

**MILAN AREA SCHOOLS  
BOARD OF EDUCATION  
WORKSHOP MEETING  
WEDNESDAY, February 24, 2021**

The workshop meeting of the Milan Area Schools Board of Education was called to order by President Cislo at 7:01 p.m. on February 24, 2021.

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

**Board Members Absent:** None

**Staff Present:** Bryan Girbach, Ryan McMahon, Krista Hendrix, Brooke Tomalak, Clara Thiry, Connie Rose, Dan Heikka, Jennifer Barker, Jennifer Croze, Jim Brousseau, Joyce Bame, Kristina Mahaney, Lisa Francis, McKenzie Chappell, Melissa Fiederlein, Mrs. Machak, Mary Kliber Nichole Kuenzel, Sue Kesterson, Wendy Unger, Mrs. Smaby, Molly Jeppesen, Lisa Kornacki, Kelly Dyc, Sarah O’Neil, Molly Jeppesen

**Guests Present:** 734-546-7828, A. Smith, Aaron's iPhone, aglushc, Charlie Brown, Derek, E. Miller, HG, jeannie’s iPhone, Julie Brown, Lamberts, iPhone, Lauren’s iPhone, Lisa Koch, Colin Battersby, Jeff Feldkamp, Julie’s 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 Faro supported by Landingham to approve the purchase of one 71 passenger bus from Midwest Transit Equipment as described in Attachment A. All Ayes. Carried 7-0

Motion by Landingham supported by Heikka to approve the IRS Closing Agreement CLAG-11797-19 resolution as included in Attachment B. All Ayes. Carried 7-0

The Board held a discussion regarding conducting a self evaluation and holding a Board goal setting session.

**Superintendent’s Comments:**

**Students**

- The district wants to remind our students and families that meals continue to be provided for free to all children under the age of 18. The provision of free food will continue through the end of the school year. A link to place food orders can be found on the main page of milanareaschools.org.

Orders are taken each week between Wednesday morning and noon on Thursday. Orders are filled between 4:00 and 5:00 PM on Tuesdays behind Milan High School.

### **Staff**

- Vaccination Update - Prioritization of educational staff has been determined by the Washtenaw County Health Department. Milan Area Schools continues to provide staff lists as requested by the WCHD.
  - The Washtenaw County Health Department was originally providing vaccinations. A small group of Milan Special Education staff were invited to sign up with Washtenaw County Health Department. (close contact with students who struggle with masks)
    - Milan's 50+ staff were invited to sign up with Washtenaw County Health Department. (follow up communications were sent to verify staff were invited)
  - The Washtenaw County health Department has now teamed up with IHA and Michigan Medicine to provide vaccinations. Milan has been assigned to Michigan Medicine.
    - Milan's PreK through second grade staff have been invited to sign up with Michigan Medicine for a clinic on February 27th.
    - Milan's third grade through fifth grade staff have been invited to sign up with Michigan Medicine for a clinic on February 27th.
    - We currently have 123 (out of about 375) staff members who have not been invited to begin the process of being vaccinated.
- Checks for the MI Classroom Heroes COVID-19 Grants also known as "Educator Hazard Pay" were mailed on February 22nd and our staff members started receiving them in the mail today. The checks were sent directly to the employees from the Michigan Treasury Department. A second MI Classroom Heroes COVID-19 Grants program has been announced for GRSP, Head Start, Adult Education, and Young Adult Special Education teachers. After this grant, the following groups have been excluded: pre-school staff, GRSP support staff, administrators, and supervisors/department heads.

### **General**

- After 5 weeks of poor Milan Area Schools COVID Case Dashboard data, the district has experienced a week and a half with very few positive or probable cases amongst staff or students. We hope that this trend continues. More detailed information will be provided at the March 10th Board meeting.
- On Wednesday, February 17th, Milan Area Schools experienced a cyber security incident. The district has Property-Casualty Insurance that covers the costs of recovering from this type of event and the incident was reported to our insurance carrier late Wednesday night. Our insurance carrier immediately provided the district with several companies that are experts in the field of cyber security forensics and recovery. Early Thursday morning, the district began working with these companies. With their help, our technology department has learned a great deal about the incident and how to rebuild our network. At this time, there is no evidence that any private information of our students or staff was accessed or compromised. We are slowly and safely bringing the network back on line and will continue to support our staff and students during the rebuilding process. We thank our staff and students for their understanding and patience as some technology is not functioning perfectly during the rebuilding process .

### **Budget Update**

- The Governor, Senate, and House of Representatives have all produced budget recommendations. At this time, the budgets vary greatly in their methodology of distributing funds. The district will continue to monitor the legislature as the supplemental budget is developed and work begins on the 2021-2022 budget.

### **Board**

- The district wants to remind our community that under the current MDHHS Order, through March 29th, all Board of Education meetings in the state are required to be held virtually.

### **Communication**

- The district currently has 1,046 Twitter followers. This is up 11 from the last meeting.
- The district currently has 2,344 Facebook followers. This is up 25 from the last meeting.

### **Assistant Superintendent's Comments:**

- Assistant Superintendent McMahon shared with the Board the most recent update to the MDE's request to the USED for state assessment waivers. The current stance from USED is that they are more open to accountability waivers than they are to waivers for administering the assessments. MAS will continue to move forward with planning on administering the assessments while waiting to hear an official response to the MDE waiver request.

### **Student Board Member Comments: None**

### **Board Member Comments:**

- Board Member Kiger gave an update on Milan's Downtown Get Caught Reading event.
- Board Member Cislo updated the Board on the MASB Winter Institute. Cislo also spoke to the Board regarding the role call voting order and thanked all staff members for their patients during our recent technology issues.
- Board Member Faro spoke to the Board regarding recent classes he took at the MASB Winter Institute. Faro also spoke about the Governor's Health and Safety committee.
- Board Member Landingham shared with the Board a recent class she attended with MASB entitled Board Operating Procedures.
- Board Member Moccio updated the Board on recently attended classes provided by MASB. Moccio also gave an update on Milan's Downtown Get Caught Reading event.
- Board Member Frait shared that February 22, 2021 was bus driver Appreciation Day and gave kudos to all of our transportation staff. Frait thanked Board Member Cislo for adding the second Public Comment section back into the Board Meetings and thanked all of the Board members for their discussions regarding staff mental health. Frait thanked the staff, community, and students for their patience during our recent technology issues. Lastly Frait thanked the staff for their diligence in receiving the COVID vaccinations.
- Board Member Heikka thanked Superintendent Girbach for sending a letter on behalf of Milan's staff members to the Washtenaw Community Health Department. Heikka also inquired about the staff mental health survey.
- Board Member Landingham updated the Board on the MASB Winter Institute. Landingham also informed the Board about an upcoming MASB Spring Academy.

**Public Comments:** Melissa Brown of 1263 North Street inquired about upcoming or current diversity training.

Motion by Faro supported by Frait to enter into closed sessions pursuant to Section 8(h) of the Michigan Open Meetings Act, for the purpose of discussing an attorney client privileged written communication. All Ayes. Carried 7-0

Time entered into closed sessions 7:53 p.m.

Time exited closed session 8:41 p.m.

**Time of Adjournment:** 8:48 p.m.