

Board of Education Meeting

Liberty School Board Room

March 21, 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 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 Anna Britnell, Director Rex Clary, Director Kara Davis

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

STUDENTS - None

OTHER PUBLIC STAKEHOLDERS - None

EXTENDED PUBLIC COMMENT

1. *Astrid Leese, SHS Spanish Teacher*

Presenters: Michael Bryant, Lizzie Sandru, Nicholas Steinert, Molly Rigg

Highlights of their recent trip to Puerto Rico. Very appreciative that the BOE approved their trip.

2. *Stacey Rumpsa, FSAS Director*

Update on Blue Jeans & Bling. Despite the event having been canceled, Kensington Hotel refunded all the money. Shoutout to the committee for all their hard work and what was required to move the auction online. Raised \$60,000. Grant submission window open until 3/24/23. April 3 the grant committee will review submissions and will vote on April 11th.

3. *Susie Treber, Monique Hunter - Be SMART*

Spoke regarding the resolution they are seeking support of by the Board of Education.

4. **RESPONSE TO PREVIOUS PUBLIC COMMENT**

President McVey acknowledged Manchester Board of Education Trustee Michael Tindall who was present.

AGENDA

5. **REVISIONS/APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

MOTION made by Vice President Stebenm, support by Trustee Estep **to approve the agenda as printed.**

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

6. **STUDENT SHOWCASE**

SMS Builders Club (*Advisors, Laura Odom, Kirsten Zemaitis*)

Presenters: M. Habrecht & Payton Aagesen

This club has been active for 5 years at the MS and is a division of the Kiwanis Club. Members dedicate themselves to support local and global communities in a variety of ways. Many MS members of the Builders Club go further to also participate in Key Club (also a division of Kiwanis Club) at the HS. Students who participate in this club love helping our community. Activities include lots of fun crafts and activities in support of our community. Open to grades 6 thru 8.

7. **SCHEDULED REPORTS**

A. **Operations Department / 2022 /Bond Update**

Presenters: Operations Team / Bond Team

Introduction of the Operation Team and highlights of each department including Buildings & Grounds, Transportation, and Food Service. Support schools 24/7 and 365 days a year. Under strategic goal #3 - enhance a positive school environment that promotes student and staff well-being, satisfaction, and positive morale. Buildings & Grounds: maintains 150 acres of property which include 23 athletic fields and 5 playgrounds. During snow removal they maintain 35 acres of parking lots, 9 miles of sidewalks and 5 miles of roads and entrances.

Internally they do locksmithing, irrigation management, pesticide and fertilizer application, and athletic field painting. Custodians clean 1.2 million sq feet of buildings often used 7 days a week. HVAC department monitors temperature at all buildings. Shoutout to all crew members for their work during COVID. We have not seen transmission issues in the buildings. Food Service serves over 1500 lunches daily and over 140 breakfasts daily. They also manage concessions which raises over \$37,000 for school programs and clubs. The transportation department employs 17 route drivers and 7 substitutes, they provide transportation to 3200 students and travel over 1750 miles daily. Work hard to build positive department culture with picnics, breakfasts, and fun team building experiences. The annual budget for Buildings & Grounds is \$5,384,641. Out of 822 school districts, SAS is ranked 59th in instructional support keeping the money in the classroom. In Washtenaw County Operations & Maintenance, we rank 525. We spend the least amount per pupil for operations and maintenance compared to our peer districts. We've been able to do this through the support of our community and the passing of bonds.

8. ACTION ITEMS

- A. MOTION** made by Trustee Austin, support by Secretary Miller **to approve the purchase of up to (2) plow grounds vehicles for up to \$50,000 to Braun and Helmer Auction Service. These vehicles will be purchased from the University of Michigan Vehicle & Equipment Auction. This purchase will be made from the Capital Projects Fund.**

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

- B. MOTION** made by Treasurer Gerbe, support by Trustee Gold **to approve the resolution to authorize Steve Laatsch, Superintendent, to execute the Sales/Purchase agreement of approximately 7.18 acres of vacant real property from Liebherr Gear and Automation Technologies, Inc, in the amount of \$484,800.**

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

- C. MOTION** made by Treasurer Gerbe, support by Trustee Estep **to accept the proposed Juul settlement by approving the resolution as recommended by Thrun Law Firm and submitted by Superintendent Laatsch.**

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

9. DISCUSSION ITEMS

- A. Policy Committee Meeting Update**
Jennifer Miller, Policy Committee Chair

PO 8510 Wellness - Changes were recommended by the Wellness Committee. Elements were

added regarding Social/emotional support. Changes/additions were reviewed. Edits will be made more clear and presented again on 4/11/23.

PO 8390 Animals on District Property - Review of changes/additions. Edits will be made more clear and presented again on 4/11/23.

New Policy 8390.1 Therapy Dogs - New policy to support therapy dogs. Important to note that additions included “adult owner” and that this policy does not pertain to students bringing in therapy dogs. Presented again on 4/11/23.

New Policies 3362.01 & 4362.01 Threatening Behavior Toward Staff Members - New policies that could support threatening behaviors against staff members at the request of the SEA. These policies will allow for protection and discipline and restoration with those involved either on or off school property. Presented again on 4/11/23.

10. ADMINISTRATION / BOARD UPDATES

Superintendent Laatsch: Reminder regarding the Operating Millage Renewal on the ballot May 2nd. The language will be published to address the FAQs. This is not a bond, it's SAS ongoing renewal request for the operating millage which is General fund regular day to day operations for another 10 years. Congratulations to senior Neel Moudgal who received the \$250K 1st place prize from Regeneron STS recently in Washington DC.. He will be presenting to the Board on April 25th during the Student Showcase on his experience. Also a shoutout in recognition of World Down Syndrome Day which was celebrated throughout the district.

Trustee Austin: Shoutout to SHS teacher Corbin Brown who recently helped with the underwater robotics team.

Student Representative Allison Doran: Reminder regarding the upcoming NHS Blood Drive on April 10th, thank you to all craft show supporters, commencement is on June 4th, Book Club/Key Club book drive would love donations, Writing Center at SHS is doing a literary magazine this year, the theme is “Masquerade”. Safety town enrollment has begun. Contact community education.

Treasurer Gerbe: Very proud of Saline Area Schools. To all staff and students, have a great spring break. Supporting World Down Syndrome Day. Acknowledgement to Women's History Month. The next Finance Committee Meeting will be April 11th. On the agenda will be a discussion on bulletin 1014 which provides financial and statistical information relating to Michigan public schools as well as discussion on student count. Would like the Board of Education to support the proposed gun safety resolution as presented this evening by Moms Demand Action. Would like the BOE to have further discussion regarding our collective desire to whether or not pass resolutions. Would like the Policy committee to look at policies to further enforce/enhance the safety of our staff and students.

Secretary Miller: We had a policy committee meeting on 3/14 which focused solely on Policy 2240 Controversial Issues. The meeting was a public forum to gather information from the community and was facilitated by Teaching & Learning Director Kara Davis. This was a very productive meeting and

we thank the public and staff for their participation. Next policy committee will be held 4/19 at 6 pm which will be more a typical policy meeting format with opportunity for public comment. Supports a resolution regarding gun safety.

President McVey: Reminder that SHS is hosting a robotics competition March 31 and April 1 for those folks around during spring break. This will include 40 teams with over 1400 students from the state of Michigan. This will be held at Saline High School and is a free event.

Vice President Steben: Thank you to Moms Demand Action for their comments this evening. Would like to see the school district take some position on gun safety, not necessarily in adopting a resolution or in policy but more operationally within the school district. Thank you to the FSAS Volunteers for the work on the fundraiser. They worked hard to shift gears to still make the online event successful. Enjoyed participating in MIRM at Harvest Elementary. Participated in CQC recently. SASS needs donations for Easter meals. There is a new Director of Saline Main Street and there are lots of activities being planned for months coming up including Ladies Night on May 11th.

Trustee Estep: Spoke regarding BeSmart Resolution. Could be a way to put action into motion. What are other local districts doing. Supports gun safety. Regarding the recent 3/14 Policy meeting on Policy 2240, we are currently seeking feedback from community, student groups and teaching staff. We still have lots of work to do and we still don't have a draft.

Trustee Gold: Thank you to Senora Leese for your comments regarding the Puerto Rico trip. This is a great cultural opportunity for our students. Supports gun safety if it doesn't create too much of a heavy burden on our teaching staff.

11. CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION made by Treasurer Gerbe, support by 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 February 28, 2023
- B. **Approval** of the Board Policy Committee Meeting Minutes of February 28, 2023
- C. **Approval of Payment** of the General Fund Accounts Payable of March 21, 2023, in the amount of \$3,236,627.43
- D. **Approval of Payment** of Bond Fund Series III Accounts Payable of March 21, 2023, in the amount of \$11,002.70

- E. **Approval of Payment** of 2023 Bond Fund Series I Accounts Payable of March 21, 2023, in the amount of \$216,701.30
- F. **Receive and File** Finance and Human Resources Reports

CLOSING

12. **ITEMS SCHEDULED ON NEXT AGENDA**

Superintendent Evaluation (in Closed Session)
Safety & Security Update (either in April or May) or Superintendent Goals

13. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

STUDENTS - None

OTHER PUBLIC STAKEHOLDERS

Changming Fan, Community Member

14. **NEXT MEETING**

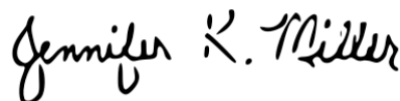
The next Board of Education Meeting will be held on April 11, 2023, at 6:30 PM.

15. **ADJOURNMENT**

MOTION made by Vice President Steben, support by Treasurer Gerbe **to adjourn the Regular Board of Education Meeting of March 21, 2023, at 9:15 PM.**

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

Respectfully submitted,



Jennifer K. Miller
Board Secretary

Recorded by: Betty Jahnke