the old reporting system rather than wait any longer for the new version to be ready, but the application is yet to be released.

Student Board Member Comments:

- Aubrey Bukosky apologized for not being around in the summer and stated her classmates are happy to be back in school 5 days a week.

Board Member Comments:

- Board Member Faro spoke about bullying, the negotiation process, and the district's budget. Faro shared that he is proud of the audit results and gave credit to the finance department for those good results.
- Board Member Frait congratulated the boys Tennis team and the Equestrian team. She wished them well at their next competitions. Frait also welcomed Aubrey Bukosky back.
- Board Member Landingham stated that she, Superintendent Girbach, and President Cislo met with the MOASH group to discuss the possibility of a Board presentation. Landingham also discussed the connection of the district's DEI work to the district's vision, mission, and belief statements. Landingham then explained the need for community education on the district's DEI work. Landingham also talked about a plan for the Board's upcoming book study (Safe Is Not Enough: Better Schools for LGBTQ Students).
- Board Member Moccio thanked Krista Hendrix and the Central Office staff on the results of the audit.
- Board Member Kiger addressed the audience on the response to equitable funding.
- Board Member Heikka congratulated the Tennis and Equestrian teams. Heikka also spoke about the bullying issues raised during public comments. Heikka then stated that she is proud of her work on the Board.

Time of Adjournment: 8:46 p.m.