

**MILAN AREA SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
WEDNESDAY, April 12, 2017**

The regular meeting of the Milan Area Schools Board of Education was called to order by President Kiger at 7:00 p.m. on April 12, 2017.

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

Board Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Bryan Girbach, Ryan McMahon, Krista Hendrix, Anne Foor, Krissy Collier, Shanna Spickard, Kim Jasper, Jill Gerweck, Pam Smaby

Guests Present: Kyle Snyder, Julia Woelmer, Steve Olsen

Pledge of Allegiance

Public Comments: Steve Olsen from 15 Hickory Dr., Chelsea MI introduced himself to the Board as a candidate running for a seat on the WISD Board of Education.

Motion by Moccio supported by Peacock to approve the consent agenda, which includes: the minutes of the regular meeting of March 8, 2017, the minutes of the workshop meeting of March 22, 2017, the payment of bills/reimbursement of expenses. All Ayes. Carried 7-0

Milan Middle School Administration and staff presented to the Board a first reading of new ELA Curriculum which was piloted this year.

The Board heard the first reading of the 2016-2017 Budget Amendment as in Attachment A

Motion by Peacock supported by Cislo to approve the Adult Education Graduates, as provided in Attachment B, contingent upon their completion of all requirements. All Ayes. Carried 7-0

Superintendent's Comments:

Students

- Superintendent Girbach shared and discussed the district's graduation rates. The district's rate improved by 1.59% between 2015 (81.89%) and 2016 (83.48%). Milan High School's graduation rate is 87.96%.
- The Milan Robotics Team, Code Red, made it to the State Competition. They are competing in Saginaw today through Friday.
- The Paddock Reading Night event was a huge success. The turnout was great and the attendees had a wonderful time.
- Assistant Superintendent McMahon and Superintendent Girbach visited camp on the Thursday before spring break. Despite the rain, the sixth graders were having a wonderful time enjoying the activities.

Staff

- The district recently received a letter from the Michigan Employment Relations Commission (MERC) stating that the MESPA Group has “petitioned for a representation proceeding”. Superintendent Girbach has been told that the group has a desire to leave the MEA and become a locally recognized group. The process for the MESPA Group to make the change will begin with a conference call on April 13th.
- Crystal Fenrich lost her mother Barbara Jean earlier this month. Our prayers and thoughts are with Crystal and her family.

General

- The district recently received, from the State of Michigan, a request to transfer a piece of property from Milan Area Schools to Saline Area Schools. The family that owns the property made the request. Superintendent Girbach has talked with the district’s legal counsel, and believes that the district has a strong case to block the request. First and foremost, the child in the household is already attending Saline Area Schools via a release letter. Inability to attend a district is one of the major pieces of evidence required of the requestor. Superintendent Girbach has also spoken with Scot Graden. He does not support the transfer and will not contest Milan’s attempted denial of the land transfer. Thrun Law will represent the district at the hearing and will assist me in the preparation of evidence.
- The district will be changing its natural gas “transporter” from DTE to Constellation Energy effective May 1, 2017. The district has been purchasing its natural gas from MISEC for several years. Estimates show that this change could save the district between \$15,000 and \$20,000 next year.
- The Milan21 Team met on March 28th. The team designed a great set of activities that will allow each teacher to implement a lesson that incorporates 2 of the 21st Century Skills. The activities will begin with department/grade level meeting discussions regarding lessons. Then, each teacher will design, implement, and record their lesson. The Milan21 group will then lead a learning walk at each of the buildings May staff meetings. Milan21 will also meet a couple of days during the summer to plan next year’s work and to finalize the communication plan.
- The county calendar guidelines have been set for 2017-2022. The major change involves Spring Break. In order to better accommodate SAT testing, Spring Break will now begin on the last Monday in March. Details regarding the new county calendar guidelines can be found at milanareaschools.org.

Communication

- The district currently has 488 Twitter followers. That is up 8 from last meeting.
- The district currently has 1,304 Facebook followers. That is up 2 from last meeting.

Budget

- The Governor, Senate, and House have all released their School Aid Budgets. While the district would receive increases in funding under each of the plans, none of them provide adequate funding for our district. Superintendent Girbach shared a comparison document from the House Fiscal Agency.

Board

- Superintendent Girbach asked the Board to monitor the Board calendar for year-end events.
- At the April Workshop Meeting, the Board will work on their Diversity Goal with Shayla Griffin.
- During the May AdvancEd visit, the Board will need to be available at the following times:
 - 11:00 AM on Monday May 8th for Board Interviews
 - 5:00 PM on Monday May 8th for Board Interviews
 - 4:30 PM on Wednesday May 10th for Board Meeting

Assistant Superintendent Comments:

- MHS Assessments began this week. SAT and WorkKeys testing will take place over the next two days. Pupil attendance has been strong and the testing is going as planned without any problems.
- The District Improvement Team has had two District Improvement Team meetings since the last Board meeting. In those meetings, the DIT completed all required reports with AdvancED and has started working on the presentation and other components of the upcoming visit. The team will be meeting again on May 3, the week prior to the visit to make final preparations.

Board Member Comments:

- Board Member Vershum inquired about a follow-up report for the presentation Lon Smith gave at a previous Board Meeting. Vershum also inquired about police follow-up to the threat that MMS received last month. Board Member Vershum spoke about attending the AdvanceED meeting and sitting in on the Leadership portion. She was impressed by the group's attention to detail and assurance that the direction of the team is right on course with District goals.
- Board Member Kiger asked if there were any Board volunteers for Milan's Clean-Up Day.
- Board Member Landingham will be attending the MASB Law Workshop: Special Education seminar on Thursday, April 13, 2017

Public Comments: None

Time of Adjournment: 9:12 p.m.