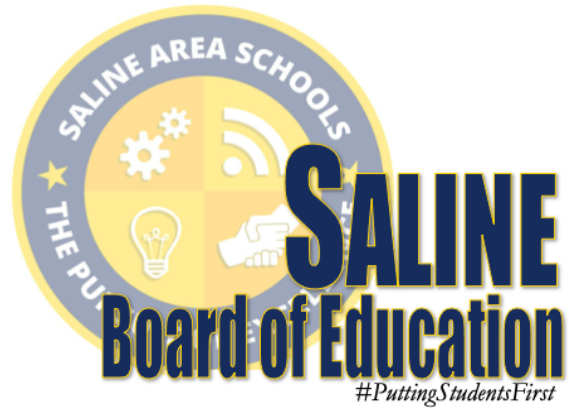


Board of Education Meeting

Liberty School Board Room

June 13, 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 June 13, 2023 was called to order by Board President Michael McVey at 6:32 pm.

Board Members Present: Tim Austin, Susan Estep, Brad Gerbe, Lauren Gold, Jennifer Miller and Michael McVey.

Board Members Absent: Jennifer Steben

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

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

Introduction of 23/24 Student Representatives: Caroline Clark & Mateo Iadipaolo
Superintendent Laatsch

Both Caroline and Mateo will share in the role as Student Representatives for the coming year.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

(In order for all public to be heard, the Board agreed to allow all public comments to be heard during this first opportunity instead of limiting this to 30 minutes)

STUDENTS - None

OTHER PUBLIC STAKEHOLDERS

Jonathan Spencer - Spoke regarding Science Olympiad STEAM Bond Project
Alex Miller - Spoke regarding the Controversial Issues Policy
Meghan Gunnerson - Spoke regarding the Controversial Issues Policy
Raelyn Davis - Spoke regarding the Controversial Issues Policy
Amy Tesolin - Spoke regarding the Controversial Issues Policy
Darcy Berwick - Spoke regarding the Controversial Issues Policy
Kerrie Grove - Spoke regarding the Controversial Issues Policy
Alberta Borneo - Spoke regarding the Controversial Issues Policy
Roy Grove - Spoke regarding the Controversial Issues Policy
Luis Barnett - Spoke regarding the Controversial Issues Policy
Libby Williams - Spoke regarding the Controversial Issues Policy
Justin Ku - Spoke regarding the Controversial Issues Policy
Katherine Kelly - Spoke regarding the Bond Project Update
Kelsey Larsen - Spoke in recognition of retiree, Cindy Larsen (Harvest Art Teacher)
Lisa Slawson - Spoke regarding the Controversial Issues Policy

5. **RESPONSE TO PREVIOUS PUBLIC COMMENT**

AGENDA

6. **REVISIONS/APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

MOTION made by Secretary Miller, support Treasurer Gerbe move 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 Austin **to adopt the amended General Appropriations Act for 2022-2023 Final Amended Budgets, 2023-2022 Original Budgets and the 2023 L-4029 tax rates as submitted by Assistant Superintendent Owsley.**

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

B. **MOTION** made by Secretary Miller, support by Treasurer Gerbe **to approve the food service management contract renewal with Chartwells for the 2023-24 School Year as submitted by Assistant Superintendent Owsley.**

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

8. SCHEDULED REPORTS

- A. **Honoring of District Retirees**
Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources, Curt Ellis
- B. **Foundation for Saline Area Schools Update**
Executive Director, Stacey Rumpsa

Executive Director Rumpsa provided the Board with the annual FSAS update. Points of pride for this year include raising \$33,500 in donations, \$84,500 in sponsorships, and \$92,500 in fundraising events. Grants totaling \$90,000 were awarded which included \$32K in teaching and student grants and \$68K in building and district grants. Students from K thru Young Adult will reap the benefits from these grants. A video was shown to highlight some of the grants which included 3D Printers, Wall of Wonder and Inclusive Design (t shirt design) for Life Skill students. Fundraising events are being planned for fall and spring. More information to come.

- C. **Bond 2022 Project Update**
Executive Directors, Rex Clary & Kara Davis

Updates on bond projects. The process is both time and labor intensive. We're just starting but about \$45 million dollars of design work is in process. The collaboration process is very exciting, from the district design team brainstorming with community members and students and other focus groups and then design decisions being made. Site/Floor plan were shown for the HS STEAM addition, Weight Room addition to the HS, Liberty Recreation Complex and Playgrounds. The HS Operations Center is the first project to begin work and some of the material costs will be approved at the July board meeting.

9. DISCUSSION ITEMS

- A. **Budget Committee Meeting Update**
Brad Gerbe, Committee Chair

The finance committee met briefly prior to the meeting this evening to review the budgets as presented at the Hearing.

- B. **Policy Committee Discussion**
PO 2240
Jenny Miller, Committee Chair

Currently called the Controversial Issues Policy. This policy has been discussed for several years with no resolution. More earnest discussions began in February 2023 with opportunities for

public comment and full board discussions. There are some legally required opt-outs which are in separate policies and documents. This policy is not one of those. Legally students have rights to opt out of: 1. Sex Education 2. surveys, analysis or evaluations that inquire about sensitive information, 3. instruction of the characteristics of the symptoms of a disease in conflict with religious beliefs, 4. instruction on child sexual abuse and 5. the right to be free from compulsory physical examinations or medical treatment. These are different from the opt out policy in discussion and would not be affected by this policy. Regarding burden on teachers, the policy proposed would create consistency throughout the district, to help align all buildings with the same process. This policy affects instructional materials only. Chair Jenny Miller read the proposed draft. President McVey facilitated discussion among the full board.

10. ADMINISTRATION / BOARD UPDATES

Superintendent Laatsch: The Sex Education Advisory Board has been getting inquiries as to the transparency regarding members of the SEAB Board. Currently new members are being selected for open positions. In years past, member names were made public and had been the target of unjust harassment which led to the current practice to keep the names private. So after some collaboration with the district team, the names for the upcoming board will be provided to the public in the similar way that the DEI AC names were made public. This is in an effort to remain transparent and gain trust with the community. June is Pride month and I was honored to help raise the Pride flag at City Hall with other city officials and community members.

Trustee Austin: Thank you to everyone involved in graduation.

Treasurer Gerbe: Thank you to everyone involved in graduation. Also very appreciative of the work done recently at the BOE/City of Saline Retreat held Jun 1, 2023 at the WISD. Lots of great work and efforts were put forth by both groups and look forward to continued collaboration.

Secretary Miller: Thank you to everyone involved in graduation. Especially grateful for the music components and for the appearance of Officer Gassaway, who has an amazing connection with students. Next policy meeting will be June 20, 2023 at 4:30 pm.

President McVey: Thank you to everyone involved in graduation. It's an honor and privilege to be part of this event.

Trustee Gold: In regards to policy 2240, feels that there is community consensus that does support the idea of some parental discussion and opt out. The policy isn't used frequently, but educators need guidance and support and the title of the policy "controversial issues" causes harm. We've also gotten feedback that if we would leave politics and diversity out of the classroom and just get back to basics that we would solve this issue. Shared the story of Alan Turing. By honoring the diversity of our students, staff and community, we are not abandoning academic success, we are contributing to it.

Trustee Estep: DEI AC recently met and celebrated the work of Dr. Channon Washington. Lots of wonderful things said about her and her contributions to our district. We are committed to see the momentum continue. Great loss to our district. Happy Pride Month. Want our Transgender and non-binary students to know there are laws associated with the policy regarding Title IX protections at the government level and anti-harassment policies in our policies. We hope you are getting support. Wants SAS to be a welcoming environment for all students through our curriculum.

11. CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION made by Treasurer Gerbe, support by 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 May 23, 2023
- B. **Approval of Payment** of the General Fund Accounts Payable of June 13, 2023, in the amount of \$3,530,796.61
- C. **Approval of Payment** of 2021 Bond Fund Series III Accounts Payable of June 13, 2023, in the amount of \$164,552.92
- D. **Approval of Payment** of 2023 Bond Fund Series I Accounts Payable of June 13, 2023, in the amount of \$167,848.33
- E. **Receive and File** Human Resources Report
- F. **Approval** to adopt the 2023-2024 MHSAA Membership Resolution
- G. **Approval** of the 2023-2024 MASB Membership Renewal in the amount of \$8,343.96

CLOSING

12. ITEMS SCHEDULED ON NEXT AGENDA

District Enrollment

13. PUBLIC COMMENT

STUDENTS - None

OTHER PUBLIC STAKEHOLDERS

Changming Fan, Community Member - spoke regarding community/school partnership

Shannon Brewer, Parent - spoke regarding support of our LGBTQ+ students and the Controversial Issues Policy.

Jason Rodgers, Citizen, Former Parent - spoke regarding the Controversial Issues Policy
Lisa Slawson, Parent, Former BOE President - spoke regarding good governance of our BOE
Meghan Gunnerson, Parent - spoke regarding the Controversial Issues Policy
Darcy Berwick, Parent - spoke regarding the Controversial Issues Policy

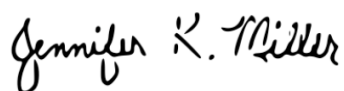
14. NEXT MEETING

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

15. ADJOURNMENT

RECOMMENDED MOTION Gerbe Estep ... move to adjourn the Regular Board of Education Meeting of June 13, 2023, at 10:37 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,



Jennifer K. Miller
Board Secretary

Recorded by: Betty Jabnke