

**MILAN AREA SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
Tuesday May 20, 2025**

The regular meeting of the Milan Area Schools Board of Education was called to order in the Milan Area Schools District Board Room located at 100 Big Red Drive, Milan MI, 48160, by President Cislo at 7:00 p.m. on May 20, 2025.

Board Members Present: Cislo, Faro, Gutierrez, Burdette, Meray, Prior, Heikka

Board Members Absent: None

Signed in Staff: Bryan Girbach, Ryan McMahon, Krista Hendrix, Margaret Durkee, Sara Beckman

Signed in Guests: Virginia Heikka, Brandi Ignagni, Patrick Ignagni

Pledge of Allegiance

Public Comment: None

Motion by Prior supported by Gutierrez to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of May 7, 2025. All Ayes. Carried 7-0

Motion by Faro supported by Burdette to approve the WISD Biennial Election Resolution as included in Attachment A. All Ayes. Carried 7-0

The Board heard the First Reading of the 2024-2025 General Fund Budget Amendment as in Attachment B

The Board heard the First Reading of the 2024-2025 Debt Funds Budget Amendment as in Attachment C

The Board heard the First Reading of the 2024-2025 Food Service Budget Amendment as in Attachment D

The Board heard the First Reading of the 2024-2025 Student/School Activities Budget Amendment as in Attachment E

The Board heard the First Reading of the 2025-2026 General Fund Preliminary Budget as in Attachment F

The Board heard the First Reading of the 2025-2026 Debt Funds Preliminary Budget as in Attachment G

The Board heard the First Reading of the 2025-2026 Sinking Fund Preliminary Budget as in Attachment H

The Board heard the First Reading of the 2025-2026 Food Service Preliminary Budget as in Attachment I

The Board heard the First Reading of the 2025-2026 Student/School Activity Funds Preliminary Budget as in Attachment J

Motion by Gutierrez supported by Burdette to adopt the resolution in support of the 2025-2026 WISD Budget as included in Attachment K1. All Ayes. Carried 7-0

Motion by Meray supported by Faro to adopt the Resolution in support of WISD CTE Millage as included in Attachment L. All Ayes. Carried 7-0

Motion by Prior supported by Burdette to approve the membership of the 2025-2026 Professional Development Advisory Committee as provided in Attachment M. All Ayes. Carried 7-0

Motion by Heikka supported by Faro to approve Brandi Ignagni as the Paddock Elementary School Principal effective June 1, 2025. All Ayes. Carried 7-0

Public Comment: None

Student Board Member Comments:

- Heikka shared about the many upcoming end-of-year events for seniors, including honors night, the Paddock walk-through, graduation (June 1), and the senior breakfast. She also noted that spring sports are coming to a close, wished seniors well and encouraged everyone to finish the year strong.

Assistant Superintendent Comments were heard on the following topics:

- Thanked Paddock Staff for Supporting the Principal Hiring Process
- Assistant Superintendent Hiring Process Update
- Thank Nichole Kuenzel for her Leadership of the Sex Education Advisory Board (SEAB)
- Elementary Literacy and Secondary Math Curriculum Review Updates

Superintendent Comments were heard on the following topics:

- Annual Special Olympics Swim Meet Congratulations and Thanks
- South and West Washtenaw Consortium Awards Ceremony Congratulations
- Upcoming Events
 - MMS/MHS Band Concert
 - MHS Senior Night
 - MMS/MHS Choir Concert
 - Young Adult Graduation
 - MHS graduation
 - 8th Grade Recognition Night
- Passing of Amy Foerester's Mother
- Passing of CJ Brooks Father
- Passing of Julie Webbs' Daughter
- 99% Immunization Reporting Congratulations
- May 9th Professional Development Thank You
- May 12th New Teacher Orientation Update and Thank you
- Director of Buildings and Grounds Hiring Process Update
- District Budget Hearing Reminder
- MASB Board Awards Congratulations - Sara Meray and Cassie Prior
- Superintendent Police Chief Joint Meeting Update
- Sex Education Advisory Board (SEAB) Open Hearings Thank You
- WISD Legislative Breakfast Update

Board Member Comments:

- Burdette highlighted the girls' soccer senior night and the upcoming Girls' Soccer District tournament games that will be hosted at Milan, noting that Milan is currently ranked in the top 5. He praised the band's concert, the Springsteen tribute to Ms. Upton, and Mr. Lopez's positive influence on students, particularly after a difficult year. He also commended the high school theater seniors, recognizing their growth and impact on the program.
- Prior shared updates from the WASB legislative breakfast, including concerns about the possible cuts to the state school meal budget, and the Head Start program. She shared about the broad county-wide support for the CTE millage. She also noted the date for the upcoming Head Start celebration at Riverside Park on May 31st. She celebrated recent soccer and softball events and reflected on community engagement at the Sex Education Advisory Board presentation and Big Red Board Chat. She echoed Ms. Gutierrez's call for additional professional development for paraprofessionals. She also celebrated the new senior-painted parking spots initiative, and urged the community to stay informed about legislative actions affecting education and to advocate for our schools.
- Heikka congratulated seniors and encouraged them to return to Milan in the future. She thanked Big Red Board Chat and SEAB participants for their engagement. She noted learning about special education resource gaps raised during the SEAB presentation. Ms. Heikka also stressed the broad impact of state budget decisions, particularly potential Medicaid cuts. She urged families to seek reliable information and engage in advocacy.
- Faro welcomed Mrs. Ignagni to Paddock and thanked her for choosing Milan. He also thanked the finance team staff and complimented them for their work on the budgets. He shared updates on dual enrollment for high school students and the upcoming Sunshine Club Exam Cram event on June 3 from 5-7pm. He echoed praise for the theater seniors as inclusive, hardworking, and talented students.
- Meray commended Mr. Lopez and band students for an outstanding concert and strong program growth even during a difficult year of transition. She also congratulated the recipients of the John Philip Sousa Award and the Director's award. Ms. Meray also acknowledged graduates from all Milan programs including MHS, YAP, Adult Ed, and the FCI program. She thanked the finance team for their budget work and the education they provide to the board. She also thanked the District Communications Committee and Mr. Girbach for their work toward improving communications in the district. She noted her completion of a Level 3 certification through MASB, thanking the district for supporting board member training. She then suggested that the board consider adopting legislative resolutions and shared advocacy resources via the Voter Voice tab at MASB.org.
- Gutierrez shared a parent's gratitude for neurodivergent awareness week efforts and our district's commitment to inclusion. She commended Mr. Lopez for building strong student relationships and the band's tribute to Mrs. Upton. She praised students' respectful behavior during prom weekend and recognized all upcoming graduations and grade-level transitions; specifically the 5th grade recognition. She clarified that the projected \$3.6M budget deficit is due to possible state revenue loss, not enrollment decline. She echoed thanks to Ms. Hendrix, Mr. Girbach and Mr. McMahon for their work on the budgets. She welcomed Mrs. Ignagni as Paddock Principal, and thanked high school theater seniors for their leadership. She also requested that board members be allowed to participate in painting parking spots.
- Cislo thanked Miss Virginia Heikka for her service as student board representative, and acknowledged Ms. Meray, Mrs. Prior, and Mr. Burdette for their MASB awards. He noted the members and recent work of each Board Committee; Finance (Heikka, Burdette, Faro), Personnel and Leadership (Cislo, Faro, Gutierrez), Communications (Cislo, Meray,

Burdette), Learning, Environment and Culture (Heikka, Meray, Prior), Academics and Programs (Gutierrez, Prior, Cislo). He welcomed Mrs. Ignagni to Paddock and thanked her for choosing Milan. He also thanked Miss Tetens for her support during administrative transitions. He celebrated staff and students as the school year comes to a close, thanking them for all their efforts.

- Heikka added a clarification that the district's projected budget deficit is not tied to falling test scores, countering social media misinformation.

Time of Adjournment: 9:23 p.m.