

**MILAN AREA SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
Wednesday, October 9, 2024**

The regular meeting of the Milan Area Schools Board of Education was called to order in the Milan Area Schools District Boardroom located at 100 Big Red Drive, Milan MI, 48160, by President Cislo at 7:02 p.m. on October 9, 2024.

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

Board Members Absent: Rosen-Leacher

Signed in Staff: Bryan Girbach, Ryan McMahon, Katelin McLeod, Julianna Naccarato, Anna DiMelis, Margaret Durkee

Signed in Guests: Teresa Tomaszewski, Virginia Heikka, Daniel Clark

Pledge of Allegiance

New teachers Katelin McLeod, Julianna Naccarato, and Anna DiMelis, introduced themselves to the Board of Education.

Motion by Faro supported by Meray to thank the Milan Area Schools Administrators as recorded in Attachment A. All Ayes. Carried 6-0

Public Comment: None

Motion by Prior supported by Gutierrez to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of September 25, 2024. All Ayes. Carried 6-0

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

Motion by Heikka supported by Faro to approve the 2025 Resolution to Levy Summer Taxes as included in Attachment B. All Ayes. Carried 6-0

The Board heard the First Reading of the 2024 Annual Audit from Daniel Clark of Rehmann as included in Attachment C

The Board heard an update on the 2024 Sinking Fund Millage Proposal presented by Superintendent Girbach

Public Comments: None

Student Board Member Comments:

- Virginia Heikka announced that two students were up for Monroe Athlete of the Week and encouraged people to vote. She also praised the Girls' Swim Team as they approached 25 years of undefeated competition in the Huron League.

Assistant Superintendent Comments:

- Grants
 - ARP II (McKinney-Vento)
 - 23G (Math Intervention)
- Congratulations to Gen Saylor for Presenting at a National ESL Conference
- Thank you top Tracy Terris for her work on the FAME Assessment Initiative and Training
- CommonLit Reading Assessment
- Congratulations to Sierra Moran for her STEM project involving the Washtenaw County Sheriff's Department
- DESSA SEL Screener Initiative

Superintendent Comments were heard on the following topics:

- Welcome to Teresa Tomaszewski and Virginia Heikka as our 2024-02025 Student Board Representatives
- Congratulations to our Fall Sports programs
- Congratulations to our MMS and MHS Choirs for a successful MSVMA Vocal Arts Day
- Recognition of Alicia Upton's contributions to Milan Area Schools
- New Teacher Orientation Session I
- Paddock's Safe Kids Award from the Washtenaw Council for Children

Board Member Comments:

- Faro praised Ms. Upton and described her as an incredible human being. He discussed the District finishing the 2023 - 2024 fiscal year with a net surplus of \$33,000. He thanked Ryan McMahon and team for their work to obtain grants and increase revenue. He discussed the upcoming vote to institute a sinking fund and explained its benefit to the general fund.
- Heikka asked if the audit findings would be available publicly to help combat misinformation in the community related to the District's finances. She praised Krista Hendrix for another clean audit. She also praised the District for finishing for the second year in a row with a surplus. Lastly, she welcomed the new Student Board Members.
- Prior offered her condolences to Ms. Upton's family. She encouraged the community to attend the FFA Hog Roast.
- Gutierrez discussed the budget and the audit findings. She also discussed the need for a sinking fund to help invest in the District's assets. She discussed the District's 11% Fund Balance and how it exceeds the District's goal of 10% and the State's requirements. She also discussed the desire to not hold resources that could be used to pay staff. She thanked Krista Hendrix for another clean audit and her financial leadership. She thanked Paddock Elementary for their Body+ program. She also offered her condolences to Ms. Upton's family and welcomed the Student Board Members.
- Meray offered her sympathies to Ms. Upton's family and expressed her gratitude for her service and described her as a treasured colleague. She praised the 7/8 grade Volleyball Team for supporting one another and credited the coaches for creating a supportive atmosphere. She also praised the student spectators for their support for the teams. She announced a Student Tech Forum at the Michigan Capitol in December.
- Cislo thanked the Girls' Swim Team for inviting the Board to their Educator's Appreciation Night. He also discussed the 11% Fund Balance and the District's balancing between our accountant's desire for 20% and the District's desire to pay staff as much as possible. He also stressed the importance of strong schools and the impact of such on the market value of homes in the community.

Motion by Heikka supported by Meray to enter into closed session pursuant to Section 8(1)(b) of the Michigan Open Meetings Act, and upon the request of the student's parent/guardian, for the purpose of conducting a hearing to consider the discipline of a student whose identity is known to the Board as student 2024-2025-1. All Ayes. Carried 6-0

Time entered closed session 8:32 p.m.

Time returned to open session 9:24 p.m.

Motion by Heikka supported by Prior to expel student 2024-2025-1 in accordance with the attached resolution as read by President Cislo. All Ayes. Carried 6-0

Time of Adjournment: 9:29 p.m.