

**MILAN AREA SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
Wednesday, September 13, 2023**

The regular meeting of the Milan Area Schools Board of Education was called to order in the Milan Area Schools District Boardroom located at 100 Big Red Drive, Milan MI, 48160, by President Cislo at 7:00 p.m. on September 13, 2023.

Board Members Present: Cislo, Heikka, Faro, Rosen-Leacher, Frait, Gutierrez

Board Members Absent: Meray

Signed in Staff: Bryan Girbach, Ryan McMahon, Liz Miller, Jenni Smith, Monica Maury, Christina Barbara, Monica Maury, Levi Jackson, Noah Genson, Jennifer Bookout, Sean DeSarbo, Aaron Shinn, Jessica Kishiyami, Kim Jasper, Margaret Durkee, Bryna Johnson, Alexis Jaster, Christina Matrosic, Bryna Johnson

Signed in Guests: Maya Faro, Avery Powell, Cassidy Schettenhelm, Mike Angstadt, Janet McFall, Rachel Hobbs, Brittany Simmons, George Elder

Pledge of Allegiance

The Board welcomed the new teachers for the 2023-2024 school year.

The Board Meeting recessed at 7:04 p.m.

The Board Meeting was called back to order at 7:07 p.m.

Public Comments:

- Liz Miller introduced the Milan Community Read Project and provided the Board with copies of the book, *The Wild Robot*.
- Rachel Hobbs sought updates on school safety and declining enrollment.
- Janet McFall thanked the Board for supporting the Academic Literacy class at the High School. Expressed that school safety was a priority for her and that she's unhappy about certain books in the school library. She also expressed that the schools need lots of good paraprofessionals and that those paraprofessionals require appropriate pay.

Motion by Faro supported by Gutierrez to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of August 23, 2023. All Ayes. Carried 6-0

Motion by Faro supported by Rosen-Leacher to approve the bills/reimbursement of expenses. All Ayes. Carried 6-0

Motion by Faro supported by Heikka to approve the USAC E-rate Purchases as presented in Attachment A. All Ayes. Carried 6-0

The Administrative Team provided the Board with an update on their Strategic Plan Work.

Public Comments:

- Brittany Simmons expressed gratitude for the District focusing on the transition from 8th to 9th grade. She also detailed her recent experience with 9th grade orientation.

Student Board Member Comments:

- Faro provided details on upcoming events and congratulated the fall sports teams on their recent accomplishments.
- Powell provided details on upcoming events and congratulated the fall sports teams on their recent accomplishments.

Assistant Superintendent Comments were heard on the following topics:

- Staff Thank You for a Great Start to the School Year
- District 2023-2024 Benchmark Achievement Goals

Superintendent Comments were heard on the following topics:

- Clare Pape's Baby
- Staff Thank You for a Great Start to the School Year
- Fall Athletic Congratulations
- Milan Girl's Swimming and Diving Team teacher/Coach Appreciation Night
- Michigan School Meals Program
- 8-29-23 Big Red Chat
- Pupil Counts and Class Sizes
- 9-12-23 Community Zoom Regarding the Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Learning Plan

Board Member Comments:

- Rosen-Leacher discussed the recent Big Red Board Chat and invited the community to the next meeting. She thanked the Administrative team for their recent work and the paraprofessionals who attended a Parapro Boot Camp over the summer.
- Faro thanked the Administrative team for their swift handling of recent events at the Middle School and provided a financial update.
- Heikka welcomed back all of the students, staff, and administration. Thanked everyone that attended the Big Red Board Chat and expressed appreciation for the candid two-way conversation. She also thanked the paraprofessionals for attending the Parapro Boot Camp and thanked the administration for supporting those efforts. She also thanked Ms. Miller and Ms. Smith for their hard work over the summer to support the Milan Community Read Project.
- Gutierrez thanked Ms. Miller and Ms. Smith for their work on the Milan Community Read Project. She also encouraged the Administration team to listen to the community's questions and concerns related to the District's realignment. She also thanked the many paraprofessionals for attending the Parapro Boot Camp over the summer.
- Frait expressed pride in the paraprofessionals for all they do for our students. She congratulated the fall athletes on their recent successes. She thanked Mr. Hull for his service to the District. She also thanked all of the new teachers for attending the Board Meeting. She expressed appreciation for the atmosphere in the Boardroom.
- Cislo thanked community members who attended and provided comments. He expressed gratitude for teachers, paraprofessionals, and administrators and the work they do for the

District. Expressed gratitude for our community and described Ms. Miller being honored as a teacher that positively impacted a student at a recent swim meet. He also expressed appreciation for students supporting each other at recent events and his belief that this behavior was mirroring the support demonstrated by the Board, paraprofessionals, teachers, administrators, and the community.

Motion by Heikka supported by Rosen-Leacher 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 2022-2023-9. All Ayes. Carried 6-0

Time entered closed session 8:46 p.m.

Time returned to open session 9:35 p.m.

Motion by Frait supported by Faro to conditionally reinstate student 2022-2023-9 in accordance with the attached resolution as read by President Cislo. All Ayes. Carried 6-0

Time of Adjournment 9:39 p.m.