

**MILAN AREA SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
Tuesday, January 14, 2025**

The regular meeting of the Milan Area Schools Board of Education was called to order in the Milan Area Schools District Board Room located at 100 Big Red Drive, Milan MI, 48160, by President Cislo at 7:00 p.m. on January 14, 2025.

Board Members Present: Cislo, Prior, Faro, Meray, Gutierrez, Burdette, Heikka

Board Members Absent: None

Signed in Staff: Bryan Girbach, Ryan McMahon, Krista Hendrix, Margaret Durkee, Sara Beckman

Signed in Guests: Virginia Heikka, Rebecca Cooper, Josie Cooper, Cheyanne Froehlich, Jon Cooper, Charissa Kofahl

Pledge of Allegiance

The Oath of Office was ceremoniously performed by President Cislo for our recently elected Board Members Carrie Karvonen-Gutierrez and Cassie Prior. The official Oath of Office was performed at an earlier date.

Motion by Prior supported by Gutierrez to elect Andrew Cislo for President of the Milan Area Schools Board of Education for a one year term. All Ayes. Carried 7-0

Motion by Heikka supported by Burdette to elect Tom Faro for Vice President of the Milan Area Schools Board of Education for a one year term. All Ayes. Carried 7-0

Motion by Faro supported by Heikka to elect Sara Meray for Secretary of the Milan Area Schools Board of Education for a one year term. All Ayes. Carried 7-0

Motion by Meray supported by Gutierrez to elect Michelle Heikka for Treasurer of the Milan Area Schools Board of Education for a one year term. All Ayes. Carried 7-0

Motion by Faro supported by Burdette to approve the appointments listed below:

Washtenaw School Board Association Representative - Carrie Gutierrez.

Legislative Relations Network Representative - Cassir Prior.

All Ayes. Carried 7-0

The Board reviewed the 2025 Board Committee Assignments

The Board announced the Big Red Board Chat Dates and Locations for 2025

Motion by Heikka supported by Prior to accept the Code of Ethics as included in Attachment A and read by the Board President. All Ayes. Carried 7-0

Superintendent Bryan Girbach read a proclamation from Governor Gretchen Whitmer in observance of School Board Recognition month. He then personally thanked the board members for their service to Milan Area Schools.

Public Comment:

- Cheyanne Froehlich shared comments regarding policy 5840.
- Rebecca Cooper shared comments regarding policy 5840.
- Charissa Kofahl shared comments regarding policy 5840.

Motion by Gutierrez supported by Prior to approve the minutes of the special meeting of December 18, 2024. All Ayes. Carried 7-0

Motion by Faro supported by Meray to approve the minutes of the special meeting closed session of December 18, 2024. All Ayes. Carried 7-0

Motion by Heikka supported by Burdette to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of December 18, 2024. All Ayes. Carried 7-0

Motion by Meray supported by Gutierrez to approve the minutes of the regular meeting closed session of December 18, 2024. All Ayes. Carried 7-0

Motion by Faro supported by Heikka to approve the bills/reimbursement of expenses. All Ayes. Carried 7-0

The the Board heard the First Reading for the 2024-2025 General Fund Budget Amendment as included in Attachment B

Motion by Heikka supported by Faro to approve the use of previously Board approved Sex Education curriculum and materials for grade levels above the grade level for which the curriculum and materials were originally approved. All Ayes. Carried 7-0

Motion by Meray supported by Prior to approve the Newcomer Literacy English Language Development course as presented in Attachment C. All Ayes. Carried 7-0

Motion by Gutierrez supported by Faro to approve the Graduation Requirements as detailed in attachment D. All Ayes. Carried 7-0

The Board discussed NEOLA Policy 5840 as included in Attachment E

The Board provided an update on the Superintendent Selection Process

Public Comments:

- Ms. Durkee asked a question regarding completing the Superintendent Input Survey as both a staff member and a guardian. Cislo clarified that participants may select all roles that apply to their situation within the survey.

Student Board Member Comments: None

Assistant Superintendent Comments were heard on the following topics:

- Grant Updates
 - WISD Grant - Orton-Gillingham Training
 - 27k - Loan Repayment
 - ESSER III / 11t - Program Report Completed

Superintendent Comments were heard on the following topics:

- Winter Athletics and Extra Curricular Activities
- Passing of Sandy Boziak's (bus driver) mother & Greg Boziak's (bus driver) mother-in-law
- District ALICE training update
- Gabe Burdette's New Board Member Orientation
- Rotary-MAS-Aid in Milan Christmas Basket Program
- Roof and Facade 5-Year Plan

Board Member Comments:

- Cislo shared his thanks to the students and staff who gave thank you cards to the Board.
- Prior echoed gratitude for the student thank you cards. She reminded the community about the upcoming Big Red Board Chats and the importance of participation in the Superintendent selection process. She gave an update on the District Communication Committee work and district website, the GMACF Gala on 3/1/25 and thanked the community for her election to the Board.
- Burdette echoed gratitude for the student thank you cards. He shared about his observation of the superintendent evaluation process, and that he will be completing the MASB training to be prepared to participate in the next evaluation.
- Faro shared his gratitude for the student thank you cards, and expressed thanks to Krista Hendrix for her work and collaboration with him on district finances. He gave an update about the MASB Winter Institute and reminded families about the upcoming deadline for applications to the SWWC (Consortium).
- Heikka shared her gratitude for the student thank you cards. She expressed appreciation for the respectful dialogue and comments regarding the review of policy 5840. She shared details for a free community dinner at Marble Memorial Church on 1/18 from 5-7pm, a clarified eligibility guidelines for GMACF scholarships.
- Meray shared gratitude for the student thank you cards, and praised staff and students for engaging in and modeling a gratitude practice. She wished the community a happy 2025, and encouraged everyone to take good care of themselves to avoid illness.
- Gutierrez echoed Ms. Meray's health reminder, adding that there are many illnesses besides COVID circulating, including Influenza A. She reminded the community about the upcoming Big Red Board Chat and encouraged reaching out to the Board during the Superintendent selection process to give input. She echoed gratitude for the student thank you cards, and to staff for prioritizing instructing kindness with students. She expressed thanks to Krista Hendrix and Tom Faro, and thanked fellow board members for their service in leadership roles.
- Cislo reiterated thanks to the staff in the bargaining units for their time and feedback regarding the Superintendent selection process. He thanked Mr. Faro and Ms. Gutierrez for their time at the Big Red Board Chat, and Mr. Burdette for his dedication to onboarding. He reiterated information about GMACF scholarships and encouraged families to explore available scholarships.

Time of Adjournment: 9:09 p.m.