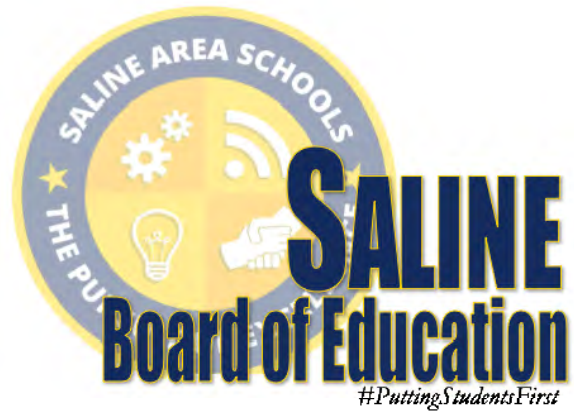


Board of Education Meeting

Liberty School Board Room

May 28, 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 by President McVey at 6:30 pm.

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 Diglio, Executive Directors Clary, Davis and Martin.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

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

4. STUDENT AWARD RECOGNITION

Presentation of Rich Tompkins MHSCA Athlete Award & Scholarship - Peyton Widen & Jordan Wickham
Presenters: Debbie Williams-Hoak & Superintendent Laatsch

The Rich Tomkins Multisport Award is presented annually to one male and one female in each of the four Michigan High School Athletic Association divisions. This award recognizes the accomplishments of student athletes who have participated and excelled in athletics in each season during their four-year high school career while also excelling in academics, holding leadership roles, and contributing to their schools and communities. Both the recipients this year are Saline High School students.

5. **SUPERINTENDENT’S RECOGNITION**

- *Saline Traps shooting Team, Coach Susan Duda-Osborne*
- *Girls Varsity Basketball Team, Coach Leigh Ann Roebm*

6. **PRESIDENT’S RECOGNITION**

Lauren Gold: Earned the Certified Board Member Award

Carol Baaki Diglio: New Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources, effective June 1, 2024

Julie Voelker: New Executive Director of Special Education, effective July 1, 2024

7. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

STUDENTS - None

OTHER PUBLIC STAKEHOLDERS - None

8. **RESPONSE TO PREVIOUS PUBLIC COMMENT**

AGENDA

9. **REVISIONS/APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

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

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

10. **STUDENT SHOWCASE**

Peer to Peer

Presenters: Charlie VanHaaften, Bella Rodriguez

Advisor: Riss Willwerth

Peer to Peer is a club that raises awareness about mental health. They are advised by Riss Willwerth and Dr. Jason Sines. The goals of Peer to Peer are to raise awareness, reduce the stigma around mental health and provide support and resources for students who may be struggling. This year’s campaign included a segment on SHS Today, surveys to measure the campaign’s success and the planning of a mural with the slogan “Grow through what you Go through” Presenters included in their report: statistics on mental

health, factors that influence student’s mental health, strategies for maintaining good mental health, suggestions for parents and guardians, in addition to implementing mental health education in the schools. Peer to Peer is in partnership with the Eisenberg Family Depression Center at the University of Michigan.

11. ACTION ITEMS

- A. MOTION** made by Secretary Miller, support Trustee Austin **to approve the 23/24 SAS Tech Copiers bid award to Printer Source Plus in the amount of \$726,177.44 as submitted by Jay Grossman, Director of Technology.**

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

- B. MOTION** made by Treasurer Gerbe, support Trustee Austin **to approve the purchase of 2 vans for Liberty Club, one from Mark Moats Ford Inc. in the amount of \$59,635 and the second from Gene Butman Ford in the amount of \$56,328.28 as submitted by Brian Puffer, Director of Community Education.**

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

12. SCHEDULED REPORTS

- A. District Strategic Council Summary**

Presenter: Superintendent Laatsch

The District Strategic Council aims to move the district forward by considering the areas of vision, mission and the compass. The make up of the council included volunteers from diverse stakeholders including students, and representatives from the community and various district departments and framing all discussions using the bridge to civility. Four primary areas were part of the discussion, Early Childhood & Elementary, Middle Grades, High School and Athletics and Clubs.

The Early Childhood group identified successes and areas of focus including strategically marketing early childhood to families, highlighting the benefits of the early childhood programs including special education and community education, and the possibility of expanding the GSRP to all Michigan Children, which is a proposal being set forth by Governor Whitmer.

The Middle Grades group recommended the possibility of partnering with SWWC to offer exploratory classes at the Middle School level, creating a summer academy to help kids catch up and expand credits into HS, and discussing ways to improve transition between grades and schools.

The High School group explored the possibility of an “internship” experience for every SHS student as a graduation requirement. The expansion of Liberty Club as a way to generate revenue for Community Education and the offering of a Virtual Academy.

The Athletics and Club group talked about establishing standards for clubs and organizations, exploring opportunities for corporate sponsors and facility naming, opportunities to generate revenue by leveraging our facilities and promoting extracurricular activities to 5th and 6th graders.

The importance of this work will be to tell the story of the district and what the overall experience is like for families to attend Saline Area Schools highlighting the great programs such as special education, CTE programming, athletic and music programs.

13. ADMINISTRATION / BOARD UPDATES

Student Representative Iadipaolo & Clark: Thank you to the Board for the opportunity to serve. We learned a lot about how the school district runs behind the scenes. Congratulations to the seniors and good luck to those taking tests and participating in sports.

Trustee Austin: Shout out to all SAS Staff and for their hard work this year. Congratulations to the retiring staff and thanks to the seniors who will be serving in the military. Regarding the nationalized email, our staff shouldn't be subjected to hurtful messages. Need to get back to a district that promotes compassion and understanding for our differences and understands our lane when it comes to educating our children. We all should agree on kindness.

Treasurer Gerbe: Congratulations to graduating seniors and staff members. Addressed the nationalized email. Give support to Kara Davis and Ryan Kerr and the work they are doing. Support for our policies that we're promoting an inclusive environment for all students and that all students know they belong and that there is a place for them. Reiterated that we need to do better to ensure that staff and community members are not subject to hurtful messages.

Secretary Miller: Congratulations to graduates and so much gratitude for all the teachers and staff who have supported them along the way. Both Kara Davis and Ryan Kerr have my full endorsement. We are a public institution and therefore we are in service to all students and to create an environment that is inclusive of all our students. The work will never be done and we need to constantly strive to be better for the students.

President McVey: Thank you to the District Council for their efforts and service to the district. Interviews for the 24/25 student representatives will be conducted and introduced at the next Board Meeting. As Board President it was a difficult week with lots of messages and calls. This President supports the work of Kara Davis and wouldn't want anyone else fighting for the rights of our students.

Vice President Steben: Congratulations to Caroline and Mateo. We're all very proud of you. Thinking of all the parents and students this week as graduation gets closer. Thank you to all Board colleagues who have engaged in some crucial conversations here at the Board table. It's important to respect diversity of opinion and to have conversations verbally in person. That's how we create the bridges to civility and bridge gaps. Congratulations to the Junior Class students, parents and staff who planned a successful prom. As a chaperone, the students had an amazing time. Enjoying my time teaching Junior Achievement at Woodland Meadows.

Trustee Estep: Enjoyed teaching Junior Achievement at Woodland Meadows. The Sex Education Advisory Board will have their 1st public hearing on June 10th at 6:00 pm in the Board Room. This is to propose a new curriculum for grades 4th thru 8th. Both myself and Trustee Gold are on this advisory board. Been very impressed with the work of this committee and it's time to update this very outdated curriculum. June is Pride Month. On Saturday, June 1st at the Saline City Hall, you are invited the annual flag raising ceremony. Regarding the nationalized email, it's hard not to listen to the messages of hate and bigotry that our staff members are experiencing. I support and acknowledge that Kara Davis will not tolerate hate and bigotry against our students and staff and I urge you to stand with me in order to make SAS welcoming and safe for all our students. With the creation of both the DEI AC and the unanimously passing of the Transgender and Non-Binary Students Policy, we are 100% committed to implementing these policies and will not tolerate hate in our schools and community.

Trustee Gold: Congratulations to all the seniors and to their families and to the littlest preschoolers who will start Kindergarten in the fall and to our elementary school students who get a "clap out" on their last day of school as they move up to new buildings. Transitions can be hard but also exciting. Enjoyed going to all the band and orchestra concerts at the end of the school year.

14. **CONSENT AGENDA**

MOTION made by Treasurer Gerbe, support 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 May 14, 2024
- B. **Approval** of the Board Finance Committee Meeting Minutes of May 14, 2024
- C. **Approval of Payment** of the General Fund Accounts Payable of May 28, 2024, in the amount of \$1,100,483.26
- D. **Approval of Payment** of Bond Fund Series III Accounts Payable of May 28, 2024 in the amount of \$1300.00
- E. **Approval of Payment** of 2023 Bond Fund Series I Accounts Payable of May 28, 2024 in the amount of \$934,988.61
- F. **Receive and File** Human Resources Report

CLOSING

15. **ITEMS SCHEDULED ON NEXT AGENDA**

Wellness Committee Update
FSAS Annual Update
Tech Department Annual Update

16. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

STUDENTS - None

OTHER PUBLIC STAKEHOLDERS

Ryan Kerr, DEI Specialist - spoke as a representative of the District DEIAC

Charlie Hirst, Parent - spoke regarding their positive experience at the recent Listening Sessions, starting a GSA at Heritage

Chris Budnik, Parent, Resident - spoke regarding the digital age and its influence in today's times.

Ben Goodman, Parent - spoke regarding the Special Education Listening Session

Sarah Fabian, Parent - spoke in support of Kara Davis and for communicating the values of our district

Heather Finch, Parent - spoke in support of Kara Davis, the district DEI initiatives and for the hiring of Julie Voelker

Amy Good, Volunteer, Parent - spoke in support of the work of the district and the policies that are set in place to fight for their rights. Thank you for the work of the District Strategic Council.

Tiffanie Alexander, Parent - spoke regarding Administrative Guidelines and doing what's right for children.

17. **NEXT MEETING**

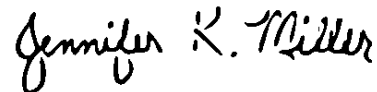
The next Board of Education Meeting will be held on June 11, 2024 at 6:30 PM, preceded by the Budget Hearing at 6 pm.

18. **ADJOURNMENT**

MOTION made by Vice President Steben support Secretary Miller **to adjourn the Regular Board of Education Meeting of May 28, 2024, at 9 PM.**

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

Respectfully submitted,



Jennifer Miller
Board Secretary

Recorded by: Betty Jabnke