

**MILAN AREA SCHOOLS  
BOARD OF EDUCATION  
REGULAR MEETING  
Wednesday, December 11, 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 7:00 p.m. on December 11, 2024.

Board Members Present: Cislo, Prior, Faro, Meray, Gutierrez (7:13 p.m)

Board Members Absent: Heikka

Signed in Staff: Bryan Girbach, Ryan McMahon, Anne Foor, Aaron Shinn, Margaret Durkee, Sara Beckman

Signed in Guests: Virginia Heikka, Mike Foor, Gabriel Burdette, Sarah Norton, Angela Chidester, George Elder, Beth Vanderfrift, Matthew Norton, Andrea Bennink, Robert Chidester, Gary Taepke, Amanda Taepke

Pledge of Allegiance

Public Comment: None

Motion by Prior supported by Faro to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of November 13, 2024. All Ayes. Carried 4-0

Motion by Faro supported by Prior to approve the bills/reimbursement of expenses. All Ayes. Carried 4-0

The Board received an update from Andrea Bennink regarding the WISD PAC meeting.

The Board conducted the new Board Candidate Interviews

The Board conducted the Board Candidate Selection Process

First Round Scoring	Cislo	Faro	Gutierrez	Meray	Prior	<b>Total</b>
Gabriel Burdette	3	1	1	1	1	7
Angela Chidester	1	2	2	2	2	9
George Elder IV	5	4	5	5	3	22
Sarah Norton	2	3	4	3	4	16
Gary Taepke	4	5	3	4	5	21

Second Round Scoring	Cislo	Faro	Gutierrez	Meray	Prior	Total
Gabriel Burdette	3	1	1	1	1	7
Angela Chidester	1	2	2	2	2	9
Sarah Norton	2	3	3	3	3	14

Motion by Meray supported by Faro to appoint Gabriel Burdette to serve as a member of the board of education of Milan Area Schools for the unexpired term of Betty Rosen-Leacher (resigned) until the November 3, 2026, election have been held and certified and a newly elected individual has been sworn-in to fill the remainder of this position's term. All Ayes. Carried 5-0

Public Comments:

- Margaret Durkee congratulated the First grade class on an outstanding concert performance. She also praised all of the staff involved for helping make it a success.
- Amanda Taepke, speaking as the London Township Clerk, spoke regarding the need to engage young people in the election process. She offered to work with the district to help students (over 16 years old) become election workers in future elections in London Township.

Student Board Member Comments:

- Heikka provided information about the MHS food and supply drive currently taking place.

Assistant Superintendent Comments were heard on the following topics:

- Grants
  - 99h Robotics
  - 41 Bi-Lingual
  - ARP2 Homeless
  - Board Member Training
  - Benchmark Assessment
- Conferences Attended
  - MDE MTTS
  - School Improvement
  - Future Leaders
  - MI Educational Research
- Connect4Learning Young Fives Curriculum Professional Development

Superintendent Comments were heard on the following topics:

- Winter Sports
- MHS Productions - Little Women
- MMS and MHS Band Concert
- Elementary Concerts
- MMS and MHS Choir Concert
- Cynde Cialone - CFO Certification
- Passing of Jeff Davis' (MHSD Teacher) Mom
- Passing of Nichole Gerbens (OPaddock Teacher) Father-in-Law
- Gabriel Burdette - Newly Appointed Board Member
- MISEC Electrical Savings of \$96,019
- Announced his Retirement Effective June 30, 2025

Board Member Comments:

- Cislo responded to Mr. Girbach's announcement by reading a statement on behalf of the Board. He also discussed the Superintendent selection process and the importance of stakeholder input including the upcoming Big Red Board Chat.
- Prior congratulated the girls basketball team for their decorum during a game. She thanked them for representing MHS with pride. She thanked the MHS staff for supporting the students at the upcoming Exam Cram. She also thanked Mr. Girbach for his service to Milan Area Schools.
- Faro announced that the budget revision would be taking place in January. He discussed his intent to participate in the upcoming MASB Winter Institute. He encouraged 10th graders to attend the South and West Washtenaw Consortium open house and to apply for participation prior to the deadline. He thanked Mr. Girbach for his service to Milan Area Schools and shared a positive personal experience he had with Mr. Girbach.
- Gutierrez apologized for being late to the meeting due to a work obligation. She thanked the community for her election to the Board in November. She congratulated the cast and crew of the MHS production of Little Women. She also thanked the elementary students and staff for their wonderful music concerts. She also thanked Mr. Brooks, Mrs. Powell, and Mr. Lopez for their dedication to our music programs. She welcomed Me. Burdette to the Board of Education. She also thanked Mr. Girbach for his service to Milan Area Schools specifically citing the Reimage Milan Initiative as a success. She then discussed the importance of the thoroughness of the selection process for the next Superintendent and specifically the need to include stakeholder input.
- Meray welcomed Mr. Burdette to the Board of Education. Thanked the fine arts programs for all of their successful productions and concerts. She also thanked the community for supporting the fine arts. She also thanked Mr. Brooks, Mrs. Powell, and Mr. Lopez for their dedication to our music programs. She thanked Mr. McMahon for the detailed update on grants and his hard work on grant applications. She also thanked Mr. Girbach for his service to Milan Area Schools.
- Cislo thanked Mr. Girbach for his service to Milan Area Schools.

Time of Adjournment: 9:05 p.m.