

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES**

**MILAN COMMUNITY SCHOOL CORPORATION**

**MAY 21, 2012**

The Board of School Trustees met in regular session at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, May 21, 2012. Attending were Board members Douglas Norman, Gregory Lewis, Edward Amberger, Timothy Tuttle, and Randy Kirk. Also attending was Superintendent Dr. Thomas Reale. Board president Douglas Norman presided. The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Lewis motioned to approve the minutes of the regular and executive meetings on April 16, 2012. Seconded by Mr. Amberger. Motion carried 5-0.

**Comments from Patrons/Staff:**

Patron Rhonda Beck addressed the Board with concerns about the 6<sup>th</sup> grade bowling field trip and Dr. Reale's administration of the school corporation.

Senior class officers Jessica Strassell, Tatiyana Marsee and Nicholas Walter addressed the Board and requested Dr. Reale to read their names and Principal Ketcham present their diplomas at commencement. Mr. Kirk motioned to approve this request. Seconded by Mr. Amberger. Motion carried 4-1, with Mr. Lewis abstaining.

Patron Linda Baker presented the Board with photographs of her special needs daughter, Casey, being crowned prom queen. She expressed her appreciation and pride in the senior class for treating her daughter like everyone else and giving Casey something to cherish forever.

Angie Marksberry and Lori Holt, parents of special needs students, expressed their concerns about student safety on the special needs bus their children ride.

**Old Business:**

Dr. Reale requested approval of the student handbooks the Board was presented with last month, with the one revision they had received from Principal Healy. It was noted no one had contacted any administrator with questions. Mr. Tuttle motioned to approve the handbooks. Seconded by Mr. Amberger. Motion carried 4-1, with Mr. Kirk abstaining stating he had not had time to read them.

**Dr. Reale asked for approval of the technology loan he had presented to the Board last month. This loan of \$112,500 will be paid back with an interest rate of 1% and be used for wireless internet infrastructure. Mr. Kirk stated he understood the need for the technology, but the Board should have been informed before the application was made. Mr. Lewis motioned to approve the loan agreement. Seconded by Mr. Amberger. Motion carried 5-0.**

**New Business:**

**Dr. Reale presented a request from Principal Ketcham to revise Policy#7700 – Uniform Grading Scales. Mr. Ketcham’s statement noted there were a number of students who did not get credit for a class because their final grade fell below the prerequisite 65. He stated a teacher committee reexamined the issue and recommends changing the passing grade for the high school and middle school to 60. Mr. Amberger motioned to approve this change. Seconded by Mr. Lewis. Mr. Kirk commented the policy had just been redone last year, a new change was being asked for, and asked if it was going to be changed again next year. He stated one year was not enough to see if a policy was working, and did not think changing the grading scale was the right way to get students to achieve. Mr. Amberger noted the Board members were not educators, but the committee was, so the Board should abide by the recommendation. Mr. Lewis stated if the change would help those students who struggle, but put forth an honest effort, then not changing it would be a form of punishment. Motion carried 4-1 with Mr. Kirk opposed.**

**Dr. Reale informed the Board the Bureau of Motor Vehicles had taken over control of all driver education programs. One rule imposed by the Bureau is the car used cannot be over ten years old. Therefore, since the corporation car is a 2001, it is no longer viable as a driver education car. We are going to lease a car from the Tom Tepe dealership at a very good rate. He asked the Board for guidance on what to do with the 2001 car, noting if it is used by personnel for conferences, outings, etc. it would cost an average of \$.27 per mile, compared to the \$.45 per mile we pay for using personal vehicles. Mr. Amberger motioned to keep the car. Seconded by Mr. Tuttle. Motion carried 4-1, with Mr. Kirk opposed.**

**Dr. Reale requested the July meeting be moved to the 9<sup>th</sup> instead of the 16<sup>th</sup> in order to comply with State law to have a reorganization meeting within the first fifteen days of July. Mr. Kirk motioned to move the July meeting to the 9<sup>th</sup>. Seconded by Mr. Tuttle. Motion carried 5-0.**

**Mr. Kirk motioned to approve the following fundraising requests: (1) The high school band to sell magazine subscriptions from August 21 – September 5, 2012. (2) The middle school band to sell candy bars from October 16-30, 2012; (3) The high school band and the band boosters to sell raffle tickets from November 19 –December 3, 2012; and (4) The high school choir and art club to hold the annual Christmas Craft Fair on November 17, 2012. Seconded by Mr. Amberger. Motion carried 5-0.**

**Mr. Lewis motioned to approve the request from the high school choir and art club to use various areas of the high school and middle school for the Craft Fair on November 17, 2012. The clubs will pay the custodial fees from their profits. Seconded by Mr. Kirk. Motion carried 5-0.**

**Mr. Kirk stated he wanted to bring some issues to the attention of the Board. He motioned to put the word ‘corporation’ back in the school name and make the ‘Indian’ head an official logo. He stated we are known everywhere for who we are and need to go back to using the word corporation and the Indian head on all correspondence. It was noted Milan is still a corporation and that will never change, the Indian head is still used on various items, and Milan had not had a logo on correspondence before. Mr. Norman stated this was an issue that needed to be discussed. Mr. Kirk withdrew his motion.**

**Mr. Kirk stated his concern with the high school gym floor. He made a motion for the athletic director, Mr. Prifogle, to form a committee to choose a design for the middle of the gym floor when it is refinished. Seconded by Mr. Tuttle. Motion carried 5-0-.**

**Mr. Kirk stated high school cafeteria manager, Tammy Bush, had approached the Board with a proposal to offer Subway sandwiches from the new Subway store for lunch next year. He motioned to approve this proposal. Seconded by Mr. Amberger. Motion carried 5-0.**

**Mr. Kirk motioned to approve the fifteen senior graduation waivers as presented. Seconded by Mr. Amberger. Motion carried 5-0.**

**Mr. Kirk motioned to start having the school attorney present at the school board meetings. Seconded by Mr. Tuttle who stated it might be good to have him present at the meetings, and he would**

like to meet him. Dr. Reale noted the charge for services would be approximately \$180.00 per hour and would commence when the attorney leaves his residence. Mr. Kirk amended his motion to state having the attorney present at the meetings on a three month trial basis. Motion carried 3-2, with Mr. Lewis and Mr. Norman opposed.

Mr. Kirk questioned if Dr. Reale was on the teaching roster at the high school for next year. Dr. Reale stated he was on the schedule to teach one class due to the large sizes of the algebra classes. He noted the regular German teacher was needed for one algebra class and also Mrs. Walter was coming from the middle school to teach algebra at the high school for a couple of periods. He noted the scheduling was not about German, but algebra. Mr. Norman noted Dr. Reale teaching one class saved the corporation from having to hire another teacher.

#### **Superintendent's Report:**

Dr. Reale stated with the retirement of teacher Joan Kennett, Mr. Healy will be moving to a classroom for the 2012-13 school year. The middle school principal's position has been posted and applications accepted until May 29<sup>th</sup>. Interviews will be conducted the first week of June by a committee of administrators, teachers and parents. The chosen candidate will be interviewed by the Board the following week. If the Board does not approve of the chosen candidate, Mr. Healy will remain principal until the Board approves a successor.

#### **Personnel:**

Dr. Reale informed the Board he had accepted resignations from Alecia Fryman as a high school student council sponsor, Jeff Stutler as the reserve basketball coach, and Linda Oelker as the middle school student council sponsor. He also accepted an intent to retire from elementary custodian Tuddy Clark, effective June 1, 2012; and an intent to retire at the end of the 2011-12 school year from Joan Kennett.

Mr. Kirk motioned to approve Trina Schutte for the elementary special education position created by the retirement of Mary Sue Koch. Seconded by Mr. Tuttle. Motion carried 5-0.

#### **Claims and Financial Report:**

**Mr. Lewis motioned to approve vendor checks #34771 through #34861, payroll checks #22485 through #22636, deposit advice # 37466 through #37694, and the financial report. Seconded by Mr. Tuttle. Motion carried 5-0.**

**President's Prerogative:**

**Mr. Norman read the following statement: "The Board has considered seriously the concerns about the leadership of the girls' basketball program expressed by patrons at our March meeting. Upon reflection, the Board feels that as a policy-making body, it is not its place to make personnel decisions within the athletic department. This is the role of the athletic director. The Board has confidence in John Prifogle to fill this role. Further, in looking into all concerns shared with us, the Board found that there can be reasonable disagreements among reasonable people as to how to coach a basketball team or run a program. This will always be the case. However, the Board does not find that Lisa Bradshaw did anything as a coach that could be characterized as unethical. The Board appreciates the time taken by patrons to share their concerns and considers the future direction of the girls' basketball program to be in the hands of the athletic director and the high school principal."**

**Dr. Reale thanked everyone for attending and sharing feedback. He invited Board members to accompany him to the elementary before the executive session so Mrs. Rogers could show them the proposal for the P.T.O project that will change the footprint of the library.**

**Mr. Kirk congratulated the senior class, asked the community to keep in their thoughts and prayers the Mathes family from Versailles who recently lost their fifteen year old daughter in an ATV accident, and the two Milan grads serving in Iraq.**

**Mr. Amberger thanked everyone for attending, congratulated the seniors, and offered best wishes to the retiring employees.**

**Mr. Tuttle thanked everyone for attending, congratulated the seniors and invited everyone to attend commencement to support the students' hard work. He complimented the elementary staff for running a top notch ship and noted his three children have excelled in that environment and were looking forward to the same experience in the middle school.**

**Mr. Lewis thanked everyone for attending, thanked the employees and volunteers for their hard work, wished the seniors well in their future endeavors, asked for prayers for the Mathes family, and wished everyone a safe and enjoyable summer.**

**Mr. Kirk motioned to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Mr. Amberger. Motion carried**

**5-0. Meeting adjourned at 8:07 p.m.**