

**MILAN AREA SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
Wednesday, September 8, 2021**

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 September 8, 2021.

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

Board Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Bryan Girbach, Ryan McMahon, Yvette Kashmer, Annie Kiser, Jennifer Barker, John Fleming, Wendy Unger, Carol Winter, Clara Thiry, Nancy Gill

Guests Present: Debbie Allen, Ryan Goke, Maria Varnadore, Tiffanie Alexander, Andrea Bennink, Rachel Hobbs, Dawn Walkowiak, Erin Held, Julie Brown, Melissa Brown, Trisha Lerette, Annie Kruse, Matt Stafford, Alecia Powell, George Elder, Emily Linzell, Hattie Williams, Holli Vallade, Janet McFall, Linda Wiggins, Yo Gabba Gabba

Pledge of Allegiance

Public Comments:

- Andrea Bennink talked about the partnership between schools and parents, the current no visitor policy, and the importance of volunteers.
- Rachel Hobbs spoke about the mask policy in Milan and County wide, Board minutes, and the district Bullying Policy.

Motion by Faro supported by Landingham to approve the consent agenda that includes the minutes of the workshop meeting of August 25, 2021, the minutes of the special meeting of August 31, 2021, and the approval of bills/reimbursement of expenses. Carried 6-1 No vote by Frait

The Board discussed their Board Goal Development plan including the Board Scorecard, the Communication Plan, and the Board Operating Procedures.

Public Comments:

- Rachel Hobbs spoke about the High School Open House, the need for Administrators to be at Board Meetings, for the addition of Committee updates at Board meetings. She also asked the Board what the purpose is for each of them serving as a Board Member.
- Erin Held thanked the Board for their difficult decisions and taking things in stride for the betterment of the entire District.
- Donna Koviak spoke to the Board about student pronouns being supported.
- Andrea Bennink spoke about the Communication Committee member selection process.
- Trisha Lurette thanked the Board for their decisions for all students and their safety.
- Annie Kruse spoke about the Communication Committee member selection process and ESSA funds requiring parent involvement.
- Holly Vallade spoke about Paraprofessional salaries, the use of COVID funds for air purification, and the Paraprofessional shortage.
- Ryan Goke spoke about a transportation concern and the pick-up line at Paddock.

Superintendent's Comments:

Students

- The district wants to remind 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.

Budget Update

- Pupil Counts:
 - February 2021 Pupil Count = 1,978
 - Current Students Attending = 1,952 (down 26 students since February)
 - 184 Seniors in 2021, 149 Young 5 and Kindergarten students now (down 35 students)
 - Early Childhood Special Education (ECSE) is down 4 students this year
 - 1st grade through - Young Adult (YA) is up 13 students

Assistant Superintendent Comments:

- Assistant Superintendent McMahon shared that the middle school started NWEA testing this week and have already completed two-thirds of their Fall assessments. Paddock and Symons will be getting started within the next couple of weeks and we are working on a process to provide remote assessment for our virtual students.
- Assistant Superintendent McMahon shared that the Consolidated Application has not yet been released from MDE to initiate the approval of our grant applications. The district did renew partnership in the Washtenaw Title III Consortium to support English Language students, however the funding is also tied into the Consolidated Application.

Board Member Comments:

- Board Member Landingham shared concerns about pronouns and personal experiences and encouraged the Diversity Equity and Inclusion Team to investigate best practices and address the issues in a thoughtful and supportive way.

- Board Member Heikka thanked Landingham for sharing her personal experiences and shared data from The Trevor Project.
- Board Member Kiger asked for a MOASH Training in the near future.
- Board Member Frait asked about the effect of the student count on the budget, thanked the community for their support of her family, and inquired about closed session minutes.

Motion by Kiger supported by Heikka 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 7:58 p.m.

Time returned to open session 10:06 p.m.

Time of Adjournment: 10:06 p.m.