

Board of Education Meeting

Liberty School Board Room

September 26, 2023, 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 of September 26, 2023 was called to order at 6:30 pm by President Michael McVey.

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 Ellis & Owsley, Director of Operations Clary

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

STUDENTS - Cloud Rosenfeld - Spoke regarding the Opt-Out Policy

OTHER PUBLIC STAKEHOLDERS

Viva Rosenfeld, Parent - Spoke regarding the Opt-Out Policy

Raelyn Davis, Parent - Spoke regarding the SEAB Public Hearing, Opt-Out Policy

Luis Barnett, Parent - Spoke regarding the Opt-Out Policy

4. RESPONSE TO PREVIOUS PUBLIC COMMENT

AGENDA

5. **REVISIONS/APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

MOTION made by Vice President Steben, support Secretary Miller to **approve the agenda as printed.**

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

6. **STUDENT SHOWCASE**

Presenter: Sarah Yousif

Academic All American Award for National Speech and Debate

Talked about how debate has positively impacted her academic career.

7. **SEX EDUCATION ADVISORY BOARD - Introduction of Committee**

Presenters: Cameron Cochran, Co-Chair & Kristen Hoffman-Peavler, Co-Chair

Review of the SEAB goals, introduction of SEAB Members and brief review of the topics to be discussed during the 2 public hearings. This curriculum has been supported by both the outgoing and new incoming SEAB members.

8. **PUBLIC HEARING #1**

Facilitators: Cameron Cochran, Co-Chair, Kristen Hoffman-Peavler, Co-Chair, Washtenaw Area Council for Children (Robin Batten, Susan Usher and Christine Kolobow)

Public hearing on the recommendation to include lessons from the Body Safety Training curriculum for lower elementary buildings in Saline. The goal of this curriculum is to teach students about various types of safety, including body safety, as a means of reducing the risk of childhood injury and sexual abuse against young children.

They reviewed the weekly lessons, including pictures of some of the actual cards that will be used in the lessons with students. A copy of the curriculum can be reviewed for the next several weeks in the Liberty School main office.

9. **ACTION ITEMS**

A. **MOTION** made by Treasurer Gerbe, support Trustee Austin to **approve the recommendation of A.R. Brouwer to award contracts to the below listed contractors in the total amount of \$4,860,436 for BID PACK #2 for the new Operations Center as submitted by Operations Director, Rex Clary.**

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

Category 2A Foundations
Grit Services \$162,000

Category 2B Interior Concrete 7
Spring Valley Landscaping \$236,575

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Category 2C Masonry
Zimmerman Masonry \$618,500

Category 2D - Structural & Misc Steel-
Campbell Shaw \$498,950

Category 2F Fencing & Gates
Adrian Tecumseh Fence \$115,909

Category 2G Bus Wash
Interclean \$134,898

Category 2H
Mechanical/HVAC/Louvers

Robertson Morrison \$657,369

Category 2J Plumbing
MJR Mechanical \$315,000

Category 2K Electrical
Hopp Electric \$1,489,000

Category 2L Fire Suppression
Falcon Fire Suppression \$95,800

Category HVAC Controls &
Equipment
Trane \$536,435

- B. MOTION** made by Vice President Steben, support by Trustee Austin to **approve the Saline High School Prototype Classroom furniture recommendations and purchase in the amount of \$46,890.05 as recommended by Operations Director, Rex Clary.**

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

Great Lakes Furniture Supply: VS- America \$4084.80

Dew-El Corporation: Mein \$27,120.31

NBS Commercial Interiors: Steelcase/Smith Systems \$15,684.94

- C. MOTION** made by Trustee Austin, support Treasurer Gerbe to **approve the minutes from the September 18, 2023 closed session for the purpose of Collective Bargaining 8(c) of the Open Meetings Act.**

Ayes - All Present (at September 18th meeting) - **MOTION CARRIED 5-0**

(Not present at the September 18th Special Meeting: Susan Estep & Jennifer Steben)

- D. MOTION** made by Trustee Austin, support Vice President Steben to **approve the Instructional Materials Opt Out Policy as recommended by the Board Policy Committee.**

MOTION CARRIED 6-1

Ayes: Austin, Gerbe, Gold, McVey, Miller & Steben

Nays : Estep

MOTION made by Treasurer Gerbe, support Secretary Miller to **have the Superintendent provide to the board a review of opt outs, including the number of opt-outs and specific instructional materials, and accommodations by the end of the school year.**

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

MOTION made by Secretary Miller, support by Trustee Estep **to rescind current Policy 2240 Controversial Issues**

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

10. SCHEDULED REPORTS

1. Enrollment Report

Presenter: Steve Laatsch, Superintendent

Showed enrollment data from the last 6 years including the estimate for the 23/24 year. Count day is October 4, 2023 after which time, more accurate data for this year will be available. The average loss projected this year is approximately 67. The nation's birth rate has been declining about 2% annually since 2007. Last year alone the birth rate fell 4%. It was the largest decline since 1973. The state count decline since 2010/11 has gone from about 1.6M to 1.4M in 22/23. The general trend in all counties in Michigan is trending down. Superintendent Laatsch explained how children who reside in the district are captured by other outside districts through shared-time services. These are either students who are attending private or homeschool programs who are receiving services by a teacher affiliated with another school district and those districts can then capture a portion of FTE for those students. Families in our district do have more educational options to choose from including parochial schools, private schools, charter schools, and homeschool programs.

Factors that contribute to enrollment loss in addition to declining birth rates include more choices and affordability as well. High mortgage rates make it hard to afford homes in Saline. Plans are to develop a restructuring plan, bring students back to Saline that may have left, retain the students we do have and market the district to those who may consider moving here from outside Washtenaw County. Areas we may look at to develop more efficiency could include scheduling models, grade configurations, and staffing. We feel confident that we will be able to continue to offer the excellent programming that our community has come to expect.

11. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Board Policy Committee Meeting Updates

Chair, Jenny Miller

President McVey provided a recommended amendment to Policy 5113 School of Choice Program (Inter-District). This was discussed by the Policy Committee and it was agreed to be brought to the full board as a discussion item (1st reading) on October 10, 2023. Also discussed was the consideration from the Be Safe Campaign and Moms Demand Action to consider signing a resolution regarding Gun Safety and Storage. Discussion among the committee whether to consider a policy or resolution. The Superintendent's office will reach out to Neola for some recommendations prior to the next Policy Committee meeting. Neola

Updates Vol 38 No 1 have been released. A meeting with the Neola representative to provide an overview will be held on October 12th with Chair Jenny Miller and Superintendent Laatsch prior to the next Policy Committee meeting. Policy 5511 Dress & Grooming. This will be put back on the agenda for the next Policy Committee meeting on October 24, 2023 for further discussion.

12. ADMINISTRATION / BOARD UPDATES

Superintendent Laatsch: Attended the recent FSAS Hall of Fame Ceremony honoring 6 new inductees (Joe Schwartz, Bruce Ross, Jere Hassberger, Meg Scaling, Ann Pellegreno, Emily Nash). Each one commented on feeling so honored and valued for the recognition. This is an important event to keep going and highlights the excellence of our district. Also want to congratulate Michelle Szczechowicz on her recent new position as Curriculum Director for the Holly School District. Michelle has served over 17 years as an administrator with Saline Area Schools, both at the MS and Woodland Meadows Elementary. David Raft will return to SAS and step in as interim principal to guide the MS through this time of transition until the new principal has been hired. His expected date of retirement will be February 29, 2024.

Student Representatives Caroline Clark & Mateo Iadipaolo: TedEx Youth@SalineHighSchool will be Saturday, October 7, 2023. Looking forward to a great Homecoming weekend and a special thank you to the Student Council for all their hard work.

Trustee Austin: Looking forward to homecoming weekend. Thank you Principal Szczechowicz for your time served at Saline Area Schools.

Trustee Gerbe: Looking forward to homecoming weekend.

Secretary Miller: Congratulations to Principal Szczechowicz on her new position. Thank you to the Student Council for all their hard work on the upcoming Homecoming parade and weekend festivities.

President McVey: Will be attending the FSAS October 5 fundraiser luncheon at Saline Middle School.

Vice President Steben: Excited for homecoming / spirit week activities for all age groups. Reminder that October 5th is the FSAS Fall Fundraiser at Saline Middle School: Cultivating Lifelong Learners, the winter fundraiser will be March 9th (Blue Jeans & Bling). More details to come.

Trustee Estep: Does not support response from President McVey which he made during "Response to Public Comments" Comments should be forwarded to Board Members prior to being spoken to the public.

13. CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION made by Secretary Miller, support Vice President Steben **to authorize the Consent Agenda as amended** (C. September 28, 2023 to September 18, 2023, date correction)

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

- A. **Approval** of the Board of Education Meeting Minutes of September 12, 2023
- B. **Approval** of the Board Finance Committee Meeting Minutes of September 12, 2023
- C. **Approval** of the Board of Education Special Meeting Minutes of September 18, 2023
- D. **Approval of Payment** of the General Fund Accounts Payable of September 26, 2023, in the amount of \$1,735,170.51
- E. **Approval of Payment** of 2021 Bond Fund Series III Accounts Payable of September 26, 2023, in the amount of \$49,754.50
- F. **Approval of Payment** of 2023 Bond Fund Series I Accounts Payable of September 26, 2023, in the amount of \$236,138.70
- G. **Receive and File** Human Resources Report
- H. **Reaffirm** the Return to In-Person Instruction & Continuity of Services Plan
(required every 6 months til 9/2024)

CLOSING

14. ITEMS SCHEDULED ON NEXT AGENDA

SEAB Public Hearing #2

15. PUBLIC COMMENT

STUDENTS - None

OTHER PUBLIC STAKEHOLDERS - None

16. NEXT MEETING

The next Board of Education Meeting will be held on October 10, 2023, at 6:30 PM.

17. CLOSED SESSION

MOTION made Trustee Austin, support Treasurer Gerbe **to enter Closed Session of the Board of Education at 9:15pm, with the intent to re-enter Open Session at approximately 9:45 pm, for the purpose of Superintendent Evaluation Section 8(a). Under Section 8(a) a simple majority vote is sufficient to enter into a closed session.**

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

19. ADJOURNNMENT

MOTION made by Vice President Steben, support Trustee Austin **to adjourn the Regular Board of Education Meeting of September 26, 2023, at 9:24 PM.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Jennifer R. Miller

Jennifer Miller
Board Secretary

Recorded by: Betty Jahnke