

**MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY FORUM MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES
MILAN COMMUNITY SCHOOL CORPORATION
MAY 27, 2015**

The Board of School Trustees held a community forum on the subject of student extracurricular random drug testing at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, May 25, 2015. Attending were Board members Gregory Lewis, Timothy Tuttle, Michael Brandes, and Jason Honeycutt. Edward Amberger was absent. Also attending was Superintendent Paul Ketcham. In the audience were two patrons and a newspaper reporter.

Mr. Ketcham gave a Powerpoint presentation stating the main objective was to make Milan schools a safe and productive learning environment. He stated the goal of the program was to provide assistance and not be punitive. It will also give students a reason to say no under peer pressure knowing they may be tested. It was noted if a student does not participate in extracurricular activities, a parent may voluntarily enroll their student in the program.

Mr. Ketcham stated he sent out 452 email surveys to parents and received 78 responses. He highlighted the survey answers and noted 91.4% of the parents taking the survey were in favor of having a drug testing policy.

Highlights of the draft policy proposals would be: *Pool of Students* – 1. Students in grades 9-12; 2. Participants in extracurricular activities, driver to school, or attend dances; and 3. Must sign an enrollment form before activity participation. *Testing Process* - 1. Each student would be assigned an ID number; 2. Selection is done randomly by ID number; 3. Once selected, the student would be escorted to the collection site; and 4. The student remains under supervision until an adequate specimen is collected. *“Positive” Test* – 1. Positive test results will be screened a second time for confirmation; 2. If a specimen is not produced within two hours, it will be considered a positive result; and 3. A refusal to test is considered a positive result; 4. If any attempt is made to use a false specimen or an attempt to alter the test, this will be considered a positive result; and 5. Student must inform collector of any medications being used. *Consequences* – 1. Consequences aligned with student activity code of conduct; 2. First violation results in 365 day probation from all activities – which may be resumed after four weeks is

student completes approved counseling program, supplies a negative screen and agrees to further random testing during the 365 day probation period; 3. Second violation results in 365 day exclusion from all activities which may be resumed after the 365 day period if appropriately counseled, supplies a negative screen and agrees to further random testing during the 365 day probation period; and 4. Third violation results in activity exclusion for remainder of high school career. *Benefits* – 1. Majority of parents surveyed want the policy; 2. Cheaper for parent to pay for counseling now than legal fees and long term use of drugs by student; 3. Students perceive someone cares; 4. Promotes help instead of legal action; and 5. Policy is another strategy to deter drug use by students. *Challenges* – 1. No research shows such a policy prevents drug use after high school; 2. Finger pointing by other students; 3. Is the money going for a good cause; 4. Is this spreading our resources too thin; and 5. Why only test high school students.

Mr. Ketcham opened the floor for patron questions. Answers to some of the pertinent questions were: 1. Several vendors would be given the opportunity to bid pricing; 2. The number of students tested at one time would be determined by the vendor and the administration; 3. The type of drugs tested would be determined by the vendor and the administration; 4. The corporation would pay for the drug test, but counseling services are the responsibility of the parent; 5. Alcohol testing would not be done at this time; 6. Concerned parents could pick up a home drug testing kit at the Central Office at any time, with no questions asked; and 7. All five board members are in favor of a drug testing policy.

Mr. Ketcham ended his presentation by stating a policy would be drafted for a first reading at the June 22, 2015 meeting, with a second reading and approval requested at the July meeting. The policy would be in effect for the 2015-16 school year.

Mr. Ketcham thanked the Board and those in attendance for their concern and attention and wished them a good night.