

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

The workshop meeting of the Milan Area Schools Board of Education was called to order by President Cislo at 7:00 p.m. on March 24, 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, Aaron Shinn, Sean DeSarbo, Cara Payne, Allison Davis, Amber Straits, Amy Foerster, Amy Hertler, Andrea Kaplan, Angie Wagner, Brooke Tomalak, Catalina Salas, Clara Thiry, Clare McFadden, Courtney Jeffers, Daniel Heikka, Danielle Huff, Elizabeth Satterley, Denise Rednour, Emily Fitzgerald, Hayley Muir, Holly Haynes, Jennifer Taylor, Jaime Jagodzinski, James Brousseau, Jennifer Barker, Jennifer Croze, Jennifer Rydman, Jill Gerweck, John Evans, Julie Brenke, Kelley Smith, Kelly Straub, Kimberly Rock, Kitty Heiss, Kristina Golden-Merritt, Kristina Mahaney, Luanne Latocki, Lauen Johnson, Lisa Francis, Lisa Martin, Liz Pinkowski, Mary Monroe, McKenzie Chappell, Melissa Fiederlein, Micah Collins, Miranda Trout, Mrs. Belhaj, Mrs. Machak, Mrs. Miller, Mrs. Stafford, Nichole Kuenzel, Nancy Gill, Ms. Gruber, Nicole Gerbens, Pam Smaby, Patrice Stover, Sara Burden-Meray, Sara Fital, Sarah Farmer, Sarah Vershum, Shea Cook, Sheila Meyer, Simona, Sue Kesterson, Tacy Terris, Wendy Unger,

**Guests Present:** 17343258928, 17344171294, 17344973418, 17345467828, A, A. Smith, Abby, Addy, aglushc, AJ, Amy, Andrea Riddle, April Smith, Ashley Putman, Austin Sachs, Brent Held, Brianne, C. Wood ASL Interpreter, Christine Williams, Chuck, Crystal Hall, D Allen, Ebony Reddock, Emily Pool, Erin, Eva Ruff, Feldkamp, Galaxy 10, Harwood, Holly, iPad, iPad (2), iPhone, iPhone(2), j malach, Jan Charter, jeannies's iphone, Jeff Hagley, Jen Waugh, Jodie Franklin, Julia's iPhone X, Julie Friese, Justin Dunn, Karen Kovacs, Karri's iPhone, Keelie, Kim Simoneau, Kisten Kerns, Kurt's iPhone, Lafe Schneider, Lamberts, Lance, LaTasha Frye, Lauren's iPhone, Laurie Englehart, Leah Corthell, Lincoln, Lona Noland, M, marsha brady, Michael Charter, Miller, mr pool, NC, Parent, Rachel's iPhone, Renee Bell, Resident, Rhonda, Sarah, Sarah Finch, Sarah Vershum, Shannon Betrus, Shawn, Shelly, Simona, sjennin, Staff, Stefanie Lorey, Stripp Family, Suzy, Swartzlander Family, tijt's iPhone, tina, Tonya, Trisha Parker, Vallade, Wendy Aho, Williams, Zoom user

**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:**

Sara Burden-Meray of 10 Church Street, Milan shared data from the Middle School staff survey.

James Brousseau of 13995 Dennison Rd, Milan, shared data from High School staff survey.

Rita Vershum of 11277 McCrone Rd, Milan, spoke to the Board about negative effects of switching back to 4 or 5 days a week face to face.

Tracy Terris of 388 Arlington Dr. Saline, spoke to the Board about Paraprofessional support to cover Student Support Plans.

Debbie Allen of 20020 Hickory Rd, Milan addressed the Board regarding fears of going to face to face instruction.

Michael Charter of 226 Welch Rd, Milan, shared with the Board concerns of returning face to face and thanked the staff.

Sarah Farmer of 4075 Judd Rd, Milan, shared with the Board her concerns both as a parent and teacher of returning face to face.

Eva Ruff of 231 E Lewis, Milan, spoke to the Board about CDC guidelines, cohorts continuing, and concerns about returning face to face and social distancing.

Kaleb Strahl 5 West Michigan Ave., Milan, shared with the Board his support of returning face to face.

Derrick Sachs, of 7771 Colf Rd., Carleton shared with the Board his support of returning face to face.

The Board held a discussion regarding a possible “Grow Your Own Scholarship” and program.

The Board discussed their Self-Evaluation and Goal Setting.

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

Motion by Faro supported by Heikka to remain in a hybrid model, with virtual option, for the remainder of the 2020-2021 school year. All Ayes. Carried 7-0

Motion by Heikka supported by Landingham to approve the Adult/Community Education Graduates (as listed in Attachment A) contingent upon their completion of all requirements. 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 federal program does not include free milk as a separate item. The federal government is only reimbursing for free meal equivalents (meaning a full lunch).
- Beginning the week of April 2nd, school districts must complete an antigen test of each athlete one time per week. This applies to all high school and middle school teams with participants between the ages of 13-19. Those 12 and younger may participate and are not required to complete rapid antigen testing. Robert Hull, our Athletic Director, is staying up-to-date on the new requirements and is developing an implementation plan.

#### **Staff**

- Liz Pinkowski (Paddock Teacher) had a baby boy (Benjamin Walter) on March 20th

#### **Communication**

- The district currently has 1,046 Twitter followers. This is up 11 from the last meeting.
- The district currently has 2,362 Facebook followers. This is up 18 from the last meeting.

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

- Assistant Superintendent McMahon shared with the Board that additional grant funds were accessed to add the 4th and 5th grade students into the summer reading program, Kids Read Now, so now the program will include all students in grades K-5.

**Student Board Member Comments:** None

**Board Member Comments:**

- Board Member Faro thanks Superintendent Girbach and the administration for their hard work. Board Member Faro spoke about how difficult it was for the Board to make their decision regarding returning to school.
- Board Member Heikka acknowledged the staff and parents who filled out the survey. Heikka gave a shout out to the boys swim team success and upcoming state meet.
- Board Member Frait thanked the Board and Superintendent Girbach and encouraged everyone to focus on the positives. Frait gave a shout out to Mrs. Gerbens for having her observe her lesson. Frait gave a Symons fundraiser update, shout out to the MMS paraprofessionals, successful food program and gave a shout out to Mr. Shinn.
- Board Member Moccio thanked the administration, committee members, staff, and Board Member Cislo for their hard work.
- Board Member Kiger shared her sentiment wishing everyone a restful Spring Break.
- Board Member Cislo wished everyone a safe break and let the community know to look for more information regarding future Board meeting formats.

**Public Comments:**

S. Jennen showed her appreciation to the Board's hard work and effort but expressed her disappointment in their decision.

Hannah Wiles of 10944 Stony Creek Rd., Milan thanked the Board for their ruling on staying hybrid. Hannah also shared her feelings on how she feels that student opinions are not being heard.

Nancy Tetens of 993 Wright Ln, Milan, gave a shout out to Mr. DeSarbo and the entire Paddock staff for the positive environment at Paddock Elementary.

Becky Heath of 545 Asher Pass, Milan, shared her struggles at home and is upset about the summer school and the vote tonight.

Nichole Gerbens of 3704 E. Garden Court, Saline, thanked Mrs. Frait for joining her class and thanked the Board for their decision.

Sydney Smith of 13644 Tuttlehill, Milan, thanked the Board and shared her feelings that the upperclassmen felt neglected.

**Time of Adjournment:** 9:27 p.m.