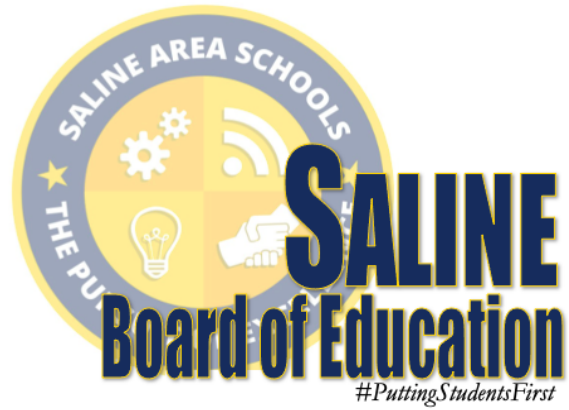


# Board of Education Meeting

Liberty School Board Room  
February 28, 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 February 28, 2023 was called to order at 6:30 pm by Vice President Jennifer Steben.

**Board of Education Present:** Tim Austin, Susan Estep, Brad Gerbe, Lauren Gold, Jennifer Miller, Jennifer Steben

**Absent:** Michael McVey

**Central Administration Present:** Superintendent Laatsch, Assistant Superintendent's Ellis & Owsley, Directors Britnell, Davis and Clary

#### 2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

#### 3. PUBLIC COMMENT

**STUDENTS - None**

**OTHER PUBLIC STAKEHOLDERS - None**

#### 4. RESPONSE TO PREVIOUS PUBLIC COMMENT

<b>AGENDA</b>
---------------

5.     **REVISIONS/APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**MOTION** made by Treasurer Gerbe, support by Trustee Estep **to approve the agenda as printed.**

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

6.     **STUDENT SHOWCASE**

**SMS Yearbook Class** (*Advisor, David Reeves*)

*Presenters: Faith Houston, Avery Carroll, Avery Michowski, Sarah Yousif, Neil Sachdeva, Suhani Dalela, Ava Mitton, Sarah Marcinkiewicz, Katherine Mullins, Vedulasre Sankari, Lily Warren*

Very engaging presentation to highlight the creative work done by the MS Yearbook Class. This also included HS students who have continued to participate in the HS Yearbook class after their positive and rewarding middle school experience.

7.     **SCHEDULED REPORT**

**A.     District Enrollment and School of Choice**

*Presenters: Dr. Stephen Laatsch, Superintendent*

Presentation to review current enrollment data. As our largest classes are graduating, we see a trend in lower numbers. We have lost about 400 students in the last several years. This trend is being seen throughout the state. Census data shows a 10 year decline in the school age population for the state of Michigan and in Washtenaw County and this loss is less than expected based on population change. Factors affecting enrollment include birth rate and more choices. As we look at next steps, we see enrollment stabilizing and will be adjusting our staffing model and being mindful of the financial cliff. We plan on using a 3rd party to do an enrollment study to find out why families leave, what do families want, and to help us develop a marketing plan. The school of choice recommendation is to accept a minimum of 1 at each grade level except for Kindergarten where the minimum would be 20 so a total of 36 minimum openings for 23/24 school year. We will ask the Board to approve this proposal later this evening.

**B.     SEAB Survey Results**

*Presenters: Kristen Hoffman-Peavler, Michelle Szczechowicz*

The SEAB has finished the community survey and is presenting the results this evening. More detailed information will be available on the website soon. The data that was gathered was from the following topics: student perception of efficacy of current HS curriculum, preferred grade level of teaching/learning different sexual education topics from parents and staff, perceived importance of sex ed topics required by MI law, perception of the current curricula's adherence to the district's commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) and other

topics missing from the current curricula. The process in gathering the information was through K12 Insight and included guardians of current SAS students, SAS staff, HS students. Student summary of concerns included consent, dating safety, info on safe sex, ineffective curriculum and more inclusive / LGBTQ info. The parent concerns included sex ed timeline, consent, healthy relationships, and safety, less shame, resistance to instruction, student resources, LGBTQ+ population and safe technology usage.

**MOTION** made by Secretary Miller, support by Treasurer Gerbe **to take a short recess at 8:32 pm returning at 8:42 pm.**

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

**8. ACTION ITEMS**

- A. MOTION** made by Trustee Estep, support by Trustee Austin **to approve the minutes from the February 14, 2023, Closed Session for the purposes of: (1) Collective Bargaining under 8(c) and (2) for the purpose to consider purchase or lease of real property under 8(d) of the Open Meetings Act.**

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

- B. MOTION** made by Treasurer Gerbe, support by Trustee Austin **to adopt the Proposed 2022-23 General Fund Budget Amendment as submitted by Assistant Superintendent Owsley.**

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

- C. MOTION** made by Secretary Miller, support by Treasurer Gerbe **to adopt the resolution authorizing the issuance of not to exceed sixty million dollars (\$60,000,000.00) 2023 School Building and Site Bonds, Series I as submitted by Assistant Superintendent Owsley.**

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

- D. MOTION** made by Secretary Miller, support by Trustee Estep **to approve School of Choice for the 2023/24 school year as recommended by Superintendent Laatsch.**

**Ayes - 5, Nay - 1 - MOTION CARRIED 5-1**

Austin - Nay  
Estep - Aye  
Gerbe - Aye  
Gold - Aye  
Miller - Aye  
Steben - Aye

**9. DISCUSSION ITEMS**

**Board Policy Committee Update**

*Presenter, Jenny Miller, Chair*

Secretary Miller gave a brief overview of the Policy Committee meeting that met previous to the Board meeting at 5 pm. Among the discussion items included policy revisions that will be discussed at the next full Board Meeting on March 21. This will include 8510 Wellness, updates to 8390 Animals on District Policy and 8390.01 Therapy Dogs which is a new policy. Also new policies 3362.01 and 4362.01 which are new policies on Threatening behaviors were also discussed. These are still in discussion among the committee. A Neola update to Policy 9150 was reviewed by the policy committee several months ago which aligns with the new Sex Offender Registry laws. The policy committee approved the new language. It was brought to the committee again in error and the new committee and the public has brought some concerns forward. So this will remain in discussion with the policy committee. The Controversial Issues policy 2240 will be the primary focus of an upcoming policy meeting that will include a community discussion forum led primarily by the Teaching and Learning Team. Information will be coming out shortly about this meeting and will be posted for the public to learn about it.

**10. ADMINISTRATION / BOARD UPDATES**

**Superintendent Laatsch:** The 23/24 calendar has been approved by the SEA and is on the Consent Agenda for the Board to receive. It follows policy 8210 regarding all the instructional days required. The WISD is applying for the Labor Day waiver for the county. Congratulations to the “Snow Day Steve” contest winners, MS students Zach Rouman and Kyndel Freeman who have won a pizza party. Also congratulations to Shane Pitcher Scholar, a recent MHSAA Scholar Athlete Award recipient.

**Student Representative Allison Doran:** Reminders regarding upcoming performance of “Footloose” and there will be a Blood Drive in April hosted by the National Honor Society.

**Trustee Austin:** Thank you to the community member who spearheaded a Go Fund Me campaign to put together care packages to send to SHS Alum who are attending MSU in the wake of the recent campus shooting.

**Secretary Miller:** Congratulations to all the Winter sports athletes on a successful season and good luck to the Spring sports athletes.

**11. CONSENT AGENDA**

**MOTION** made by Trustee Austin, support by Secretary Miller to **authorize the Consent Agenda as printed:**

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

*Board of Education Meeting Minutes  
February 28, 2023*

- A. **Approval** of the Board of Education Meeting Minutes of February 14, 2023
- B. **Approval** of the Board Finance Committee Meeting Minutes of February 14, 2023
- C. **Approval of Payment** of the General Fund Accounts Payable of February 28, 2023, in the amount of \$2,264,261.66
- D. **Approval of Payment** of Bond Fund Series III Accounts Payable of February 28, 2023, in the amount of \$173,158.85
- E. **Receive and File** 23/24 SAS District Calendar
- F. **Receive and File** Human Resources Report

<b>CLOSING</b>
----------------

12. **ITEMS SCHEDULED ON NEXT AGENDA**

Operations Update (Transportation/Building & Grounds/Bond)

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 March 21, 2023, at 6:30 PM.

15. **CLOSED SESSION**

**MOTION** made by Trustee Austin, support by Trustee Gold **to enter Closed Session of the Board of Education at 9:31 PM, with the intent to re-enter Open Session at 9:50 PM, for the purposes of (1) consider purchase or lease of real property under 8(d) and (2) consider a confidential attorney-client communication pursuant to Section 8(h) of the Open Meeting Act.**

**This requires a two-thirds roll call vote of elected or appointed members.**

*Board of Education Meeting Minutes  
February 28, 2023*

**Roll Call Vote**

Austin - Aye  
Estep - Aye  
Gerbe - Aye  
Gold - Aye  
Miller - Aye  
Steben - Aye  
Absent (McVey)

**16. RE-ENTER OPEN SESSION**

**MOTION** made by Secretary Miller, support by Treasurer Gerbe **to re-enter Open Session of the Regular Board of Education Meeting at 9:40 PM.**

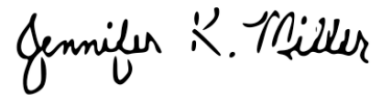
Ayes - All Present - **MOTION CARRIED 6-0**

**15. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION** ... made by Treasurer Gerbe, support by Trustee Gold **to adjourn the Regular Board of Education Meeting of February 28, 2023, at 9:41 PM.**

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

Respectfully submitted,



Jennifer K. Miller  
Board Secretary

*Recorded by: Betty Jahnke*