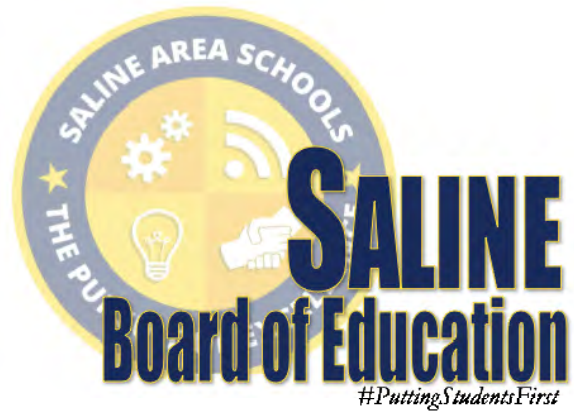


Board of Education Meeting

Liberty School Board Room

May 14, 2024, at 6:30 PM



MINUTES

Mission

We, the Saline Area Schools, will equip all students with the knowledge, technological proficiency, and personal skills necessary to succeed in an increasingly complex society. We expect that our students, staff, and the Saline Community will share in these responsibilities.

OPENING

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Board of Education Meeting was called to order by President Michael McVey at 6:30 PM

Board Members Present: Tim Austin, Susan Estep, Brad Gerbe, Lauren Gold, Michael McVey and Jenny Miller.

Board Members Absent: Jennifer Steben

Central Administration Present: Superintendent Laatsch, Interim Ass't Superintendent of HR Diglio, Ass't Superintendent of Finance Owsley and Exec. Directors Clary, Davis and Martin

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOGNITION

- *Boys Swim & Dive Team, Coach Todd Brunty*
- *Washtenaw United Hockey Team, Coach Adam Winters*

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

STUDENTS - None

OTHER PUBLIC STAKEHOLDERS - None

EXTENDED PUBLIC COMMENT

Denise Frost, Daughters of the American Revolution

Presentation of the DAR Good Citizen Award - Erin Huetteman

This award recognizes students who demonstrate dependability, service, leadership and patriotism. Erin is a Senior at Saline High School who has demonstrated exceptional qualities of good citizenship.

5. RESPONSE TO PREVIOUS PUBLIC COMMENT

President McVey

Addressed concerns about Neola’s perceived reluctance in helping the district develop administrative guidelines for the Transgender and Non-Binary Students Policy. Neola doesn’t normally take an active role in developing admin guidelines but they have been working with superintendents to craft guidelines on this policy. President McVey noted that although administrative guidelines may be presented to the Board by policy, they are not required to be reviewed or approved by the Board. They are developed by the administration as a tool to implement policy. Implementation highlights were shared including the addition of 6 gender-neutral bathrooms at the HS and one at the MS, hiring of a DEI position, creation of Transgender Non-Binary FAQ to support staff. Areas of concerns are still being addressed on an individual basis and both administration and the Board wants to be supportive.

AGENDA

6. REVISIONS/APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION made by Secretary Miller, support Treasurer Gerbe **to approve the agenda as printed.**

Ayes - All Present - **MOTION CARRIED 6-0**

7. STUDENT SHOWCASE

Ethics Team

Presenters: Michael Bryant, Brian Kang, Alex Larsen, Colin Learman, and Sarah Yousif

Advisor: Zach Ornelas

Gratitude from the team members to advisor Zach Ornelas and former debate coach Shelly Venema for their support. The group highlighted their season and the connections they have formed as team members. They recently returned from the National Ethics Bowl Competition in Boston where teams of high school students discuss and debate ethical issues. The journey to this competition included first place state and regional wins. The team placed 3rd out of 30 teams at Nationals, a remarkable achievement for a relatively new team.

8. ACTION ITEMS

A. MOTION made by Trustee Austin, support Secretary Miller **to support the Washtenaw Intermediate School District proposed special education millage renewal question to be**

placed on the ballot of the November 5, 2024 election as submitted by Superintendent Laatsch.

Ayes - All Present - **MOTION CARRIED 6-0**

- B. MOTION** made by Treasurer Gerbe, support Secretary Miller **to approve the recommendation that NBS Commercial Interiors and Interior Environments supply and install the furniture in the new Hornet Operation Centers in the amount of \$134,897.02, which includes a 5% contingency as submitted by Rex Clary, Exec. Director of Operations.**

Ayes - All Present - **MOTION CARRIED 6-0**

- C. MOTION** made by Trustee Austin, support Trustee Estep **to approve the recommendation from Lecole Planners that YellowLite, Inc. be awarded a contract in the amount of \$605,880.00 for the Saline Middle School Roof Integrated Solar Installation as submitted by Rex Clary, Exec. Director of Operations.**

Ayes - All Present - **MOTION CARRIED 6-0**

9. SCHEDULED REPORTS

A. **Special Education Update**

Presenters: Monica Ellis & Kevin Musson

The Special Education team, led by Kevin Musson and Monica Ellis presented an update on their program. This began with a recognition and introduction of the staff including students who participate in the Connecting Program which supports students with disabilities. The Mission and Vision of the department emphasizes collaboration with general education teachers, staff, parents, community and students. The department's focus is on individual success, recognizing that each student's path is unique. Student demographics by bldg, gender, grade level, and ethnicity were shared. There are a total of 851 special education students, with 823 having active IEPs and 28 undergoing initial evaluations. Primary disabilities include *Other Health Impairment, Speech and Language Impairment, Special Learning Disability, and Autism Spectrum Disorder*. Services provided include Teacher Consultant, Speech, Social Work, Occupational and Physical Therapy and shared the tiered levels of support that can be provided. The team also highlighted the Connecting Program. This is an experiential learning class that brings together students with and without disabilities to foster inclusion and understanding. This program was started in 1998 and has been recognized on the state level. The benefits for all participants include inclusion, mentorship and especially a passion for wanting to dedicate their lives to this cause.

Also discussed was the professional development opportunities that staff have available to them. This is done within the district as well as in collaboration with the WISD. Also through the

WISD, there are scholarships available for paras to continue their education and become certified teachers.

The Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) is the voice for families. This is made up of parents ranging from Young Adult to ECSE. They provide coffee time for parents, training, surveys to hear concerns and feedback and parent mentors to help guide new parents through the process.

Reviewed budget and funding which primarily come from County Tax Act 18 (61%), Federal (9%) and State (30%) Funding. Expenses are primarily Salary and Benefits, contracted services and classroom materials. Future plans include a smooth transition with support for new leadership, enhancing Tier 1 Social Emotional Support, improving student achievement objectives, providing ongoing training for staff, and continuing collaboration through monthly meetings. Excited for the addition of Unified PE to the Course Guide at the high school as well as the renovation of the weight room with new adaptable equipment. All the elementary playgrounds are being renovated as well to be more inclusive and safe for students. These will be designed after the Pleasant Ridge model.

10. **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

A. **WISD Budget Presentation**

Michael McVey, Board President

The WISD budget is divided into two main categories, general education and special education. It is only the general education budget that needs to be supported by each LEA. The WISD General Fund budget must be reviewed by school boards from each district in the county. President McVey provided the budget highlights before asking for a motion to support the WISD Budget Resolution.

MOTION made by Secretary Miller, support Trustee Gold **to support the WISD 2024-2025 Budget Resolution.**

Ayes - All Present - **MOTION CARRIED 6-0**

B. **Finance Committee Update**

Brad Gerbe, Finance Chair

The Finance Committee met prior to the Board Meeting. Topics included: Food Service Bidding: a state required process to be completed in June. This will come to the board for approval. The Governor's budget: the governor, house and senate are starting to discuss plans for the 2024-2025 school year. Per-pupil allotment: we hope to see a potential increase in the per student allowance resulting in an additional \$309K for the district. Retirement and Pension funding: The MPSERS fund is looking healthy, with the health care portion running in excess revenue of about 140%. Enrollment for Kindergarten for the 24/25 is looking very solid. The

final budget amendment will be presented at the Budget Hearing on June 11th. This is preceding the regular board meeting at 6 pm..

C. Process for How the Board Seeks Legal Advice

Michael McVey, Board President

The Board seeks legal services from two firms including Thrun Law Firm and Collins and Blaha. These firms assist with clarifying broader legal issues regarding policies that guide the board and offer advice regarding next steps. The board president speaks on behalf of the board and the superintendent can be designated to ask particular questions also. In regards to policies, the board through the president reaches out for legal services. Sometimes the Superintendent is asked to as well. Individual board members can raise questions about policy by bringing them to the Policy Committee. Concerns and complaints about a staff member or Superintendent are addressed in a closed session of the board where the board can discuss seeking legal services. Any resulting action can then be addressed in an Open meeting. In regards to the public complaint process, this begins with discussions with the Superintendent and/or administrators. If not resolved, a more formal complaint can be filed with the Board Vice President. The board (or an ad hoc committee) would go into closed session to determine next steps which could include contacting legal services for advice.

Board Operating Procedures outlines the process to follow for both complaints against the Superintendent and against another board member.

President McVey will provide a document outlining the clarified procedures and will seek input from the board over the next several days.

11. ADMINISTRATION / BOARD UPDATES

Superintendent Laatsch: Congratulations to Caroline Clark for winning second place in the 2024 MIPA awards for her featured sports writing for the yearbook. The Detroit Jewish News contacted Jackie as they were writing an article about school districts in the county and after we shared a summary of what our schools were doing, they said we had the most robust programming that they had seen for acknowledgement of the month. A great testament to our commitment to diversity and inclusion across the district.

President McVey: Attended the 87th FFA Potluck. Also looking forward to Highest Honors / Compass Night at Saline High School on May 16th.

Student Representatives Clark and Iadipaolo: Along with other class leaders, met with the Saline Alumni Association. Thank you to the Junior Class for all their hard work on the upcoming prom that is taking place on Saturday, May 18th. Seniors last day is Friday, May 24th. Shoutout to boys lacrosse who are currently in the playoffs and also to the boys volleyball team that is doing really well. Girls lacrosse just won their first SEC title, so congratulations to them.

Trustee Austin: Congratulations to all the seniors, and have fun and be safe at prom.

Treasurer Gerbe: Acknowledgement to Teacher Appreciation week. I really enjoyed the Student Showcase and recognizing all the student groups tonight. Congratulations to the Washtenaw United Hockey Team for the presentation of their varsity letters this evening.

Secretary Miller: Congratulations to the seniors. Congratulations to the juniors on their hard work for the upcoming prom. Acknowledgement to all staff at Saline Schools.

Trustee Estep: DEI AC and SEAB meetings are coming up. SEAB will soon select a curriculum to present to the Board for approval. Field Day at the elementary schools will be starting the week of May 20th. Supported the FFA by purchasing flowers from their annual flower sale. Requesting a future agenda item on SAS Board Policies regarding administrative guidelines and forms as an extension of board policies. These are currently not public facing. The WISD has public facing guidelines. Will be sending policy information on this.

Trustee Gold: Acknowledging Staff Appreciation and also retiring teachers. Thank you to those teachers. Shoutout to seniors in their last month of school and to their families for supporting them.

12. **CONSENT AGENDA**

MOTION made by Trustee Austin, support Trustee Estep **to authorize the Consent Agenda as printed.**

Ayes - All Present - **MOTION CARRIED 6-0**

- A. **Approval** of the Board of Education Meeting Minutes of April 23, 2024
- B. **Approval of Payment** of the General Fund Accounts Payable of May 14, 2024, in the amount of \$2,450,936.49
- C. **Approval of Payment** of 2023 Bond Fund Series I Accounts Payable of May 14, 2024 in the amount of \$883,688.15
- D. **Receive and File** Finance and Human Resources Reports

CLOSING

13. **ITEMS SCHEDULED ON NEXT AGENDA**

District Strategic Council

14. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

STUDENTS - None

OTHER PUBLIC STAKEHOLDERS - None

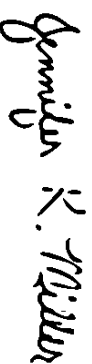
15. NEXT MEETING

The next Board of Education Meeting will be held on May 28, 2024 at 6:30 PM.

16. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION made by Treasurer Gerbe, support Trustee Gold to **adjourn the Regular Board of Education Meeting of May 14, 2024, at 9:28 PM.**

Respectfully submitted,



Jennifer Miller
Board Secretary

Recorded by: Betty Jahnke