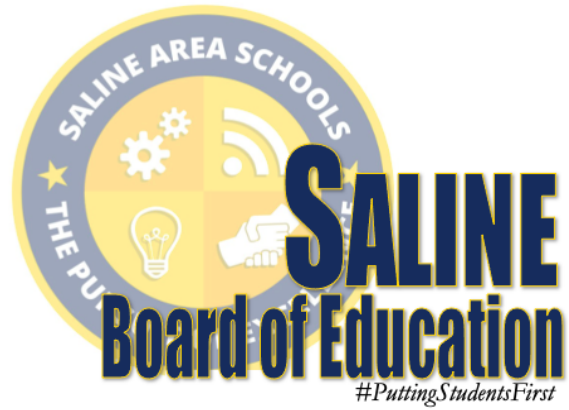


Board of Education Meeting

Liberty School Board Room

September 12, 2023 at 6:30 PM



AGENDA

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 Board President Michael McVey at 6:30 pm.

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

Central Administration Present: Superintendent Laatsch, Assistant Superintendents Curt Ellis & Miranda Owsley, Directors Jackelyn Martin and Kara Davis

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

STUDENTS - None

OTHER PUBLIC STAKEHOLDERS

Ann Jeffers, Parent - Spoke regarding disappointment with Board Behavior and Opt-Out Policy

Cory Belote, Parent - Spoke regarding Opt-Out Policy

Dave Rosenfeld, Community Member - Spoke regarding Opt-Out Policy

Viva Rosenfeld, Community Member - Spoke regarding disappointment with Board Behavior

Changming Fan, Local Community Member - Spoke regarding FSAS Fall Fundraiser

Tiffanie Alexander, Parent - Spoke regarding Opt-Out Policy

EXTENDED PUBLIC COMMENT

*Kavin Arul, SMS 8th Grade
Senior Patrol Leader Troop 416*

Spoke regarding the history and activities of Troop 416.

*Stacey Rumpsa
FSAS Executive Director*

Spoke regarding the upcoming fall fundraiser and grant process.

4. RESPONSE TO PREVIOUS PUBLIC COMMENT

AGENDA

5. REVISIONS/APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION made by Vice President Steben, support Secretary Miller to revise the agenda to include “Finance Meeting Update” under Discussion Item.

Ayes - All Present - **MOTION CARRIED 7-0**

6. Saline Area Schools: Introduction of the 23/24 New Hires

Presenter: Curt Ellis, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources

7. STUDENT SHOWCASE (postponed due to illness)

Presenter: Erin Huetteman, SHS Class of 2024, 2023 Miss Saline

8. ACTION ITEMS

A. MOTION made by Treasurer Gerbe, support Trustee Austin to approve the minutes from the August 22, 2023 closed session for the purpose of Collective Bargaining 8(c) of the Open Meetings Act.

Ayes - All Present - **MOTIONED CARRIED 7-0**

9. SCHEDULED REPORTS

1. Teaching & Learning Update, Continuous Improvement Back to School Edition

Presenter: Kara Davis, Director of Teaching & Learning

This presentation was to present the District's Continuous Improvement update which includes goals, the 22/23 data story in addition to action steps and strategies for the continuous improvement plan. Important to remember the district focus areas (1) academic

rigor centered around the SAS Compass (2) Culture of Equity (3) Civility and Unity and (4) Improving SAS for the future.

The district goal is to increase overall rates of mastery in content areas as measured by local assessments (K-8)/course grades (9-12) among students regardless of subgroup, by increasing staff competency in the use of evidence-based culturally responsive instruction. We want to strengthen social emotional support models in order to positively impact stakeholder reporting of SAS services as measured by the biennial Perceptions of Equity survey and Annual District Quality Survey.

A review of K-8 Assessment trends included Acadience and NWEA. For reading, scores show many areas of improvement with both higher entering scores and exiting scores in most grades. Our students continue to outperform overall state results on MStep, PSAT and SAT. For math, students continue to perform significantly better than national norms on NWEA. Math assessment results though are not returning to pre-pandemic levels as quickly as reading and writing. We continue to be optimistic.

10. DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Policy 2240 Controversial Issues (Instructional Materials: Opt Out) Second Reading

Facilitator, Jenny Miller, Chair

After full board discussion, this draft will appear on the September 26th Board of Education agenda as an action item with the Policy Committee recommending approval. It was noted that the recommendation will be to have Neola assign a new policy number to this policy and rescind the previous PO2240 Controversial Issues.

Motion to send it back to the Policy Committee for another review, not supported.

2. Finance Committee Update *Chair, Brad Gerbe*

Reviewing count/enrollment and all data is tracking pretty close to projections. Fall count is October 4, 2023. We will have more accurate numbers to report later in October. Projections are still close to a student loss of about 67. Also talked about FTE adjustments. Finance committee along with Dr. Laatsch is developing a restructuring plan for what would be our goals over the next several years. We hope in November to present more about this structuring plan. We've had challenges in hiring support personnel and looking at our salaries/wages in comparison to other schools in our county. We need to be more competitive in this market with our wages & benefits for these positions if we hope to gain sustainability. It's important for the district to identify our free & reduced families even though we have free breakfast and lunch. The district needs the data to support families in other areas as well (Community Ed, Athletics, etc.) We anticipate coming to the Board with the audit presentation late October or early November.

11. ADMINISTRATION / BOARD UPDATES

Superintendent Laatsch: Thank everyone for a great start to the new school year. Lots of positive feedback from staff, students and parents. Read letter from MSBO recognizing Miranda Owsley for renewing the Chief Financial Officer recertification program. This included over 150 hours of professional development.

Trustee Gold: Enjoyed going to the football game and watching the band and dance team. Happy to support the ChadTough foundation. Recognition of the Jewish New Year.

Secretary Miller: September 26th from 5-6 will be the next Policy Committee Meeting. Thank everyone for a great start to the school year. Shout out to the transportation department for providing some athletic event buses.

Treasurer Gerbe: Had a great time at the recent football game and supporting the ChadTough Foundation run that is coming up. Acknowledgement to our new SRO Office Morgan Seija. Great article in the Sun Times News. Thank you to the community for your flexibility during the challenge with transportation. Thank you to the transportation department for making things run smoothly.

Trustee Austin: Thank you to the transportation office/admin staff for taking time out of their day to get on buses so that routes don't need to be canceled. Great time at the football game and hearing the fight song.

Student Representatives Caroline Clark & Matteo Iadipaolo: Student showcase will need to be rescheduled due to illness.

12. CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION made by Trustee Estep, support Vice President Steben **to authorize the Consent Agenda as printed :**

- A. **Approval** of the Board of Education Meeting Minutes of August 22, 2023
- B. **Approval of Payment** of the General Fund Accounts Payable of September 12, 2023, in the amount of \$3,184,589.39
- C. **Approval of Payment** of 2021 Bond Fund Series III Accounts Payable of September 12, 2023, in the amount of \$91,670.00
- D. **Approval of Payment** of 2023 Bond Fund Series I Accounts Payable of September 12, 2023, in the amount of \$185,220.50
- E. **Receive and File** Finance and Human Resources Reports

CLOSING

13. ITEMS SCHEDULED ON NEXT AGENDA

- A. Enrollment Report
- B. SEAB Meeting & Greet / Public Hearing #1

14. PUBLIC COMMENT

STUDENTS - None

OTHER PUBLIC STAKEHOLDERS

Cory Belote, Parent: Spoke regarding the Opt-Out Policy

Changming Fan, Community Member: Spoke regarding Saline Area Light Tower.

Libby Williams, Parent: Spoke regarding the Opt-Out Policy.

Meghan Gunnerson, Parent: Spoke regarding (1) importance of identifying free & reduced families and how this data benefits students in other ways, (2) Opt-Out Policy

Tiffanie Alexander, Parent: Spoke regarding Opt-Out Policy

David Hayward, Parent: Spoke regarding Opt-Out Policy

Darcy Berwick, Parent: Spoke regarding Opt-Out Policy

Shawnda Nichols, Lives in District/Kids in School: Spoke regarding Opt-Out Policy

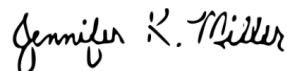
15. NEXT MEETING

The next Board of Education Meeting will be held on September 26, 2023, at 6:30 PM.

16. ADJOURNMENT

Without objection, the Regular Board of Education Meeting of September 12, 2023, was adjourned at 9:44 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,



Jennifer Miller
Board Secretary

Recorded by: Betty Jahнке