

**MILAN AREA SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
Wednesday February 8, 2023**

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 February 8, 2023.

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

Board Members Absent: None

Signed in Staff: Bryan Girbach, Ryan McMahon, Yvette Kashmer, Krista Hendrix

Signed in Guests: Scott Morell, Jill Tewsley, Elizabeth Satterley, Scott Shepherd, Andrea Bennink, Anna Sowards, Brittany Shephard, George Elder, Alibeth Vandergrift, Amy, Susan Gauvin, Janice Kiger, Carrie Gutierrez, Mike Angstat, Rachel Hobbs, Mitchell Blauvett, Xoché' Blauvett, Vanessa Perez, Lake Foster, Annette Tellas, Holli Vallade, Kirk DeMars

Pledge of Allegiance

Public Comment:

- Andrea Bennink commented on adapting the Body Safety curriculum for students with special needs, the budget amendment, staff shortages, and the Parents Partnering for Change state training.
- Rachel Hobbs commented on the Superintendent's evaluation, the meeting minutes from the previous meeting, and the Board's book study.
- George Elder commented on threats he received during the last election.
- Lake Foster advised the community that he had been called names because of his public comments, urged the community to stop name calling, and spoke in favor of certain books in the library.
- Kirk DeMars stated that he believes the name calling comes from both sides and believed the threats to Board members and their families did not come from those that comment about books.
- Holli Vallade stated that the threats to Board members and their families did not come from those that comment about books and that commenting individuals did not encourage the threats. She stated that she also received threats and provided the Board with the following advice: Put on your big girl pants, self reflection, file a police report, or resign.

Motion by Faro supported by Meray to approve the minutes of the Regular meeting of January 12, 2023. Carried 6-0 Abstention by Frait

Motion by Faro supported by Heikka to approve the bills/reimbursement of expenses. Carried 6-0 Abstention by Frait

Motion by Faro supported by Rosen-Leacher to approve the 2022-2023 General Fund Budget Amendment as included in Attachment A. All Ayes. Carried 7-0

The Board heard the First Reading of the Paddock Body Safety Curriculum as described in Attachments B1, B2, B3

Assistant Superintendent McMahon presented to the Board the Section 98b Benchmark Achievement Goals February Update

Motion by Heikka supported by Moccio to appoint the following person to the administrative position listed and Base Salary listed effective February 20, 2023.

* Jessica Kishiyama – Director of Early Childhood (\$88,000)

All Ayes. Carried 7-0

- Faro and Cislo discussed the motion.

The Board discussed the foreword and preface of “Why Meadow Died”

Public Comments:

- Andrea Bennink commented on the Board’s book study and explained state law requiring schools to educate children with special needs in the least restrictive environment. She also explained that Milan was a fully inclusive district. She also stated that Florida and Michigan differ in education requirements.
- Jan Kiger welcomed Board members Meray and Rosen-Leacher and offered them advice.
- Rachel Hobbs read an anonymous statement.
- Kirk DeMars stated that he appreciated the Board’s book study, commented on the Board’s comments on the book, and discussed school safety.
- Holli Vallade discussed the Board’s book study.
- Xoché Blauvett discussed books she finds objectionable.
- Anna Sowards discussed books she finds objectionable.
- Brittany Shephard encouraged the Board and the community to work together.
- Annette Tellas discussed books she finds objectionable and her beliefs as to their potential impact on students.
- Lake Foster spoke in favor of books in the library and the intelligence of students reading the books.

Student Board Member Comments: None

Superintendent’s Comments were heard on the following topics:

- Band Accomplishments
- Choir Accomplishments
- Bowling Team Bowl-a-Thon
- CTE Month Recognition at February 22nd Meeting
- Successful Staff Professional Development on February 3rd
- Clarification Regarding Books in Milan Area Schools Libraries
- FOIA Requests
- Communication Committee Progress
- Milan Area Schools Responses to Staff Shortages

Assistant Superintendent Comments were heard on the following topics:

- Grant Updates
 - Robotics Grant
 - Section 41
 - Mental Health
 - School Safety

Board Member Comments:

- Faro spoke about the Board's book study and respect for the author, the Governor's proposed budget, comments made about students speaking in favor of books, and welcomed Board member Meray.
- Rosen-Leacher thanked the SEAB and their work on the curriculum.
- Meray spoke about the Board's book study indicating she is reading the book with an open mind, but will call out concerning language. She also congratulated the Milan Middle School Quiz Bowl team for their accomplishments.
- Frait provided a WASB update, welcomed Board member Meray, and sought clarification on the CTE recognition.
- Heikka commented on the advice provided by community members and announced she would not resign.
- Moccio encouraged the community to participate in the Downtown Read Around. She also read a letter in which she resigned.
- Cislo discussed the process for replacing Board member Moccio and upcoming book challenge appeals.

Motion by Faro supported by Moccio to enter into closed session pursuant to Section 8(1)(a) of the Michigan Open Meetings Act, and upon the request of the employee, for the purpose of conducting a periodic personnel evaluation. All Ayes. Carried 7-0

Time entered closed session 8:40 p.m.

Time returned to open session 10:21 p.m..

Motion by Moccio supported by Faro to rate Superintendent Bryan Girbach as Effective for the 2022-2023 school year. All Ayes. Carried 7-0

Time of Adjournment: 10:22p.m.