

Board of Education Meeting

Liberty School Board Room

October 24, 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 October 24, 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 and Jennifer Steben

Board Members Absent: Jenny Miller

Central Administration Present: Superintendent Laatsch, Assistant Superintendents Ellis and Owsley, Directors Rex Clary, Kara Davis and Jackie Martin

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOGNITION

Saline High School Varsity Football Team - SEC Championship

4. PUBLIC COMMENT - None

EXTENDED PUBLIC COMMENT

*Kenyatta Hughes, Principal
Pleasant Ridge Elementary School*

Points of Pride at Pleasant Ridge

Cameron Cochran, Kristen Hoffman-Peavler, Co-Chairs
Sex Education Advisory Board

Answered questions that were submitted through Body Safety Talks google form families had access to over the past month.

5. **RESPONSE TO PREVIOUS PUBLIC COMMENT**

AGENDA

6. **REVISIONS/APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

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

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

7. **ACTION ITEMS**

A. **MOTION** made by Treasurer Gerbe, support by Trustee Estep **to approve the recommendation from the Sex Education Advisory Committee to include lessons from the Body Safety Training curriculum for lower elementary buildings.**

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

B. **MOTION** made by Vice President Steben, support by Trustee Gold **to approve the Altria Settlement Resolution accepting the settlement amount and to authorize Superintendent Laatsch to sign the settlement documents as recommended by Thrun Law Firm.**

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

C. **MOTION** made by Trustee Austin, support Treasurer Gerbe **to approve the recommendation of A.R. Brouwer to award contracts to the below listed contractors in the total amount of \$1,271,968 for BID PACK #3 for the new Operations Center as submitted by Rex Clary, Director of Operations.**

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

Category 3B- Waterproofing
DC Byers Warren Office \$22,800

Category 3D Roofing
Royal West Roofing - \$212,000

Category 3F.1 Hollow Metal Door &
Frames- Tanner \$110,505

Category 3C- ACM Metal Panels
Metro Lakes Construction \$102,000

Category 3E Caulking & Sealants
DC Byers Warren Office \$29,300

Category 3F.2 FRP Doors, Glass &
Glazing - EGD Glass & Door \$235,963

Category 3L Fueling Station
RW Mercer \$458,100

Category 3G Overhead Doors
Overhead Door West- \$84,500

Category 3K RTU Screen Wall
Metro Lakes Construction \$16,800

8. SCHEDULED REPORT

Strategic Planning

Presenter: Superintendent Laatsch

This report by Superintendent Laatsch was a presentation announcing plans for the creation of a strategic planning committee which will be tasked with reconciling projected budget challenges, largely due to the declining enrollment. Superintendent Laatsch discussed how over the last several years we have seen a decline in over 500 students but there has been no change in the structure, whether it be in staffing or other areas. Contributing to the loss of enrollment are declining birth rate, more educational opportunities for families and higher mortgage rates making it more difficult to afford a home in the area.

The strategic planning committee will be composed of an assortment of community members and leaders, school staff, students and parents. Committee meetings will begin in November and then occur once a month until May at which time a financial restructuring proposal will be presented to the board reducing the general fund by \$1M per year for the next 3 years.

At the center of all discussions and considerations in this process will be what is best for the students.

9. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Board Policy Committee Meeting Updates

Chair, Jenny Miller

Neola Update - Vol 38 No 1

Provided a brief overview of the meeting that took place at 5 pm. Most of the time was spent on the most recent Neola updates. 4 of the policies will go to the board for approval through the consent agenda at the November 14th meeting. Some will remain in discussion with the Policy Committee pending some clarification from Neola.

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

Recommended Updates, 2nd Reading

Facilitator: Jenny Miller, Policy Chair

Discussion among the Board regarding the proposed addition of the following language:
“The Superintendent, when considering School of Choice enrollment, will strive to enroll out-of-district students at approximately 10% of the total student body.”

Following the discussion, Trustee Estep recommended a motion be placed on the record.

MOTION made by Trustee Gold, support Treasurer Gerbe **to approve the revision to policy 5113**

Ayes

Estep, Gerbe, Gold, McVey, Steben

Nayes

Austin

Not Present: Jenny Miller

Ayes 5, Nays 1 - **MOTION CARRIED 5-1**

C. **2024 Board of Education Calendar**

Facilitator: Michael McVey

President McVey led a discussion regarding the 2024 Board Meeting Calendar. It was decided that there will only be 1 meeting in March on the 2nd Tuesday. The 4th Tuesday falls again during spring break. The completed calendar, with dates, will be placed on the agenda under the Consent Agenda for Board approval on November 14th.

10. ADMINISTRATION / BOARD UPDATES

Superintendent Laatsch: Trunk or Treat in downtown Saline on Wednesday, October 25. Regarding bussing, there are still occasional route cancellations. But in positive news, hiring has been going well although the onboarding process does take some time, we are optimistic regarding the future. We are looking forward to highlighting student groups during the Superintendent’s Recognition time at the beginning of Board Meetings. This can be achievements in sports, music or in clubs. Asking for help in bringing things to our attention.

Student Representatives Clark and Iadipaolo: Trunk or Treat for the freshmen will be done by Link Crew at the HS. Water Polo has made it to the regionals 2nd year in a row. Hockey team tryouts on October 30th.

Treasurer Gerbe: Acknowledgement to Superintendent Laatsch for taking on the task of getting his CDL so that he can drive a bus. Also appreciates that on occasion he even substitutes in classes. Shoutout to Kara Davis as an incredible leader of our Teaching and Learning Team. Thank you to Principal Hughes for sharing PR Points of Pride. Appreciate the coaching team of the soccer team.

Congratulations to the field hockey team and Caroline Clark.

Vice President Steben: Thank you to Principal Hughes for highlighting the wonderful things happening at PR. Look forward to more recognition. Shoutout to SMS Cross County team and Coach Sandy Stafford for going to Nationals in November.

Trustee Austin: Acknowledgement to all the incredible sports teams. Thank you to Dr. Laatsch for driving a bus.

Trustee Estep: DEIAC meeting last week at which time they reviewed the applicants for the committee. Shared a special recognition regarding her family.

President McVey: Enjoyed the recent bldg tours that were set up for BOE trustees to attend. Also went to Lansing and attended some meetings regarding legislation. Attended by BOE members from around the state. Also attended the “Bridge to Civility” activity done by the Saline Alternative HS students.

11. CONSENT AGENDA

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

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

- A. **Approval** of the Board of Education Meeting Minutes of October 10, 2023
- B. **Approval** of the Board Finance Committee Meeting Minutes of October 10, 2023
- C. **Approval of Payment** of the General Fund Accounts Payable of October 24, 2023, in the amount of \$4,535,343.83
- D. **Approval of Payment** of Bond Series III Accounts Payable of October 24, 2023, in the amount of \$9,945.00
- E. **Approval of Payment** of 2023 Bond Fund Series I Accounts Payable of October 24, 2023, in the amount of \$539,758.50
- F. **Receive and File** Human Resources Report

CLOSING

12. ITEMS SCHEDULED ON NEXT AGENDA

District Financial Audit Presented by Plante Moran

13. **PUBLIC COMMENT** - None

14. **NEXT MEETING**

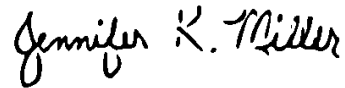
The next Board of Education Meeting will be held on November 14, 2023, at 6:30 PM.

15. **ADJOURNMENT**

MOTION made by Treasurer Gerbe, support by Vice President Steben **to adjourn the Regular Board of Education Meeting of October 24, 2023, at 7:59 PM.**

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

Respectfully submitted,

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

Jennifer Miller
Board Secretary

Recorded by: Betty Jahnke