

**MILAN AREA SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
Wednesday March 22, 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 5:30 p.m. on March 22, 2023.

Board Members Present: Cislo, Rosen-Leacher, Heikka (7:00 p.m.) Meray, Faro, Frait

Board Members Absent: None

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

Signed in Guests: Carrie K Gutierrez, Trish Parker, Annie Kruse, Gary Taepke, Robyn Egmon, Rachel Hobbs, Alecia Powell, Hailey Burd, Larry Biederman, Andrea Bennink, George Elder, Jennifer Bolanos, Karen Lambert, Mike Angstadt, Yo Gabba Gabba, Brook Barnett, Alibeth Vandergrift, Annette Tellas, Danielle Hoover, Lisa Egmon, Holli Vallade

Pledge of Allegiance

Motion by Rosen-Leacher supported by Faro to enter into closed session pursuant to Section 8(1)(b) of the Michigan Open Meetings Act, and upon the request of the student's parent/guardian, for the purpose of conducting a hearing to consider the reinstatement of a student whose identity is known to the Board as student 2022-2023-1. All Ayes. Carried 5-0

Time entered closed session 5:32 p.m.

Time returned to open session 6:14 p.m.

Motion by Faro supported by Frait to conditionally reinstate student 2022-2023-1 in accordance with the attached resolution. All Ayes. Carried 5-0

Motion by Rosen-Leacher supported by Faro to recess until 7:00 PM. All Ayes. Carried 5-0

The meeting was recessed at 6:15 p.m.

The meeting resumed at 7:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Public Comment:

- Rachel Hobbs requested that the pledge be said again, expressed her concerns related to declining enrollment, test scores, and the decision to reduce the class requirements at the High School from seven classes to six classes.

- Andrea Bennink discussed the importance of Rock Your Socks Day and acknowledging the abilities of those with Down Syndrome. She also thanked the City and the Milan Area Schools for celebrating the day.
- Holli Vallade expressed her view that the school district should come together and the best way to do that was for the Board to appoint a conservative voice to the Board.

Motion by Meray supported by Faro to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of March 8, 2023. All Ayes. Carried 5-0 Abstention by Frait

The Board held the new Board Candidate Interviews

Motion by Rosen-Leacher supported by Meray to recess. All Ayes. Carried 6-0

The meeting was recessed at 8:44 p.m.

The meeting resumed at 8:51 p.m

The Board conducted the Board Candidate selection process

First Round Scoring	Cislo	Faro	Heikka	Rosen-Leacher	Frait	Meray	Total
Angela Chidester	2	2	3	3	3	3	16
Adam de Angeli	8	7	7	8	1	8	39
Robyn Egmon	5	5	8	7	8	5	38
George Melvin Elder IV	9	4	9	5	5	10	42
Danielle Hoover	10	9	6	6	10	4	45
Carrie A. Karvonen-Gutierrez	1	1	1	2	6	1	12
Cassie Prior	3	3	2	1	4	2	15
Laura Rousseau	7	8	4	9	9	6	43
James Smith	6	10	5	10	7	9	47
Gary Taepke	4	6	10	4	2	7	33

Second Round Scoring	Cislo	Faro	Heikka	Rosen-Leacher	Frait	Meray	Total
Angela Chidester	2	2	3	3	2	3	15

Robyn Egmon	5	4	4	5	3	4	25
Carrie A. Karvonen-Gutierrez	1	1	1	2	5	1	11
Cassie Prior	3	3	2	1	4	2	15
Gary Taepke	4	5	5	4	1	5	24

Third Round Scoring	Cislo	Faro	Heikka	Rosen-Leacher	Frait	Meray	Total
Angela Chidester	2	2	3	3	1	3	14
Carrie A. Karvonen-Gutierrez	1	1	1	2	3	1	9
Cassie Prior	3	3	2	1	2	2	13

Motion by Hieikka supported by Faro to appoint Carrie A. Karvonen-Gutierrez to serve as a member of the board of education of Milan Area Schools for the unexpired term of Kerri Moccio (resigned) ending on December 31, 2024, as authorized by law. All Ayes. Carried 6-0

The Board discussed chapters five and six of the book “Why Meadow Died”

The Board discussed the scheduling of upcoming Big Red Chats

Public Comments:

- Holli Vallade accused the Board of not believing in Diversity and Inclusion because it did not appoint to the Board a candidate she supports, addressed her views on declining enrollment, and stated that several County Prosecutors believe the books she finds objectionable are violative of state statutes.

Student Board Member Comments:

- Faro congratulated students inducted into the National Honor Society, the production of Mama Mia, the Water Polo Team, and the Girls Soccer Team. She also provided an update on upcoming events.
- Powell congratulated the production of Mama Mia and the Girls Soccer Team for their recent performances. She provided an update on upcoming events. She expressed concern that the speakers in the Band Room needed replacing. She also expressed concern regarding the reduction in the class requirements at the High School and asked how the reduction would impact students in Consortium.

Superintendent’s Comments were heard on the following topics:

- Boys Swimming State Meet Accomplishments
- The Start of Spring Sports
- Congratulations to the MHS Cast and Crew of Mam Mia
- Congratulations to the MMS Cast and Crew of James and the Giant Peach Jr.
- March is Reading Month
- NHS Inductions

- MHS Choir Honors
- New Teacher Orientation
- Joint Meeting of County Superintendents and County Police Departments
- Joint Meeting of County Superintendents and EMU Department of Education
- K-12 Insights Survey Preparation for End of Year School Quality Surveys
- Zoom Session on the “Return to In Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan”

Assistant Superintendent Comments were heard on the following topics:

- Grants Update
 - 99h Robotics Grant
 - 11t Mickinney Vento grant
- Student Tutoring Opportunities
- Summer School Opportunities

Board Member Comments:

- Frait provided a WASB update and explained the WASB is working to provide a cohesive voice to local legislatures on the needs of the member districts.
- Meray congratulated the productions of Mama Mia and James and the Giant Peach for their amazing performances. She also congratulated the Choir on their recent performance. She thanked the parents, community members, and the Directors of the plays for their support of the productions. She wished everyone a fantastic spring break.
- Rosen-Leacher congratulated the production of Mama Mia for an extraordinary performance and expressed excitement for the seniors and their future. She thanked the Student Board Representatives for their work and obtaining feedback from the students. She thanked the Building Administrators for including Board Members in their communications. Lastly, she wished everyone a healthy and happy spring break.
- Faro discussed the beginning of spring sports. He congratulated the productions of Mama Mia and James and Giant Peach. He also welcomed Carrie Karvonen-Gutierrez to the Board.
- Heikka responded to accusations of misrepresenting the scope of state statutes with information in a recent Detroit Free Press article. She congratulated the production of Mama Mia for their amazing performance. She also congratulated the Robotics Team, Band Members, and the Boys Swim Team on their recent performances. She asked Mr. Girbach to address Student Board Member Powell’s concerns related to the new requirements at the High School and its potential impact on Consortium students. She also asked Mr. Girbach to look into the scheduling of the Middle School and High School plays to allow for more participation. She wished everyone a safe and relaxing spring break.
- Cislo congratulated the productions of Mama Mia and James and the Giant Preach for their performances. He also thanked Ms. Miller for her Upstanders Club and Kindness Challenge initiatives. He also indicated he would send a letter on behalf of the Board in support of Ms. Miller’s GMACF grant request for a Summer Reading Program.

Time of Adjournment: 10:11 p.m.