

**MILAN AREA SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
WEDNESDAY, March 10, 2021**

The regular meeting of the Milan Area Schools Board of Education was called to order by President Cislo at 7:00 p.m. on March 10, 2021.

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

Board Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Bryan Girbach, Ryan McMahon, Lon Smith, Krista Hendrix, Jennifer Bookout, Kimberly Jasper, Shanna Spickard, Sean DeSarbo, Jennifer Barker, Tracy Terris, Amber Straits, Michael Straits, Amy Creten, Chris Schmidt, Clara Thiry, Clare McFadden, Connie Rose, Courtney Jeffers, Denise Rednour, Erin Keel, Sarah Farmer, James Brousseau, Jennifer Smith, Jill Gerweck, Julie Brenke, Kate Drozdowski, Kelley Smith, Kelly Dyc, Kim Taylor, Kimberly Rock, Kitty Heiss, Kristina Golden-Merritt, Lisa Francis, Lisa Martin, Liz Pinkowski, Mary Kliber, McKenzie Chappell, Melissa Fiederlein, Micah Collins, Dan Heikka, Miranda Laskowski, Sara Bright, Melissa Machak, Jessica Stafford, Heather Gruber, Megan Hubbard, Nichole Kuenzel, Nicole Gerbens, Randi Goodburn, Sarah O'Neill, Sheila Meyer, Sue Kesterson, Wendy Unger, Brooke Tomalak, Adam Gilles, Dan Adams, Pam Smaby, Donna Novack, Elizabeth Satterly, Kelly Straub, Alison Smith, Valerie Rice

Guests Present: 17345467828, 13136736465, 17346524864, K, aglushc, andrea, Aubrey Bukosky, Bethany Bettini, Brianne, Bridget Eames, Charlie Brown, Simona, Crystal Hall, D Allen, Erin Knotts, Holly iPhone, iPhone, Mya Ross, Clint Flick, jeannie's iPhone, Mrs. Sharon, iPad8, Jodie Franklin, Julia's iPhone X, Kari Cislo, Kurt's iPhone, Laurie Englehart, Lona Noland, Mallory, Mike Angstadt, Miller, NC, Mrs. Miller, Renee Bell, Rochelle's iPad, Scott Morrell, Simona, Sparkles Sparkle, Stefanie Lorey, Stripp Family, Suzy, Swartzlander, Wendy Aho, Julie Brown, Sara F, Yo Gabba Gabba!, Stacy Johnson, aaron's iPhone, Amy, Kristi Higgins, Stacey Obryan, Parent, Knotts Kids, Luanne, Erin Held, Sarah Finch, Julie Mann, Ashley Risch, Lisa Sims, Heather's iPhone, Williams, kathleen foley edmonds, braelyn, Julie Friese, hather, Samantha Stines, Ashley brice, Stephanie Lambers Annie, Kelly Faro

Pledge of Allegiance

Location of Board Members Attending Virtually:

Cislo – Milan, MI

Frait – Milan Township, MI

Heikka – Milan, MI

Kiger – London Township, MI

Landingham – Exeter Township, MI
Moccio – York Township, MI
Faro – Milan, MI

Public Comments:

Tracy Terris of Tecumseh addressed the Board regarding possible start to full time, shared data and discussed the Paddock Staff Survey and also thanked Superintendent Girbach.

Jenny Smith of 325 Spink commented on the Symons Staff Survey.

Tom Taylor of 664 Honeysuckle Ln, Milan commented about returning to school full time.

Motion by Faro supported by Heikka to approve the consent agenda that includes the minutes of the regular meeting of February 10, 2021, the minutes of the workshop meeting of February 24, 2021, and the approval of payment of bills/reimbursement of expenses. All Ayes. Carried 7-0

Scott Morrell from the Michigan Association of School Boards worked with the Board on their Self-Evaluation and Goal Setting.

Superintendent Girbach spoke to the Board regarding the 2020-2021 School Year Update.

Motion by Heikka supported by Faro to continue the hybrid model with full virtual option. All Ayes. Carried 7-0

Motion by Heikka supported by Landingham to have Superintendent Girbach pursue information and data to plan for possible increased in-person instruction starting in mid to late April. All Ayes. Carried 7-0

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.
- The following students had excellent performances at the Regional level FFA Leadership Contests last week. We want to offer our congratulations to all of the participants.
 - Extemporaneous Public Speaking: Peter Pena - 2nd Place - Gold Award - Moving on to the State Semifinals on March 22nd

- Creed Speaking: Izzy Garcia - 2nd Place - Gold Award - Moving on to the State Semifinals on March 23rd
- Job Interview: Alyssa Hannah - 5th Place - Silver Award

Staff

- Vaccination Update - All direct hire staff members, contracted staff members, and student teachers have been offered the opportunity to schedule and receive a COVID vaccination. A few people are still in the process of getting their first appointment scheduled, but they have been provided a link to begin the process.
- Jaime Schlack's (MHS teacher) mother passed away last week.
- Dawn Werstein's (MHS Paraprofessional) father passed away last week.

General

- Daylight savings time starts at 2:00 AM on Sunday, March 14th. Don't forget to "spring forward" one hour this Sunday.

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 Board of Education meetings will be held virtually through March 30th due to indoor gathering capacity limits required by the current MDHHS Order.

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 a highlight from the MCIS program. In keeping with routine, students in the MCIS have again produced winning entries in the C-SPAN StudentCam project. This year, three student groups from MHS earned the Honorable Mention Award; Mikala Muccino & Jillian Rhoney with "ERA Now: The Modern Push", Sydney Aunins, Sophia Kirk, & Alaina Hawkins with "The U.S.

Shrugs on Drugs", and Brody Bogoski & Wyatt Thiry with "Combating Poverty with Universal Basic Income". The videos can be viewed at studentcam.org.

- This year, only two other groups from Michigan high schools received recognition. Since 2015, students from the MCIS program have been honored with 3 Second Place awards, 7 Third Place awards, and 17 Honorable Mention Awards to amass \$14,000 in scholarship earnings and over \$6,500 in teacher grant earnings.

Board Member Comments:

- Board Member Faro, Board Liaison for the High School, sent goodies as a thank you for all of the hard work and efforts of the staff. Faro also updated the Board on the PTO fundraiser at Symons Elementary.
- Board Member Landingham thanked Paddock and Symons Elementary Schools for the union surveys and encouraged Middle and High Schools unions to do the same. Landingham thanked Superintendent Girbach for supporting Milan at the county level.
- Board Member Frait thanked Superintendent Girbach on the update on the food distribution and also thanked Assistant Superintendent McMahon for the C-SPAN update. Frait also thanked Mrs. Barker for the NJHS induction information, thanked the Sunshine Committee at Symons Elementary, thanked Mrs. Terris and Mrs. Smith for the survey information, and also thanked Superintendent Girbach and the Board for working well together, and expressed her appreciation on the updates on COVID cases locally.
- Board Member Kiger expressed her thankfulness to the Milan Community.
- Board Member Heikka thanked Superintendent Girbach for conducting and recording the staff zoom meeting and thanked the entire staff for all they have done.
- Board Member Cislo was pleased at the number of attendees at the Board Meeting and thanked them for their input and patience.

Student Board Member Comments:

Student Board Rep Aubrey Bukoski shared the following building level updates:

Paddock:

- March is Reading Month
- Theme: "Reading Takes Us Places Even If We Have To Stay Where We Are"
- Weekly Activities and dress up play for both in person and virtual students
- The PTO has generously funded purchases for each student to receive a brand new book at the end of the month

Symons: March is Reading Month

3rd graders:

- Character Studies in unit reading
- Reading series books and fictions books with strong characters to analyze them
- Using their analysis skills to make claims about their characters in writing to craft literary essays, using supporting evidence from the books they are reading

- They are using what they learned to write their own fictional stories
- At the end of the month they will begin researching about animals

4th Graders:

- Historical fiction in book clubs
- Club chose an era to focus on (ex: american revolution/great depressions)
- Been reading non-fiction texts to strengthen their knowledge on that time period
- Writing a realistic fiction story
- Will soon begin studying poetry and figurative language

5th Graders:

- Learning to understand more complex non-fiction texts
- Reading multiple texts on a topic and are learning to synthesize the information across texts
- Learning to write longer more complex essays
- Learning to cite evidence from texts
- add their own interpretive thinking
- after spring break students will begin to research debatable issues (ex: should schools serve chocolate milk? Or should we be afraid of sharks?)
- after learning about different topics students will take a stance on the issue and crafts argumentative essays

Middle School:

- Student Council: Spirit Week, Trivia Fridays, Judging video auditions for the first ever virtual talent show which will be judged in Power Time Classes later this month. Penny Wars have started to raise money for the LLS. MMS has raised over \$7000 over the last few years
- MMS Wellness Team: won a \$1500 grant to focus on staff wellness
- 367 students were recognized for having no PBIS citations for first semester
- Teachers have been nominating both hybrid and virtual students for Good News of the Day
- Mrs Upton has continued to hold Zoom band rehearsals. Several students submitted individual recordings to solo and ensemble
- Celebrate Black History Month
- 18 Students were virtually inducted into National Junior Honor Society

High School:

- Robotics is up and running
- Getting going with prom planning
- Starting student scheduling selection for next year
- Girls basketball beat airport for the first time since 2010
- Boys basketball won their home game last week

Public Comments:

iPhone expressed to the Board thoughts and feelings on the Paraprofessional situation on a District level.

Laurie Englehart of 675 Honeysuckle, Milan expressed concerns about High School in person and virtual teaching.

Jodi Franklin of 615 Jefferson Ln, Milan updated the Board regarding Symons Elementary fundraising.

Time of Adjournment: 9:53 p.m.