

**MILAN AREA SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION
WORKSHOP MEETING
WEDNESDAY, September 26, 2018**

The workshop meeting of the Milan Area Schools Board of Education was called to order by President Vershum at 7:00 p.m. on September 26, 2018.

Board Members Present: Moccio, Cislo, Kiger, Landingham, Peacock, Heikka, Vershum

Board Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Bryan Girbach, Ryan McMahon, Krista Hendrix, Chris Gill, Aaron Shinn, Valerie Rice, Holly Haynes, Steven Price, Sarah Elliot, Nicole McGinn, Jake LaCross, Jennifer Croze

Guests Present: George Elder, Kirsten Frait, Melissa Brown

Pledge of Allegiance

The Board was introduced to the new teachers hired for the 2018-2019 school year.

Milan High School presented to the Board their School Improvement Plan.

Public Comments:

Melissa Brown of 1236 North St, Milan, brought concerns to the Board regarding a recent diversity issue in the district.

George Elder of 442 Everett, Milan, shared some thoughts on district initiatives.

Motion by Cislo supported by Moccio to approve the 2019 Refunding Bonds resolution as presented in Attachment A. All Ayes. Carried 7-0

The Board discussed the District and Superintendent Priorities.

Superintendent's Comments:

Students

- Last week it was brought to the attention of our administration that an inappropriate video that included racist comments was posted on social media by a Milan High School student. The district conducted a thorough review of the situation and determined that the incident represented an act of racial bias and animus. The district published a letter strongly denouncing the actions and words of these students. As a district, we firmly believe that hate and racial prejudice have no place in our school or our community. In the days after the incident, the administrative team has worked diligently to make sure that our students feel safe at school. Subsequent concerns, no matter how small, have been addressed by the district. Today, MLive and Channel 4

contacted me to discuss the incident. I provided factual information regarding the incident and referred them to my written statement on our web page.

- The Milan FFA Chapter won the “Incredible FFA Chapter” contest held by the America Egg Board. The district received a very nice congratulations letter and the FFA Chapter received a \$2000 grant.
- Superintendent Girbach met with the two student School Board Representatives on Tuesday, September 18th. The orientation for Travis York and Amber Farmer went very well. The students are now comfortable with their role and have been invited to begin attending school board meetings.

Staff

- Superintendent Girbach has scheduled the first of three New Teacher Orientation Sessions. He looks forward to working with the new teachers on Thursday, October 25th.

General

- Mike Gauntlett’s (former MHS teacher and coach) wife passed away. Visitation will be at Ochalek Funeral Home on Thursday September 27th from 4-8 PM. The service will be Friday, September 28th at 11:00 AM at The Peoples Presbyterian Church in Milan.
- On Saturday, September 15th, the Milan Area Schools Athletic Hall of Fame inducted 3 teams and 11 individuals into the Hall of Fame. David Kaiser and a committee of volunteers did an amazing job selecting the inductees and planning the event. A special thank you to Roberta Myyra who was very involved in the planning and implementation of the event.
- Superintendent Girbach attended the annual MASA conference last week. He attended sessions on: branding through social media, Michigan legal updates, student growth percentile calculators, creating new classroom settings, and the keys to local districts and ISD’s working together.
- Superintendent Girbach, Nurse Judee Gniewek, and Judi Burgio will be convening a committee of stakeholders to review the district’s wellness policy. Once the policy has been revised, it will be brought to the Board for consideration and approval.

Communication

- The district currently has 737 Twitter followers. That is up 9 from last meeting.
- The district currently has 1,553 Facebook followers. That is up 18 from last meeting.

Budget

- Thank you to the Board of Education for moving forward with the refinancing of the 2009 bonds. Superintendent Girbach and Krista Hendrix have been involved in several conversations regarding the upcoming bond refinancing. They and the Board look forward to completing the process with savings for Milan taxpayers.

Legislative

- On Monday, September 17th, Superintendent Girbach attended a Legislative Coffee at the WISD. Local legislatures discussed current bills in the House and Senate. They also provided some insight into the upcoming Lam Duck sessions. Every citizen of Michigan should keep their eye on Lansing during the Lam Duck time after the November election.

Board

- Superintendent Girbach asked the Board to work with him to schedule and conduct a Board Candidate event for the upcoming November election.

Assistant Superintendent's Report:

- Assistant Superintendent McMahon shared a recap of his experiences attending two recent conferences. Mr. McMahon spent time at the MDE Special Populations Conference focusing on Title III services and requirements and also attended the MDE Student Growth Workshop with the building principals to work on restructuring the district teacher evaluation system under new legal guidelines.

Board Member Comments:

- Board Member Vershum was thankful for the help from everyone that helped make Third Thursday successful. She specifically thanked Anne Foor, Aaron Shinn, David Kaiser, Mark Davis, and the student groups. Vershum also mentioned reviewing our restrictive logo policy to improve merchandise appeal.
- Board Member Moccio reminded the Board to get back with her regarding the WISD meeting and also mentioned the reading event with all Milan Area Schools staff on October 3.

Public Comments: None

Time of Adjournment: 11:14 p.m.