

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

Board Members Present: Cislo, Heikka, Faro, Meray

Board Members Absent: Rosen-Leacher, Frait

Signed in Staff: Bryan Girbach, Ryan McMahon

Signed in Guests: Maya Faro, Avery Powell, Jill Twesley, Andrea Bennink, Mike Angstadt, Rachel Hobbs, George Elder, Annie Kruse, Janice Kiger, Carrie Gutierrez, Alecia Powell, Holli Vallade, Kirk DeMars

Pledge of Allegiance

Public Comments:

- Andrea Bennink discussed the roles and responsibilities of parents, the community, the Board, and Administration and the current tension.
- Rachel Hobbs expressed her concerns related to proposed resolution related to Policy No. 9130.
- Annie Kruse expressed her concerns related to the proposed resolution related to Policy No. 9130 and her interpretation of the Constitution and Michigan statutes.
- Holli Vallade stated her belief that concerns related to threats made against Board Members and their families is gaslighting and her belief that certain members mischaracterize actions of certain community members.
- Janice Kiger congratulated the schools for their increased NWEA scores.

Motion by Faro supported by Meray to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of February 22, 2023. All Ayes. Carried 4-0

Motion by Faro supported by Heikka to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting Closed Session of February 22, 2023. All Ayes. Carried 4-0

Motion by Faro supported by Meray to approve the bills/reimbursement of expenses. All Ayes. Carried 4-0

- Faro offered clarification on the bills/reimbursements.

Board Member Cislo discussed the Board Vacancy Interview Process

Motion by Faro supported by Heikka to approve the change of time for the March 22, 2023 Regular Meeting as detailed in the Attachment provided. All Ayes. Carried 4-0

Motion by Meray supported by Faro to appoint the following person to the teaching position listed and Base Salary listed effective March 20, 2023.

\* Michelle Bowman - Paddock Behavior Specialist (\$70,418)

All Ayes. Carried 4-0

Motion by Heikka supported by Faro to extend Superintendent Girbach's contract by one year through June 30, 2028. All Ayes. Carried 4-0

Motion by Faro supported by Heikka to approve the resolution as provided by the Thrun Law Firm, P.C. and included as Attachment A. All Ayes. Carried 4-0

- Heikka explained why she believed the suspension of Policy No. 9130 is necessary pending additional guidance in light of the criminal complaint filed by community members.
- Cislo clarified the Resolution and discussed the Board's need for guidance on various statutes.

The Board discussed chapters three and four of the book "Why Meadow Died"

The Board discussed the Superintendent's Evaluation Planning and Goal Setting

Superintendent Girbach updated the Board on the Strategic Plan Scorecard as included in Attachment B

Public Comments:

- Andrea Bennink expressed her thoughts on leadership, engagement, and partnership. She expressed her concerns related to comments that the Board has a duty to protect the District, and encouraged the Board to reflect on their duty to serve the community.
  - Cislo clarified his comments on the Board's duty to protect the District.
- Annie Kruse thanked Secretary Heikka and President Cislo for explaining their support for the Resolution, sought clarification on the guidance being sought, and sought clarification on the Scorecard discussion.
- Holli Vallade accused the Board of misleading the community on the statutes application to librarians, requests for the names of community members serving on book challenge committees, and Policy No. 9130.
- Kirk DeMars appreciated President Cislo's clarifying comments, his belief that the current tension is one of morality, and expressed his belief that the Board is moving the goalposts as it related to certain books in the library.

Student Board Member Comments:

- Faro provided an update of upcoming student events.
- Powell congratulated various sports teams and students for recent accomplishments.

Superintendent's Comments were heard on the following topics:

- Thanked Board for Contract Extension
- Recognized Accomplishments of the Girls' Bowling Team
- Recognized Accomplishments of the Wrestling Team
- Complimented the FFA for the Staff Breakfast They Hosted
- Announced MASB Awards for Moccio and Rosen-Leacher
- Discussed the WISD's Legislative Zoom
- Announced the WASB's Legislative and Advocacy Professional Development Session

Assistant Superintendent Comments were heard on the following topics:

- Milan Middle School ELA Curriculum Review
- Milan Middle School Math Curriculum Review
- Exploration of Tutoring Options for Students

Board Member Comments:

- Cislo referred to the passed Resolution regarding Policy No. 9130 in response to questions and attempted to respond to questions related to the Board goal setting activity.
- Faro explained that book challenges would still be accepted and would be reviewed in the future, reminded the community about upcoming High School parent-teacher conferences, thanked Ms. Moccio for her service, and offered clarification in response to questions related to the Board goal setting activity.
- Meray thanked community members and Mrs. Moccio for participating in the Downtown Read Around. She also promoted the MHS and MMS musicals.
- Heikka explained that she did believe certain comments did incite the recent threats received by Board members and their families, her thoughts on allegations related to sexual assault, the disruption the criminal complaint is causing, explained that she believed the District was in compliance with various state statutes, and expressed her belief that community members reading portions of various books to minors in Board meetings must also believe that the books do not violate state statutes.

Time of Adjournment 8:37 p.m.