

Board of Education Meeting

Liberty School Board Room

October 10, 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 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 Superintendent's Ellis and Owsley, Executive Directors Clary, Davis and Martin.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

STUDENTS - None

OTHER PUBLIC STAKEHOLDERS - None

EXTENDED PUBLIC COMMENT

*Laura Washington, Principal
Woodland Elementary School*

Provided points of pride at Woodland Meadows

*Ann Friedholm & Tammi Carr
ChadTough Foundation*

Provided the Board updates on the ChadTough Foundation and expressed appreciation for the support of Saline Area Schools.

4. RESPONSE TO PREVIOUS PUBLIC COMMENT

AGENDA

5. REVISIONS/APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION made by Trustee Austin, support Trustee Estep **to approve the agenda as printed.**

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

6. STUDENT SHOWCASE

Presenter: Erin Huettelman, SHS Class of 2024

Topic: Miss Saline 2023

Erin presented information regarding the Miss Saline Scholarship Organization, which has been in existence for 75 years. Erin, a SHS senior, was crowned the 75th Miss Saline this past summer and has been a Saline resident all her life. She is also active as a majorette in the SHS Marching Band and also a part of the award winning Saline Twirlettes. She loves being involved in the community. Part of the crowning activities included a luncheon with former Miss Saline's which included the oldest living Miss Saline. The creation of the Miss Saline Scholarship Organization marked the first time that women were able to be involved in the Saline fair. The process for selection included: 1) Interview before the pageant, 2) on-stage questions (random) and talent. Activities for her this coming year include: Ribbon cutting ceremonies, Chamber of Commerce events, radio interviews, homecoming parade, scarecrow contest participant, mystery reader at WM Kindergarten class, Saline Main Street Trunk or Treat, Toys for Tots at the holidays.

7. PUBLIC HEARING #2

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.

8. ACTION ITEMS

- A. **MOTION** made by Vice President Steben, support Treasurer Gerbe **to approve the minutes from the September 26, 2023 closed session for the purpose of Superintendent Evaluation Section 8(a) under the Open Meetings Act.**

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

- B. **MOTION** made by Treasurer Gerbe, support Trustee Austin **to approve the recommendation as submitted by Director of Operations, Rex Clary, to use Lecole Planners to act as Saline Area Schools Owner's Representative for the new Hornet Operations Center for the amount not to exceed \$106,920.00.**

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

9. DISCUSSION ITEMS

- A. **Board Finance Committee Meeting Updates**

Chair, Brad Gerbe

1. Student Count: More solid number in about 30 days. Trending down about 90 students. Will be able to report more accurate count later in October.
2. Audit has been completed and will be reported to the Board by Plante Moran at the November 14th Board of Education meeting.
3. Talks regarding restructuring since Covid funds are no longer able to support us in the way they have the last few years. Discussions will be taking place with key stakeholders to come up with ways to operationalize the district knowing this.
4. The Finance Committee may present a budget adjustment in January/February.
5. Goals regarding the district fund balance.

Also acknowledged the Bond Update site that appears as a tab on the school district website. Encouraged the community to stay informed as to the progress of the work being done.

- B. **Discussion Policy 5113 School of Choice Program (Inter-District)**

Recommended Updates, 1st Reading

Facilitator: Jenny Miller, Policy Chair

This is an amendment to Policy 5113. Prior to 2018 our policies were under the umbrella of MASB and in 2018 moved to the Neola policy platform. At that time there were policies that did not move over to Neola and were considered rescinded by that Board. The “new” School of Choice (Neola) policy does not have a portion of the policy that was to have been in the “MASB” policy which specifically spoke to a 10% cap of School of Choice students. The recommended amendment to the policy would add language stating *“The Superintendent,*

when considering School of Choice enrollment, will strive to enroll out-of-district students at approximately 10% of the total student body.”

Trustees were given an opportunity to discuss the pros and cons of this recommended amendment to Policy 5113. This will be on the agenda as a 2nd reading on October 24th.

10. ADMINISTRATION / BOARD UPDATES

Superintendent Laatsch: Welcomed the GAPP students to Saline Area Schools. GAPP is the German American Partnership Program that promotes German language instruction and fosters new and lasting friendships. The SHS students went to Germany over the summer and now the German students are visiting here. They will shadow their students around and attend community events during their visits here. The recent FSAS fundraiser brought in over \$41K. Inviting the community to participate in the second School & Family Partnership Series which will be held on October 11 at 6-7 pm. Saline Extra Curricular night will be held the same evening. The Board of Education will join in building visits planned for October 16th and November 7th.

Student Representative Mateo Iadipaolo: Really enjoyed the recent Rachel’s Challenge assembly and has already witnessed the chain reaction of how small acts of kindness can grow and affect change.

Trustee Austin: Congratulations to the SHS Marching Band at the recent Band Festival at John Glenn HS. Attended the recent Rachel’s Challenge assembly at the HS. Very moving presentation and message.

Treasurer Gerbe: Even though unable to attend, was happy to hear about the Rachel’s Challenge assembly and the message of kindness being presented. Thank you to Mrs. Washington for her highlights of Woodland Meadows, also to Chad Tough for their comments. Very appreciative for all the efforts that went into making spirit week and homecoming successful. Happy to be supporting breast cancer awareness month.

Secretary Miller: Shoutout to Woodland Meadows. Many thanks to all involved in making Homecoming festivities so special. Excited to tour our buildings on October 16th with Dr. Laatsch. Also attended the Legislative breakfast at the WISD. Will participate in a meeting with Neola on October 12th to review the most recent policy updates.

Vice President Steben: Welcome back to David Raft as interim principal at Saline Middle School. Attend the FSAS meeting today. Over \$41K was raised at the recent luncheon. The spring event “Blue Jeans & Bling” will be held on March 9th at the Sheraton. Items for the auction are welcome.

Trustee Estep: Acknowledgement to Domestic Violence Awareness Month and Breast Cancer Awareness Month

Trustee Gold: Shout out to the Marching Band on their recent high marks at the MSBOA Festival at John Glenn HS. Attended the Rachel's Challenge assembly at the high school. Acknowledgement of World Mental Health Day today, October 10th.

President McVey: Attended the Rachel's Challenge assembly and also the TedxYouth event at Saline High School on October 7th.

11. CONSENT AGENDA

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

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

- A. **Approval** of the Board of Education Meeting Minutes of September 26, 2023
- B. **Approval** of the Board Policy Committee Meeting Minutes of September 26, 2023
- C. **Approval of Payment** of the General Fund Accounts Payable of October 10, 2023, in the amount of \$2,204,715.49
- D. **Approval of Payment** of 2023 Bond Fund Series I Accounts Payable of October 10, 2023, in the amount of \$182,223.88
- E. **Receive and File** Finance and Human Resources Reports

CLOSING

12. ITEMS SCHEDULED ON NEXT AGENDA

Strategic Planning (Restructuring plan)

13. PUBLIC COMMENT

STUDENTS - None

OTHER PUBLIC STAKEHOLDERS

Meghan Gunnerson, Parent: Spoke regarding School of Choice

Changming Fan, Community Member: Spoke regarding creating ideas that are not limiting

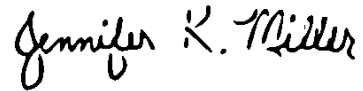
14. NEXT MEETING

The next Board of Education Meeting will be held on October 24, 2023, at 6:30 PM.

15. **ADJOURNMENT**

Without Objection the Regular Board of Education Meeting of October 10, 2023, was adjourned at 8:40 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jennifer K. Miller". The script is cursive and fluid.

Jennifer K. Miller
Board Secretary

Recorded by: Betty Jahnke