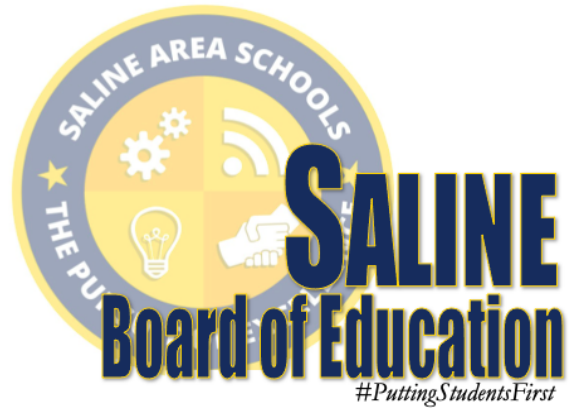


Board of Education Meeting

Liberty School Board Room

July 11, 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

Meeting was called to order by President Michael McVey at 6:30 pm

Board Members Present: Tim Austin, Susan Estep, Brad Gerbe, Michael McVey and Jennifer Steben

Board Members Absent: Lauren Gold & Jennifer Miller

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Introduction of Jackelyn Martin, Executive Director of Communications & Community Relations

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

STUDENTS

OTHER PUBLIC STAKEHOLDERS

Dennis Smallwood - Spoke regarding Bullying

Libby Williams - Spoke regarding Bullying

Lisa Slawson - Spoke regarding Bullying, Board Governance Model

5. RESPONSE TO PREVIOUS PUBLIC COMMENT

AGENDA

6. REVISIONS/APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

Ayes - All Present - **MOTION CARRIED 5-0**

7. **ACTION ITEMS**

A. **MOTION** made by Treasurer Gerbe, support Trustee Austin **to name the following banks or depositories for the various funds of the Saline Area Schools in fiscal 2023/24 year:**

Bank of Ann Arbor
Michigan Liquid Asset Fund (MILAF)
Old National Bank

Ayes - All Present - **MOTION CARRIED 5-0**

B. **MOTION** made by Vice President Steben, support Trustee Estep **to authorize Stephen Laatsch, Superintendent, as the primary signer on all checks written by the District, with Miranda Owsley, Assistant Superintendent of Finance as alternate on all accounts listed.**

Bank of Ann Arbor

2021 Bond Checking Account
2023 Bond Checking Account

Michigan Liquid Asset Fund (MILAF)

2021 Bond Investment Account
2023 Bond Investment Account

Old National Bank

General Fund
General Fund Payroll
Community Education
Recreation/CARES
Food Service
Student Activity
Student Activity, The Edge
Flex Benefits - Maestro
2016 B&S Debt Service
2018 B&S II Debt Service
2021 B&S III Debt Service
2018 Refunding Debt Service
2023 B&S I Debt Service
Sinking Fund
Paul Handy Scholarship Fund
Tim Kiraly Memorial Fund

Horticultural Award
Jeremy Tarlea Scholarship Fund
Randy Hoffman Fund
Rachael Townsend Fund
Dora Mae Mayer Memorial Scholarship
Kathryn Steiner Burr Scholarship

Ayes - All Present - MOTION CARRIED 5-0

- C. **MOTION** made by Treasurer Gerbe, support Vice President Steben **to authorize Stephen Laatsch, Superintendent, and Miranda Owsley, Assistant Superintendent of Finance, as signatories on transfers of investment monies.**

Ayes - All Present - MOTION CARRIED 5-0

- D. **MOTION** made by Trustee Austin, support Treasurer Gerbe **to adopt the resolution for continued participation in the State of Michigan Loan Revolving Fund as submitted by Assistant Superintendent Miranda Owsley.**

Ayes - All Present - MOTION CARRIED 5-0

- E. **MOTION** made by Vice President Steben, support Treasurer Gerbe **to appoint the Thrun Law Firm, P.C., of Lansing, Michigan and Collins & Blaha, P.C as legal counsel for the school district for the 2023-2024 school year. In addition, the District is authorized to utilize other law firms pending areas of expertise.**

Ayes: Austin, Gerbe, McVey, Steben
Nays: Estep

MOTION CARRIED 4-1

ADDED MOTION made by Treasurer Gerbe, support by Vice President Steben **to revisit this language and Policy 0172 in both the Finance and Policy Committees in the near future to consider adding “or board”.**

Ayes - All Present - MOTION CARRIED 5-0

- F. **MOTION** made by Vice President Steben, support Trustee Estep **to approve the proposal to purchase 32 computer aided drafting desktops through InaComp TSG in the amount of \$84,480 as submitted by Jay Grossman, Director of Technology. These purchases will be funded from bond funds and will be for use in Computer Aided Drafting and Design courses.**

Ayes - All Present - MOTION CARRIED 5-0

- G. MOTION** made by Treasurer Gerbe, support Trustee Austin **to approve the recommendation from AR Brouwer to accept the bid proposal from Wolverine Steel Erectors Inc. to install a 16,000 sqft pre-engineered insulated building in the amount of \$671,002.00 as submitted by Rex Clary, Executive Director of Operations.**

Ayes - All Present - **MOTION CARRIED 5-0**

- H. MOTION** made by Vice President Steben, support Trustee Austin **to approve the awarded Round III CARES Funding in the amount of \$97,585.00 as submitted by Brian Puffer, Director of Community Education.**

Ayes - All Present - **MOTION CARRIED 5-0**

8. SCHEDULED REPORTS

- A. Enrollment Update**
Superintendent Laatsch

Dr. Laatsch presented on district enrollment. Since the 18/19 school year, enrollment has gone down, seeing sliding numbers even before the pandemic. This past school year enrollment was reported at 4,740 which was a slight (41) decrease from the previous year, noting it was the smallest drop since before the pandemic. County and statewide projections are showing that enrollment is declining throughout the area and state and projections are showing that that will continue in Saline as well. The district has budgeted for declining enrollment. The district will begin work on a plan to market the school district partnering with the city as well. It's important to be seen as a destination district and to showcase all that the schools have to offer. In addition to new housing developments, there are job opportunities as well bringing people to the area. Toyota will be creating 200 new jobs at their facility located in York Township. Through School of Choice, we do bring in students from other Washtenaw county areas. Public education isn't going to meet the needs of all students and the district isn't able to support the needs being sought out by homeschooled and religious education students.

- B. Report of all Verified Bullying**
Superintendent Laatsch

Dr. Laatsch presented the bullying report to the Board. This report was based on data that was documented as "bullying" from student discipline forms. He candidly spoke that the district must do a better job. Reports that were pulled were defined by bldg administrators as "bullying". The definition can be interpreted in different ways. This will be discussed with administrators at the start of the new school year. The handbooks have been updated to provide consistency throughout. He reviewed the incidents. Dr. Laatsch outlined the ways in which the district is trying to prevent bullying, citing culturally responsive instruction, social work and counseling support, advisory times at both the HS and MS, WEB and Link Crew as examples.

9. ADMINISTRATION / BOARD UPDATES

Superintendent Laatsch: Welcome to our new Director of Communications & Community Relations, Jackie Martin. Dr. Ryan Rowe who was the Executive Director of the SWWC, was recently promoted to be the county director of CTE. This is needed because of expanded programming including the east side of the county. Kara Stemmer will replace Dr. Rowe as the new Director of the SWWC.

Treasurer Gerbe: made a statement regarding public comments, social media and public decorum. 3 functions of a Board: 1. assisting and evaluating our Superintendent, 2. create policies to support student learning and 3. help to maintain a fiscally responsible district. Asking the public to please take these things into consideration when making posts or comments.

Vice President Steben: Thank you to the retirees for your many years of service and thank you and congratulations to our graduates. Shout out to HR, Operations and Technology for all the work that occurs during the summer months.

Trustee Estep: Thank you to everyone who has personally reached out to me, contacted the Board and Superintendent to stand up against hate who is being directed at people who support our LGBTQ+ students and progress in DEI in our district.

10. CONSENT AGENDA

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

Ayes - All Present - **MOTION CARRIED 5-0**

- A. **Approval** of the Board of Education Meeting Minutes of June 13, 2023
- B. **Approval** of the Budget Hearing Meeting Minutes of June 13, 2023
- C. **Approval** of the Board Finance Committee Meeting Minutes of June 13, 2023
- D. **Approval** of the Board Policy Committee Meeting Minutes of June 20, 2023
- E. **Approval of Payment** of the General Fund Accounts Payable of July 11, 2023, in the amount of \$3,555,378.68
- F. **Approval of Payment** of 2021 Bond Fund Series III Accounts Payable of July 11, 2023, in the amount of \$452,832.50
- G. **Approval of Payment** of 2023 Bond Fund Series I Accounts Payable of July 11, 2023, in the amount of \$145,803.75
- H. **Receive and File** Finance and Human Resources Reports

CLOSING

11. ITEMS SCHEDULED ON NEXT AGENDA

Handbook Reviews
K12 Insight Quality Survey Report

12. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

STUDENTS - None

OTHER PUBLIC STAKEHOLDERS

Meghan Gunnerson - Spoke regarding Bullying Report

Lisa Slawson - Spoke regarding Bullying Report

Libby Williams - Spoke regarding Bullying Report

13. **NEXT MEETING**

The next Board of Education Meeting will be held on August 8, 2023, at 6:30 PM.

14. **CLOSED SESSION**

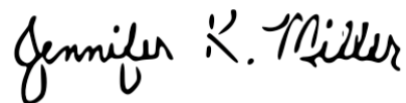
MOTION made by Trustee Austin, support Vice President **to enter Closed Session of the Board of Education at 8:34 pm, with the intent to re-enter Open Session at approximately 8:44 pm, for the purpose of the school board to consider security planning to address existing threats or prevent potential threats to the safety of the students and staff under Section 8(k). Under 8(k) a simple majority vote is sufficient to enter into closed session.**

Ayes - All Present - MOTION CARRIED 5-0

15. **ADJOURNMENT**

MOTION made by Vice President Steben, support Treasurer Gerbe **to adjourn the Regular Board of Education Meeting of July 11, 2023, at 8:52PM.**

Respectfully submitted,



Jennifer K. Miller
Board Secretary

Recorded by: Betty Jahnke