

Board of Education Meeting

Liberty School Board Room

April 23, 2024, 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, Interim Assistant Superintendent of HR Carol Diglio, Executive Directors Kara Davis and Jackie Martin.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOGNITION

- *Automotive Tech - Teacher Tim Timoszyk & Program Highlights*
- *FFA / Ag Science - Teacher David Mellor & Program Highlights*

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

STUDENTS - None

OTHER PUBLIC STAKEHOLDERS

David Hayward - Parent - spoke regarding the development of administrative guidelines for the Transgender and Nonbinary Student Policy.

Tiffanie Alexander - Parent - Spoke regarding Threat Assessment and the development of administrative guidelines for the Transgender and Nonbinary Student Policy.

Amy Tesolin - Parent - Spoke regarding Threat Assessment.

5. **RESPONSE TO PREVIOUS PUBLIC COMMENT**

AGENDA

6. **REVISIONS/APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Motion was made by Trustee Estep to **revise the agenda** to add under **DISCUSSION ITEMS B**. Board Seeking Legal Services and Process. No support to the motion. Motion failed.

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

Ayes: Tim Austin, Brad Gerbe, Lauren Gold, Michael McVey, Jennifer Miller and Jennifer Steben

Nayes: Susan Estep

MOTION CARRIED 6-1

7. **STUDENT SHOWCASE**

SHS World Language Conference

Presenters: Ethan Hornberger and Julianna Marini

Advisor: Beth Gregones

SHS hosted the Mitten CI Conference on April 19-20. The students of the Spanish club helped to facilitate and organize the conference. This year was also the first year of student presenters. The conference this year drew 225 teacher participants from 12 states. 8 languages were represented. The SWWC Culinary Arts program provided snacks and meals. Proceeds from this conference help fund the Spanish Club and all the activities they do. There is no fee to belong to the Spanish Club. The Spanish Club has a presence through social media and uses this to reach students and promote the club. The membership has grown since last year from about 15 to 50. Some club events include: World Language Conference, participate in the club fair, meet weekly and at times with food, dance and crafts. Activities planned by the group often coincide with other recognitions such as Black History Month.

8. **SCHEDULED REPORTS**

A. Threat Assessment Overview

Presenters: Lindsay Guenther & Carol Melcher

Started the presentation by outlining some training that was attended by key district personnel facilitated by Dr. Dewey Cornell who is a forensic clinical psychologist and the director of the Virginia Youth Violence Project. He is a faculty associate of the Institute of Law, Psychiatry, and Public Policy at the University of Virginia. A major emphasis in his work is the achievement of equity and fairness in school discipline and educational outcomes. Both Lindsay and Carol also attended a training that was held at WCC put on by the Michigan State Police that was in Threat Assessment. An overview was provided on CSTAG (Comprehensive School Threat Assessment Guidelines), an evidence based program developed by the US Department of Health and Human Services in 2013. This was also developed in collaboration with the Sandy Hook Foundation. CSTAG is based on the belief that an elaborate process of threat assessment would be burdensome to school staff. This is an efficient process to distinguish the less serious, commonplace threats from the more serious threats that require a more labor-intensive response. Both Carol & Lindsay have been trained and other district administrators have been trained by them. Provided an overview of what is threat assessment. This is a problem-solving approach to violence prevention that involves assessment and intervention with students who have threatened violence in some way. The goal is to streamline the process by aligning documentation practices PK-26 across the district in addition to getting more people trained. To date we have conducted 34 threat assessments at the secondary level and 15 at the elementary level since 2022. In the presentation they reviewed when assessments should be conducted which included concerning behaviors and transient threats. Threat assessments can eliminate the need for zero tolerance and give the opportunity to look at different ways to discipline, hold students accountable and different ways to get students the help they need. Also reviewed the 6 principles of the threat assessment process. It's always a team approach and though not a disciplinary process, it can be used to inform the disciplinary process. Concluded the presentation by reviewing the roles of the team. The research has shown 99% of threats are not carried out, only 1% expelled and arrested, suspension rates decrease, racial disparities reduced, counseling used more often and a more positive school climate exists.

B. SWWC Update

Presenters: Kara Stemmer

Annual update presented to the Board of Education regarding the South and West Washtenaw Consortium which include 23 Career and Tech Ed Programs. The consortium consists of the following districts, Chelsea, Dexter, Lincoln, Manchester, Milan and Saline. Also introduction of Emily Koch, SWWC Business Coordinator. Part of the presentation included photos that were taken by the class of Adam Rodriguez to capture what CTE is. These photos are now permanently displayed in the hallways of the CTE classes at the High School. We invite you to see the photo wall there. Highlights of the year include the Open House held in November for 10th, 11th and 12th grade students (and families) from all the consortium districts. About 1000 people attended. All attendees had an opportunity to visit with area business leaders and WCC in addition to visiting classrooms, meeting instructors and hearing about programs that may align with their interest. For the 3rd year a grant was received in the amount of \$263K which will be used towards new and upgrading equipment. SWWC is losing 2 long time teachers which will be difficult to replace. Both Tim Timoszyk and David Mellor will be retiring at the end of this school year. Also being hired are an additional Culinary Arts Teacher and Cosmetology Technician. In Michigan over 32,000 students are enrolled in some sort of CTE program. Review also

included statistics regarding graduation rate of 95.95% and 7,442 CTE students earned approved postsecondary credentials.

The importance of Work-Based learning. SWWC would like to create opportunities for students to get out into industry and experience what that job looks like. We are always looking for businesses that want to partner with us to provide that work-based learning experience for our students. We'd love to provide that for all students before they graduate.

9. **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

A. Policy Updates - 2nd Readings

Facilitator: Jenny Miller, Chair

Policy 5113: School of Choice Program

Policy 8300: Continuity of Organizational Operations Plan

Policy 0141.1: Student-Body Representative

Policy 6152: Student Fees, Fines and Supplies

This was the portion of the agenda designated for the 2nd reading of the most recent policy updates submitted by the Policy Committee. There was no further discussion on any of the policy updates.

MOTION made by Vice President Steben, support Trustee Estep **to approve the policies as recommended by the Policy Committee.**

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

10. **ADMINISTRATION / BOARD UPDATES**

Superintendent Laatsch: The FSAS Superintendent's Circle (supporters of the Foundation) was held last evening at Mac's and was a successful event. Thank you to Wally and Cindy MacNeil and their continued support of the school district and foundation. Congratulations to First Robotics who had a really strong showing in Houston at the world championships. The SHS Esports team made the playoffs this year. 2 of the teams made it into the semi-finals. Steve Vasiloff was also nominated for Coach of the year. Also from the Michigan High School Coaches Association, SHS Seniors Jordan Wickham and Payton Widen are 2 recipients of the Rick Tompkins Multi-Sport Award. This award is given on the basis of their athletic achievements, scholarship, leadership and community service.

Student Representatives Clark & Iadipaolo: Wednesday, April 24th is "Voter's Registration" for all 18 year old students. This will be taking place during all lunch periods. It's been great working with Mr. Gumenick and the volunteers of the Women's League of Voters. SWWC Manufacturing/CAD students had a successful competition recently at SkillsUSA. Several will be moving on to National competition.

Trustee Austin: Shout out to both Tim Timoszyk and David Mellor and the enormous impact they have made on the lives of students, past and present. Lots of great topics on tonight's agenda and

appreciated all the great information presented on Threat Assessments and the SWWC Annual Update. Also impressed with the student showcase this evening.

Trustee Gold: Looking forward to attending College and Career Night at the high school being held on Wednesday, April 24th.

Vice President Steben: Attended the Superintendent's Circle Dinner last evening. Thank you to the Foundation of Saline Area Schools and the MacNeils for a great event. This event is an appreciation to the donors and highlighted what's going on in the district and also the bond projects. Attended an SWWC meeting because I had presented to the "Intro to Business Class" at the HS through my role at UM Ross School of Business. The students participated in both individual and team leadership exercises. Shout out to both recognitions this evening. Wonderful to hear from present and former students of both these teachers.

President McVey: Attending "Behinds the Scenes" tour of the Capitol in Lansing. Next Tuesday, April 30th I will host another "How to Run for School Board" session at the Saline District Library.

Secretary Miller: Good luck to the DECA team traveling to Anaheim, CA for International competition. Thank you to chaperone Mrs. Warren. Attended via Zoom the WISD Budget presentation. This includes a Special Education Millage renewal. The WISD has a healthy fund equity balance. Also attended the DEIAC meeting which included an update from Ryan Kerr & Jackie Martin on work that is currently happening in the district, one of which is working with PowerSchool and updating and making the SIS system to be more inclusive of all students and families.

Treasurer Gerbe: Also went to Anaheim, CA as a HS student who participated in DECA. Shout out to the Robotics team for their participation at Nationals. Also thank you to FFA and Auto Tech programs. Congratulations to both Tim Timoszyk and David Mellor on their well deserved retirements. Heather Dew was recently recognized as a 2024 nominee of the US Department of Education RISE "Recognized Inspirational School Employee" award. Thrun will be hosting an online webinar regarding prohibitive language that I will be attending. Encourage participation in the Climate Survey. It does help inform the district. On April 16th there was an open forum, via zoom, hosted by MASB on cybersecurity and ransomware attacks. Expressed curiosity on the district's readiness in the event of such an attack. Received some professional development through MASB regarding hiring practices.

Trustee Estep: Inquired on what the process is for the board to contact legal if there is a concern or complaint of a superintendent or board member or when a serious concern is brought to the board or if there's potential liability issues for the board as it impacts the district, the community. Also if one or more board members ask for legal input, how does that happen. The Board has autonomy to contact the legal council. Would a board member have to go through a public complaint process to address concerns from the community or other board members. There should be no issue with a board member asking questions and asking that legal has input in determining what the next steps would be. Questioning and wanting clarification on how the process works.

11. CONSENT AGENDA

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

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

- A. **Approval** of the Board of Education Meeting Minutes of April 9, 2024
- B. **Approval** of the Board Finance Committee Meeting Minutes of April 9, 2024
- C. **Approval of Payment** of the General Fund Accounts Payable of April 23, 2024, in the amount of \$15,435,464.50
- D. **Approval of Payment** of Bond Fund Series III Accounts Payable of April 23, 2024 in the amount of \$270.00
- E. **Approval of Payment** of 2023 Bond Fund Series I Accounts Payable of April 23, 2024 in the amount of \$997,128.30
- F. **Receive and File** Human Resources Report

CLOSING

12. **ITEMS SCHEDULED ON NEXT AGENDA**

Superintendent Recognition of: Swim & Dive Team & Washtenaw United Hockey Team
Scheduled Report: Special Education Update

13. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

STUDENTS - None

OTHER PUBLIC STAKEHOLDERS

Lindsay Anderson - Parent of 2 SAS Students - spoke regarding the development of administrative guidelines for the Transgender and Nonbinary Student Policy, and threat assessments.

Tiffanie Alexander - Parent - spoke regarding the development of administrative guidelines for the Transgender and Nonbinary Student Policy.

David Hayward - Parent - spoke regarding the district social media policy.

David Rosenfeld - Resident - spoke regarding development of administrative guidelines for the Transgender and Nonbinary Student Policy.

Amy Tesolin - Parent - spoke regarding the threat assessment presentation.

Viva Rosenfeld - Parent of Saline Grad & Resident - spoke regarding the development of administrative guidelines for the Transgender and Nonbinary Student Policy.

14. NEXT MEETING

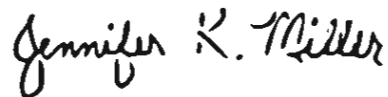
The next Board of Education Meeting will be held on May 14, 2024 at 6:30 PM.

15. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION made by Secretary Miller, support Vice President Steben **to adjourn the Regular Board of Education Meeting of April 23, 2024, at 9:42PM.**

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

Respectfully submitted,



Jennifer Miller
Board Secretary

Recorded by: Betty Jahnke