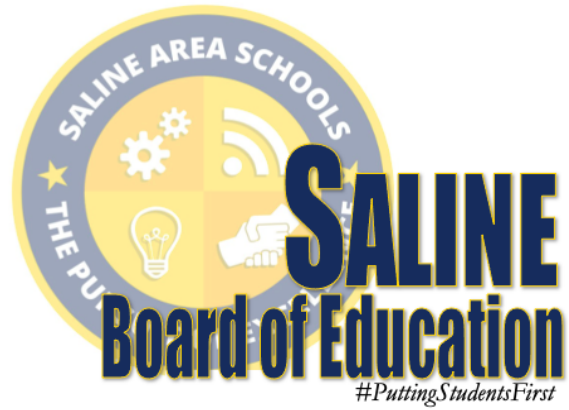


# Board of Education Meeting

Liberty School Board Room  
February 14, 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, Jenny Miller and Jennifer Steben.

**Central Administration Present:** Superintendent Laatsch, Assistant Superintendent Ellis, Assistant Superintendent Owsley, Director Britnell, Director Davis and Director Clary.

#### 2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

#### 3. PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE A moment of silence for the Michigan State Tragedy of February 13th.

#### 3. PUBLIC COMMENT

**STUDENTS - None**

**OTHER PUBLIC STAKEHOLDERS**

**Jenn Testa, Parent:** Spoke to Athletic Culture

**4. RESPONSE TO PREVIOUS PUBLIC COMMENT**

Thank you to Principal Sickler and members of the SEA for their recognition of School Board Appreciation Month

<b>AGENDA</b>
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**5. REVISIONS/APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

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

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

**6. STUDENT SHOWCASE**

**SHS Key Club**

*Presenter: Spencer Lynn, Vice President (Advisor, Jen Denzin)*

The HS Key Club is an extension of Kiwanis and Key stands for “Kiwanis Educating Youth”. Key Club members learn how to lead and stand for what’s right through service and volunteerism in partnership with local Kiwanis organizations. Spencer provided an overview of the High School organization and highlighted some of the goals of the club and activities they participate in. Goals include support of the surrounding community, forming connections with members and generally having fun. Volunteering events include park and school ground clean up, PB&J event which serves the homeless community in Detroit, in-school fundraising events and food drives and donation drives of dog toys, blankets and cans. The SHS club has provided over 1550 hrs of service since 2020 and has 77 current active members.

**7. SCHEDULED REPORT**

**Athletic Department Update**

*Presenters: Ashley Mantha & Jeff Pike*

A presentation was made to the Board which provided an inside view of the operations of the Athletic Department and organization. Specific detail was shared about which sports take place throughout the year at both the MS and HS level. There are both district subsidized and self funded sports. No sport is fully funded by the general fund. All teams fundraise to support their teams to some level. There are also sports that are under Community Education. We are fortunate to have a great working relationship with Community Ed. It’s important that compliance to Title IX and MHSSA are always being followed. Director Mantha then provided an overview of the budget. The SAS Athletic Expenditures from the general fund are about \$1,400,000 per year. Of that, 80% is allocated to salaries. The remaining goes towards officials, gameworkers, security/police and transportation. We collaborate Facilities and Community Ed regarding equipment, maintenance and upkeep. Individual teams maintain student activity accounts (fundraising dollars) for other items such as uniforms, accommodations when traveling, etc.) The recent bond does not go into general operating dollars and can only

support allocated facility changes. Pay to participate fees generate about \$275,000 per year. No one is ever turned away for hardship. There is also revenue from gate entrance fees. There are stringent training requirements for all coaches and new coaches benefit from a seasoned mentor coach. The student athlete also is held to high standards and those expectations were also reviewed.

**8. ACTION ITEMS**

- A. **MOTION** made by Treasurer Gerbe, support by Trustee Austin **to approve the minutes from the January 24, 2023, Closed Session for the purpose of considering the purchase or lease of real property under 8(d) of the Open Meetings Act.**

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

- B. **MOTION** made by Secretary Miller, support by Treasurer Gerbe **to approve the recommendation that the district move forward with the purchase of equipment from Gerotech, Inc., for the total cost of \$76,904.50 as recommended by Dr. Ryan Rowe, Executive Director of the South and West Washtenaw Consortium.**

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

- C. **MOTION** made by Vice President Steben, support by Trustee Estep **to approve the Technology purchase to InaCompTSG in the amount of \$1,043,072.41 for network switches that have reached their end of life as recommended by Jay Grossman, Director of Technology.**

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

**9. DISCUSSION ITEMS**

**Board Finance Committee Update**

*Presenter, Brad Gerbe Chair*

Treasurer Gerbe provided an overview of the Finance Committee meeting that met prior to this evening's Board meeting. On the agenda was discussion on School of Choice. There will be a scheduled report presented at the Board Meeting on February 28th regarding enrollment and school of choice. Also on the 28th will be the budget amendment presented by Assistant Superintendent Owsley. Brief conversation also on the state level budget which remains positive toward K-12 education. There was also discussion about the Board Finance team and the strengths that each member brings to the committee. Shoutout to the District for the recent A+ credit rating by the S&P. This enhances interest of bond applications and also possibly reduce the interest on the repayment of bonds.

**10. ADMINISTRATION / BOARD UPDATES**

**Student Representative Allison Doran:** Thank you to Student Council, NHS and SHS Choirs for making Valentine's Day special. Acknowledgement to all the service organizations at the HS that provide support to the local and larger communities. Shoutouts to the Dance Team and Science Olympiad for recent competition achievements and the SHS Orchestra will be performing on February 15th.

**Superintendent Laatsch:** Bravo to SHS Chamber Choirs and the Ten Tones a cappella groups with their Division 1 excellent ratings at MSVMA regional events. Several soloists also received top scores. Congratulations to all. March 10th we are participating in EMU Invent. About 10 students of our students will be demonstrating inventions at this showcase being held at EMU. February 17th is MS Career Day. I'll be participating this year. Also the District Symposium will be taking place on Friday, February 17th. This includes over 30 sessions facilitated by our teaching staff for their colleagues. This is an Early Release Day for our students.

**Secretary Miller:** Thank you to Kara Davis and the Teaching and Learning Team for coordinating the Symposium. Thank you to the educators for stepping up to share your craft with your colleagues. Thank you to Dr. Laatsch for helping me understand situations throughout the district. I urge the public to reach out to him if you want to have a conversation with him before allowing social media to inform your thoughts and opinions. Spoke personally about the Michigan State tragedy of February 13th. Would like to revisit discussion with Moms Demand Action.

**Treasurer Gerbe:** Please reach out to Dr. Laatsch if there are things of concern that you like to talk about instead of forming your opinions from social media posts. He's very open to conversation. Spoke personally about the Michigan State tragedy of February 13th. Would like to revisit discussion with Moms Demand Action.

**Trustee Austin:** Spoke personally about the Michigan State tragedy of February 13th.

**Vice President Steben:** Spoke personally about the Michigan State tragedy of February 13th. The last day to purchase tickets for the upcoming March 4th FSAS event "Blue Jeans and Bling" is February 22nd. This event will be held at Kensington Court. Woodland Meadows literacy day is February 16th and I am excited to participate in the MS Career Day. Board will be putting together a basket that will be a fundraiser for SASS at the March 18th Craft Show. The theme is "STEAM". Young 5 and K roundups will be in person this year.

**Trustee Gold:** Please support the upcoming Mattress Fundraiser for the Saline HS Marching Band on February 25th. They are raising money for their December 2023 Disney trip. Gun deaths are the leading cause of deaths among children.

**Trustee Estep:** SEAB meeting was on February 13th. K12 Insight gave a presentation to our board which was an overview of the survey results which will be presented at the next Board meeting on

February 28th. Black History month is being acknowledged throughout the district. Spoke personally about the Michigan State tragedy of February 13th.

**11. CONSENT AGENDA**

**MOTION** made by Treasurer Gerbe, support by Trustee Austin **to authorize the Consent Agenda as listed below:**

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

- A. **Approval** of the Board of Education Meeting Minutes of January 24, 2023
- B. **Approval** of the Board Policy Committee Meeting Minutes of January 24, 2023
- C. **Approval of Payment** of the General Fund Accounts Payable of February 14, 2023, in the amount of \$4,052,447.45
- D. **Approval of Payment** of Bond Fund Series III Accounts Payable of February 14, 2023, in the amount of \$282,240.51
- E. **Receive and File** Finance and Human Resources Reports

<b>CLOSING</b>
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**12. ITEMS SCHEDULED ON NEXT AGENDA**

- A. SEAB Survey Results
- B. Enrollment / School of Choice Discussion

**13. PUBLIC COMMENT**

**STUDENTS**

**OTHER PUBLIC STAKEHOLDERS**

**Jeff Hankamp, Parent Alumni** - Spoke regarding Baseball Fundraising

**Changming Fan, Community Member** - Spoke regarding an initiative he refers to as CARE12

**14. NEXT MEETING**

The next Board of Education Meeting will be held on February 28, 2023, at 6:30 PM.

**15. CLOSED SESSION**

**MOTION** made by Vice President Steven, support by Trustee Austin **to enter Closed Session of the Board of Education at 9:10 PM, with the intent to re-enter open Session at 9:40 PM, for the purposes of: (1) Collective Bargaining 8(c) of the Open Meetings Act and (2) for the purpose to consider purchase or lease of real property under 8(d) of the Open Meetings Act. This requires a two-thirds roll call vote of elected or appointed members.**

**Roll Call Vote**

Austin - Aye

Gold - Aye

Gerb- Aye

Steben - Aye

Miller - Aye

Estep - Aye

McVey - Aye

**16. RE-ENTER OPEN SESSION**

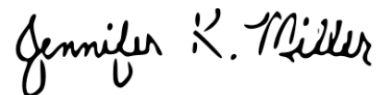
**MOTION** made by Treasurer Gerbe, support by Vice President Steben **to re-enter Open Session of the Regular Board of Education Meeting at 10:12 PM.**

**17. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION** made by Secretary Miller, support by Trustee Estep **to adjourn the Regular Board of Education Meeting of February 14, 2023, at 10:13 PM.**

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

Respectfully submitted,



Jennifer K. Miller  
Board Secretary

*Recorded by: Betty Jahnke*