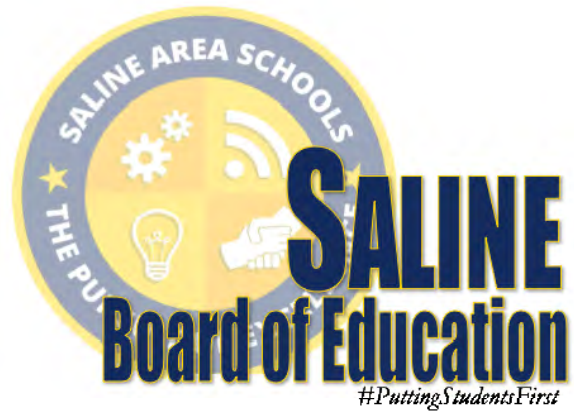


# Board of Education Meeting

Liberty School Board Room

August 13, 2024, 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, Assistant Superintendent's Owsley and Diglio, Executive Directors Clary, Davis, Martin and Voelker

2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

3. **PUBLIC COMMENT** - None

**STUDENTS**

**OTHER PUBLIC STAKEHOLDERS**

4. **RESPONSE TO PREVIOUS PUBLIC COMMENT**

### AGENDA

5. **REVISIONS/APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

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

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

6. **ACTION ITEMS**

A. **MOTION** made by Secretary Miller, support Vice President Steben **to accept the recommendation of the Compensation Committee of an adjustment to the annual salary increase in Superintendent Laatsch’s contract from 2.0% to 3.0% effective July 1, 2024.**

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

B. **MOTION** made by Trustee Gold, support Vice President Steben **to accept the recommendation of the Compensation Committee that the following language be inserted as an addendum into Superintendent Laatsch’s contract as recommended by Thrun Legal Services to comply with changes to MCL 380.1249b amended:**

Evaluation Appeal Process. Within fifteen (15) calendar days after Board action on the Superintendent’s evaluation rating, the Superintendent may appeal an evaluation rating of “Needing Support.” The written appeal must be delivered to the Board President and must identify the specific reason(s) for the appeal as well as the remedy sought. No later than fifteen (15) calendar days after the Board President’s receipt of the appeal, a meeting shall be scheduled for the Board to review the Superintendent’s appeal. As permitted by the Open Meetings Act, the appeal review may be conducted in closed session at the Superintendent’s request. The Board’s decision is final and is not subject to arbitration.

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

C. **MOTION** made by Trustee Austin, support Trustee Estep **to approve the minutes from the July 9, 2024 closed session for the purpose of Superintendent Evaluation Section 8(a) of the Open Meetings Act.**

Ayes - 6 (Austin, Estep, Gerbe, McVey, Miller, Steben)

Abstain - 1 (Gold, absent from 7/9/24 meeting)

**MOTION CARRIED 6-1**

D. **MOTION** made by Secretary Miller, support Treasurer Gerbe **to approve the purchase of 90 Epson DC-30 document cameras from InaComp TSG in the amount of \$37,620.00 as recommended by Jay Grossman, Director of Technology.**

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

- E. **MOTION** made by Trustee Austin, support Trustee Estsep **to approve an increase to the original award of \$70,263 to TurnKey Network Solutions approved in February 2023 by \$44,760 due to changes required by DTE as recommended by Jay Grossman, Director of Technology.**

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

- F. **MOTION** made by Vice President Steben, support Trustee Estep **to approve district changes to Policy 1230.01 Administrative Guidelines as recommended by the Policy Committee.**

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

- G. **MOTION** made by Treasurer Gerbe, support Trustee Estep **to approve the Neola updates to Policy 8800 Religious/Patriotic Ceremonies and Observances as recommended by the Policy Committee.**

After some discussion, it was decided to table this motion until further investigation and due diligence has been completed regarding wording. Neola will be consulted on the language. It will be discussed again at the Policy Committee meeting before being brought back to the full Board for potential action.

**Revision to the MOTION** made by Treasurer Gerbe, support Trustee Estep to table the original motion.

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

- H. **MOTION ...** made by Secretary Miller, support Treasurer Gerbe **to accept the new Policy 6350 Prevailing Wage Coordinator as recommended by the Policy Committee.**

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

## 7. **SCHEDULED REPORTS**

### A. **Handbook Review**

*Presenter: Steve Laatsch, Superintendent*

Handbooks provide expectations and guidance for students and families. They reflect the district and building mission and vision statements, district and building operations, codes of conduct and programming. Each year building principals and assistant principals gather feedback from community stakeholders. This feedback is reviewed and changes, updates and policies are revised. Finalized language is prepared and reported to the board and on an ongoing basis hand books are updated as needed to reflect changes in policy, personnel, and laws. There are some slight variations to handbooks at the

different grade levels. The differences mostly reflect the age appropriateness and development needs. There are also different handbooks for athletics and extracurricular.

Safety and security measures are also outlined in the handbooks including new ways of reunification in case of emergency and evacuation procedures.

Some changes this year will include the addition of guidelines at the elementary buildings for pets at drop off and pick up areas. Also emphasis on the importance of attending school every day, especially following the pandemic. Electronic watches are also part of the cell phone policy at elementary levels.

On the secondary level updated language around dress code to reflect most recent board policy updates. The disciplinary matrix will be updated to provide clarity on discipline procedures for different offenses.

New for the 25/26 school year will be the use of the Thrun Handbook Template. Administrators have been looking at this model to provide more structure and to ensure that the most important elements are included. The district has purchased a template for this handbook. The administrative team will meet quarterly throughout the year to review and adjust the handbook. Handbooks are available on each school's website. The athletic/extracurricular handbook will be added to that site as well.

## 8. **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

### **Board Finance Committee Update**

*Facilitator: Brad Gerbe, Chair*

The Finance Committee met this evening prior to the Board meeting. We discussed the impact of changes to state funding on the district's budget. The foundation allowance of per-pupil funding will remain the same this year but the retirement savings for districts will offset the flat per-pupil spending. The district is still working on figuring out how the new funds will be allocated and how they will impact the budget. Assistant Superintendent Owsley is working on this and will provide updates as more information becomes available. The 3% health care adjustment for employees will also need to be factored into the budget. Kindergarten enrollment is looking strong with an expected increase in students. There is also an extra section of Y5s being added at Woodland Meadows due to high demand. Official enrollment numbers will be available after Count Day which is October 2, 2024.

Capital Projects is a sort of "rainy day" fund that is established for acquiring major capital purchases which, for example, included a dump truck a few years ago. There are restrictions on what can be purchased using general funds, so capital project funds are used for these types of purchases.

The audit is expected to be completed by the end of September and/or early October.

## 9. **ADMINISTRATION / BOARD UPDATES**

**Superintendent Laatsch:** AP pass rate is 94% for this past school year. This is our best pass rate in the last 5 years. A lot of credit to our AP teachers. There is a lot of Professional Development going on in the district this week. Acknowledgement to the Teaching & Learning team for all their efforts. On

Monday, onboarding occurred for all new district employees, about 45 new staff members attended. Great job by our entire HR Dept. At the end of their day, I drove all new employees around the district and the Saline community on a school bus. Also a shout out to the Special Education department and all their training opportunities as well with staff this week. Welcome Back Day for all staff is Wednesday, August 21 at Saline Middle School.

**President McVey:** Participated in Saline Summerfest, and ran a 5K to support Saline CC. Thank you to Tran at Saline Post for all the great photos. Also encouraged participation at the ChadTough run in September. Don Wotruba, MASB Exec. Director will be here tomorrow at 9 am for the President's Award.

**Trustee Austin:** Excited to see all the bond projects going on around the district this summer. Acknowledge all the hiring going on and building projects taking place.

**Trustee Estep:** DEI advisory committee will soon reconvene and be meeting with Ryan Kerr.

**Secretary Miller:** The Policy committee plans to meet at 5 pm on August 27, 2024. Also on the agenda will be some discussion on proposed changes to the DEIAC policy, and more discussion regarding flags. Acknowledgement with a moment of silence for Alex Lara Valenzuela who tragically passed away this summer. He was a 2024 Saline graduate.

**Vice President Steben:** Congratulations to all the runners who ran at Summerfest and to all the work done by Paul Hynek, both at Summerfest and Stuff the Bus. Both very successful events. Lizzie White was crowned new Miss Saline. Foundation met today for the 1st meeting of the new school year. Events to put on your calendars: 9/29 Chadtough Run, 10/4 Homecoming, 10/11 Hall of Fame, 12/7 Holiday Parade, 2/28 Winter Fundraiser at Travis Pointe Country Club. Looking forward to participating at Welcome Back Day for staff next Wednesday. Thanks to SEA and ESP for their support.

**Treasurer Gerbe:** Acknowledge the work done to make the Stuff the Bus event so successful. All donations help clients of Saline Area Social Services. Thank you to SEA and ESP for their support.

**Trustee Gold:** Thank you to Laura Washington on the handbook and the time spent with administrators in this review process. Grateful to the State of Michigan for funding the universal school free lunch program. Thank you to our food service dept. Michigan leads the United States in recovering from school absenteeism among 42 states that released data. Welcome back to students and staff.

**10. CONSENT AGENDA**

**MOTION** made by Treasurer Gerbe, support Secretary Miller **to authorize the Consent Agenda as listed.**

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

- A. Approval of the Board of Education Meeting Minutes of July 9, 2024**
- B. Approval of the Compensation Committee Minutes of July 9, 2024**

- C. **Approval of Payment** of the General Fund Accounts Payable of August 13, 2024, in the amount of \$4,927,161.23
- D. **Approval of Payment** of Bond Fund Series III Accounts Payable of August 13, 2024, in the amount of \$594,846.45
- E. **Approval of Payment** of 2023 Bond Fund Series I Accounts Payable of August 13, 2024 in the amount of \$5,777,164.48
- F. **Receive and File** Finance and Human Resources Report

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

K12 Insight Quality Survey Report

12. **PUBLIC COMMENT** - None

**STUDENTS**

**OTHER PUBLIC STAKEHOLDERS**

13. **NEXT MEETING**

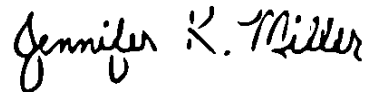
The next Board of Education Meeting will be held on August 27 , 2024.

16. **ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION** made by Trustee Estep, support Secretary Miller to adjourn the Regular Board of Education Meeting of August 13, 2024, at 8:08 PM.

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

Respectfully submitted,



Jennifer Miller  
Board Secretary

*Recorded by: Betty Jahnke*