

**MILAN AREA SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
Wednesday, December 21, 2022**

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 December 21, 2022.

Board Members Present: Cislo, Kiger, Faro, Rosen-Leacher, Moccio, Heikka, Frait

Board Members Absent: None

Signed in Staff: Bryan Girbach, Ryan McMahon, Kim Jasper, Chris Sandberg, Yvette Kashmer, Lon Smith, Krista Hendrix

Signed in Guests: Robert Dietzel, Maya Faro, Avery Powell, Gisele Garduno, Avery Young, Annie Kruse, Jacob Bennink, Jill Tewsley, George Elder, Adina Caciuc, Rachel Hobbs, Kaydon E, Jessica Lubke, Shannon Dare Wayne, Alecia Powell, Laila Jasper, Catherine Pucci, Dallas Aitson, Anthony Carvalho, Holli Vallade, Jayme McElvany, Annette Tellas, Sidney Smith, Andrea Bennink

Pledge of Allegiance

President Cislo announced that the Board, during the Special Meeting, voted to table the discipline action regarding student 2022-2023-7 until after the closed session of this meeting. The discipline action was added to the agenda.

Public Comment:

- Andrea Bennink shared concerns regarding the budget amendment, including its potential impact on staff, and moving public comment periods. She also requested a standing agenda item for her PAC updates.
 - Mr. Girbach clarified points made about the budget amendment.
- Rachel Hobbs shared concerns regarding Advanced Placement classes and her FOIA request.
 - Mr. Girbach clarified comments made about the FOIA request.
- Holli Vallade commented on the results of certain book challenges and committees reviewing the books.
 - Mr. Girbach clarified comments made about the book challenges.
- Jayme McElvany read excerpts from books she believes are objectionable.
- Annette Tellas read excerpts from books she believes are objectionable.
- George Elder read excerpts from books she believes are objectionable.
- Sidney Smith read excerpts from books she believes are objectionable.
- Annie Kruse expressed concern regarding books allegedly in the library.
- Jacob Bennink expressed concern regarding books allegedly in the library.

Motion by Faro supported by Heikka to appoint the following person to the teaching position listed and Base Salary listed effective immediately.

* Rachel Friedlander - Milan Middle School Teacher Consultant (\$40,500)

All Ayes. Carried 7-0

- Frait sought clarification.

The Board discussed the Review Committee's recommendation to remove the book "Fun Home" by Alison Bechdel from the Milan High School Library.

Motion by Heikka supported by Moccio to recess the meeting. All Ayes. Carried 7-0.

The meeting was recessed at 7:51 p.m.

The meeting reconvened at 8:05 p.m.

Motion by Heikka supported by Faro to restrict access to the book "Fun Home" by Alison Bechdel by removing the book from self-selection and requiring parental consent before the book can be checked out or viewed. Carried 6-1. No vote by Frait

- Frait commented on the motion and asked for clarification on the motion.
- Heikka commented on the motion and provided clarification.
- Moccio asked for clarification on the motion.
- Cislo provided clarification.

Motion by Heikka supported by Moccio to table agenda items VI.A.1 and VI.B.1 to the January 11, 2023, Board meeting. All Ayes. Carried 7 - 0.

Student Board Member Comments

- Faro congratulated the bands and choirs for their recent concerts, congratulated DECA for their successful door decorating contest, congratulated the Boys and Girls Bowling teams, congratulated the Boys Swim team, and congratulated Coach Daniel Heikka for being honored as the Monroe County Girls Coach of the Year.
- Powell discussed numerous upcoming events including upcoming wrestling meets, basketball games, and hockey games. She also asked why students were not included on the book Review Committees.
 - Cislo clarified that the Board Policy does not allow for students to sit on the committee.

Motion by Faro supported by Rosen-Leacher to move agenda item VII.A until after the closed session. All Ayes. Carried 7-0

Motion by Heikka supported by Faro to appoint Attorney Robert Dietzel of the Thrun Law Firm, P.C. to serve as the Board's Hearing Officer for the student discipline hearings.

All Ayes. Carried 7-0

Motion by Heikka supported by Rosen-Leacher to enter into closed session pursuant to Section 8(1)(b) of the Michigan Open Meetings Act, and upon the request of the students' parents/guardians, for the purpose of conducting hearings to consider the discipline of students whose identity is known to the Board as student 2022-20023-7, 2022-2023-8, 2022-2023-9, and 2022-2023-10. All Ayes. Carried 7-0

Time entered closed session 8:23 p.m.

Time returned to open session 1:50 a.m.

Motion by Rosen-Leacher supported by Heikka to expel student 2022-2023-7 in accordance with the attached resolution as read by Robert Dietzel. Carried 6-0. Frait Abstained.

Motion by Heikka supported by Moccio to expel student 2022-2023-8 in accordance with the attached resolution as read by Robert Dietzel. All Ayes. Carried 7-0

Motion by Faro supported by Heikka to expel student 2022-2023-9 in accordance with the attached resolution as read by Robert Dietzel. All Ayes. Carried 7-0

Motion by Rosen-Leacher supported by Faro to expel student 2022-2023-10 in accordance with the attached resolution as read by Robert Dietzel. All Ayes. Carried 7-0

Public Comments: None

Superintendent's Comments were heard on the following topics:

- The Recent Music Concerts
- The Rotary-Aid in Milan -Milan Area Schools Christmas Basket Program
- Passing of John Evans' (Paddock/Symons Teacher) Father
- December 9th Professional Development
- Dan Heikka - 2022 Monroe County Regional Girls Swim Coach of the Year
- Thanked Jan Kiger for 15 Years of Service on the School Board
- Reminder of Last Day of School Before Break and Holiday Wishes

Assistant Superintendent Comments were heard on the following topics:

- GMACF Grant Updates
- All Star Driving Donation

Board Member Comments:

- Frait thanked Mrs. Kiger for her service, congratulated the Wrestling team and all other Big Reds, and wished everyone a Merry Christmas.
- Faro thanked Mrs. Kiger for her dedication and Mr. Cislo and Mr. Girbach for their assistance with his MASB certification.
- Heikka thanked Mrs. Kiger for her dedication to the school district and her friendship.
- Kiger thanked the district for allowing her to serve the community and for being there for her during her darkest days.

- Rosen-Leacher thanked Mrs. Kiger for her service, discussed her completion of MASB classes, and wished everyone a Happy Holidays.
- Moccio thanked Mrs. Kiger for her service and wished everyone a restful rest of the year.
- Cislo reminded everyone that the first meeting in January will be an organization meeting and that Mrs. Meray will be seated. He also announced that the next Big Red Board Chat will be held on January 17, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. at the Middle School. He also wished everyone a safe break, thanked everyone for their work, and wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

The Board honored Mrs. Kiger for her service to the District.

Time of Adjournment 2:19 a.m.