

**MILAN AREA SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION
WORKSHOP MEETING
Wednesday, August 25, 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 August 25, 2021.

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

Board Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Bryan Girbach, Ryan McMahon, Jennifer Barker, John Flemming, Yvette Kashmer

Guests Present: Debra Allen, Rachel Hobbs, Gunnar Kruiise, Sabrina Linzen, Egan Kruiise, Annie Kurise, Katie Wilson, Lisa Boner, James Sanders, James Sanders, Andrea Bennink, Jacob Bennink, Michael Bennink, Emily Linzell, Harold Powell, Alecia Powell, Avery Powell, Tara Dreon, Holli Vallade, CJ Vallade, George Elder, Emmett Kruiise

Pledge of Allegiance

Public Comments:

- Andrea Bennick spoke to the Board regarding a community partnership in education and mask rights.
- Rachel Hobbs asked the Board for quarantine clarification, she requested details on COVID dollars, she talked about Board Minute considerations, she wants more detail on expenses and reimbursements, she questioned the Superintendent comments on Board Minutes, she would like more information on the vaping lawsuit, and she asked for the status of the pupil count.
- Annie Kruiise spoke regarding Board goals and vision statement and the duties of the Board. Kruiise shared CDC information and spoke about masks, American Academy of Pediatrics recommendations, and she wants more fact finding and focus on trusting and verifying data.
- Gunnar Kruiise spoke to the Board regarding masks, negativity of last school year, and he wants the Board to listen to the people.
- Alecia Powell spoke about masks and dividing our community, posting information on mental health for families, advocating for face shields, and asked the communications committee to investigate compromises.
- Jacob Bennink spoke about pushback on masks.

- Emmett Kruse spoke about masks.
- Emily Linzell spoke about masks.
- James Sanders spoke about COVID data.
- Daniel Kawakami spoke about masks and COVID.
- Holly Vallade spoke about masks and children's mental health and safety of children.
- Michael Bennink spoke about deaths of children dying from COVID.
- Avery Powell spoke about masks.
- Andrea Bennink talked about her Pediatrician writing an article on COVID.

Motion by Faro supported by Kiger to approve the consent agenda that includes the minutes of the regular meeting of August 12, 2021. All Ayes. Carried 7-0

Motion by Faro supported by Landingham to approve the Master Agreement with the Milan Education Association as detailed in Attachment A. Carried 4-1

Cislo abstention (personal conflict) Heikka abstention (personal and professional conflict), No vote by Frait

Motion by Faro supported by Landingham to appoint the following people to the teaching positions listed and Base Salaries listed effective for the 2021-2022 school year.

- * Erin Knotts - Paddock 2nd Grade (\$51,109)
- * Colin Lambers - Paddock 2nd Grade (\$40,000)
- * Megan Kadykowski - Symons 3rd Grade (\$70,418)
- * Jennifer Young - Symons 4th Grade (\$53,174)

Carried 5-2 No vote by Heikka, No vote by Frait

Public Comments:

- Debbie Allen addressed the Board regarding Public Comments and enrollment numbers.
- Annie Kruse spoke to the Board regarding Public Comments and the response she received to her religious exemption.
- Andrea Bennink wants it noted that the religious exemption form is no longer on the website.
- Katie Wilson spoke about masks and CDC recommendations.
- Daniel Kawakami addressed the Board about proper use of mask wearing.

- Andrea Bennink spoke about masks.
- Harold Powell spoke about masks and asked the Board to take feelings out of the decision.
- Holly Vallade spoke about financial decisions, legal representation of religions exemptions, quarantine and contact tracing.
- Emmett Kruse spoke about being educated.
- George Elder spoke to the Board about religious exemptions.
- James Sanders spoke about masks, taxpayer money, and mask mandates.
- Cyril Vallade asked the Board about student counts and student socialization.
- Brittany Kawakami spoke to the Board regarding moving to Milan and the masks mandates.

Superintendent's Comments:

Students

- The district wants to inform our students and families that, throughout the 2021-2022 school year, full meal equivalent breakfasts and lunches will be free to all students on scheduled school days. Individual milks and other food items will NOT be free.
- Kindergarten through Eighth Grade Summer School and the Milan High School Credit Recovery programs finished strong. We thank the staff members who made these programs possible and we congratulate the students who participated in these programs!
- Our transportation department, like many other transportation departments in the state, is struggling to hire full time and substitute drivers. Anyone interested in working for the Milan Transportation Department should call 734-439-5900. Milan Area Schools will pay for and coordinate all required training.

Staff

- The District's three days of professional development have been very positive. Many topics were covered at the district and building level. We thank all of our teachers, paraprofessionals, and other staff members who participated.
- The district has reached a tentative agreement with the Milan Area Schools Transportation Association. The MASTA has approved the tentative agreement. The Board will take action on the tentative agreement at a future Board meeting.
- The district has reached a tentative agreement with the Milan Area Schools Support Staff. The MASSS will be voting on the tentative agreement soon. The Board will take action on the tentative agreement at a future Board meeting.
- Robin Blackburn (MS Paraprofessional) lost her mom. Our thoughts go out to her and her family.

General

- The MS Open House was a huge success. Mr. McMahon has informed me that the Paddock and Symons Open Houses are going well this evening. It has been great to see families back in the buildings.
- Milan Area Schools is accepting medical and religious mask exemption requests. These requests will be individually reviewed by Milan Area Schools with guidance from the district's law firm (Thrun Law). Religious exemption requests will be reviewed using current case law.
- Pupil counts are always followed up with phone calls and emails to families who did not complete the registration process.

Assistant Superintendent's Comments:

- Mr. McMahon stated that the Paddock and Symons Open Houses were a great success and that he is looking forward to the students' return.

Board Member Comments:

- Board Member Cislo responded to questions regarding the Public Comments.
- Board Member Faro responded to comments about the MEA contract and negotiations, the legal questions about exemptions, Board Member masks wearing, the fact that the Board is hearing the public comments and is doing their best for students, and that he does not appreciate insulting comments.
- Board Member Heikka stated the Middle School Open House went very well, was well attended, and that the open house solidified her feelings about CDC guidelines and mask wearing.
- Board Member Kiger can not attend a Special Meeting due to having to be out of town to care for grandchildren who have contracted COVID.
- Board Member Frait missed Board Meetings and wished she could have voiced her opinion on masks, accepted responsibility for not wearing masks properly, talked about providing a Legal Letter about religious exemptions, explained why she voted no on the contract and thanked the crowd for their participation.
- Board Member Moccio thanked the MEA negotiation members for their time.

Motion by Heikka supported by Faro to enter into closed session as allowed by the Open Meetings Act for Negotiation Strategies and, upon the request of the employee, for the purpose of conducting a periodic personnel evaluation. All Ayes. Carried 7-0

Time entered closed session 8:43 p.m.

Time returned to open session 10:26 p.m.

Time of Adjournment: 10:26 p.m.