

**MILAN AREA SCHOOLS  
BOARD OF EDUCATION  
REGULAR MEETING  
Wednesday, February 12, 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 February 12, 2025.

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

Board Members Absent: None

Signed in Staff: Bryan Girbach, Lon Smith, Julz Meray

Signed in Guests: George Elder

Pledge of Allegiance

Motion by Prior supported by Gutierrez to direct the Superintendent, or designee, to cast the district's vote for the MASB Region 7 Board of Directors position for Jack Temsey.

All Ayes. Carried 7-0

Public Comment:

- George Elder shared his perspective about the superintendent selection process and community attendance at Big Reds Board Chats. He also shared concerns regarding communication about school incidents, board focus on politics affecting education, and potential conflicts of interest. He closed by expressing his support for Mr. DeSarbo.

Motion by Heikka supported by Gutierrez to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of January 29, 2025. All Ayes. Carried 7-0

Motion by Prior supported by Heikka to approve the bills/reimbursement of expenses.

All Ayes. Carried 7-0

The Board provided the community an update on the Superintendent Selection Process

Public Comment:

- George Elder expressed concern for his students.

Student Board Member Comments: None

Assistant Superintendent Comments were heard on the following topics: None

Superintendent Comments were heard on the following topics:

- Milan Boys Varsity Bowling Win Huron League Championship
- Retirement of Sean DeSarbo
- Hiring Process for New Paddock Principal
- Denise Cook (MMS Paraprofessional) Lost Her Father

#### Board Member Comments:

- Prior shared her insights from the MASB Winter Institute, highlighting the importance of effective board committees. She noted having valuable discussions with other board members about their district challenges, particularly regarding superintendent searches.
- Heikka
  - For Virginia Heikka (Student Board Member): Noted that the Coming Home dance was fun and successful, gave an update about the upcoming softball camp registration, and the honoring of athletes at halftime of the next boys' home basketball game.
  - For herself: Heikka apologized for missing the previous meeting, voiced concerns about potential changes to the Department of Education and potential impacts on funding. She emphasized her support for the swim team and that she is not participating in the ongoing investigations. She also clarified the relationship between the district and the Milan Police Department. Additionally, she congratulated the boys' bowling team, wished Mr. DeSarbo well in his future endeavors, and praised his positive impact on her own children and Paddock.
- Faro shared insights from attending six MASB Winter Institute sessions on the topics of community engagement, superintendent shortages, and improving communication. He congratulated the bowling team on their championship, thanked Mr. DeSarbo for his service, and informed the community about scholarship opportunities for high school seniors through the Community Foundation of Monroe County.
- Gutierrez shared her experience attending two MASB courses, focusing on governing through policy and reporting on organizational performance. She also complimented the information sharing process in the district. She apologized for any misunderstanding regarding their comments on community participation in the Big Red Board Chats, expressed support for the boys' bowling team, and congratulated Mr. DeSarbo for his service to the district.
- Burdette congratulated the boys' bowling team on their championship and thanked Mr. DeSarbo for his years of service. He shared his takeaways from attending the CBA 102 class on governing through policy and appreciated the opportunity to engage with other board members statewide. Lastly, he congratulated the Milan choir students for their performance at the MSVMA festival and thanked Ms. Powell for her dedication.
- Meray thanked the community, staff, and students for participating in the superintendent selection survey and expressed support for the district's communication committee's input. She emphasized the importance of considering internal superintendent candidates first, in line with MASB guidance. She also congratulated the district's singers and instrumentalists, and acknowledged Mr. DeSarbo's impact on the district. Finally, she thanked the community for the respectful email communication to the Board, noting that all emails are read and will be addressed through the appropriate chain of command.
- Cislo thanked those who attended the Winter Institute, noting that it enhances the board's effectiveness. He announced upcoming presentations from Mr. Lon Smith on special education student services and another from county CTE Director Chris Roe in April. He also reiterated appreciation for the students and staff who support them, and recognized Mr. DeSarbo for his service to the district.

Time of Adjournment: 8:18 p.m.