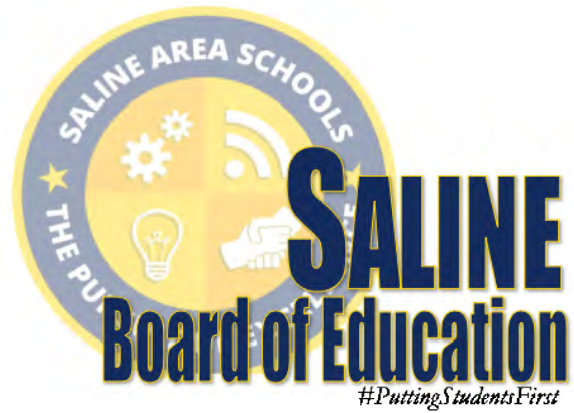


Board of Education Meeting

Liberty School Board Room
February 25, 2025, 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 25, 2025 was called to order by President Michael McVey at 6:30 pm

Board Members Present: Tim Austin, Darcy Berwick, Brad Gerbe, Michael McVey, Jennifer Steben, Jason Tizedes

Board Members Absent: Lauren Gold

Central Administration Present: Superintendent Laatsch, Assistant Superintendent's Baaki-Diglio, Owsley, Executive Directors Clary, Davis, and Martin

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

STUDENTS - None

OTHER PUBLIC STAKEHOLDERS - None

EXTENDED PUBLIC COMMENT

- Saline Education Association (SEA) - Bridget Corie

4. **RESPONSE TO PREVIOUS PUBLIC COMMENT**

AGENDA

5. **REVISIONS/APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

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

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

6. **ACTION ITEMS**

A. **MOTION ... to adopt the Proposed 2024-25 General Fund Budget Amendment as submitted by Assistant Superintendent Owsley** *(no support for this motion)*

After some discussion, the following motion was made

MOTION made by Vice President Steben, support Treasurer Gerbe **to table the approval until the March 11th Board of Education meeting.**

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

B. **MOTION** made by Treasurer Gerbe, support Secretary Berwick **to adopt the resolution authorizing the issuance of the 2025 School Building and Site Bonds, Series II not to exceed \$60,000,000.00 as prepared by Thrun Law Firm and submitted by Assistant Superintendent Owsley.**

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

C. **MOTION** made by Vice President Steben, support Secretary Berwick **to approve the minutes of the February 11, 2025 Closed Session of the Board of Education for the purposes to consider a confidential attorney-client communication pursuant to Section 8(h) of the Open Meeting Act.**

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

D. **MOTION ... that the Board of Education designate the Superintendent as its representative in determining the definition of assault as submitted by President McVey** *(no support for this motion)*

After some discussion and specifically to gather more information, the following motion was made,

MOTION made by Secretary Berwick, support Vice President Steben **to table the decision on the designation until the March 11th Board of Education meeting.**

Ayes - Tim Austin, Darcy Berwick, Brad Gerbe, Jennifer Steben, Jason Tizedes
Nays - Michael McVey

MOTION CARRIED 5-1

- E. MOTION** made by Trustee Austin, support Secretary Berwick **to approve the award payment of \$2,908,535.15 to Barton Malow for the oversight and management of Saline Bid Pack BP-T3 as submitted by Jay Grossman, Director of Technology. This includes contracts for standardization of classroom A/V to take place at Saline High School, Saline Middle School, Heritage, and Liberty. It also includes data cabling to go along with those classrooms plus cabling for the middle school renovations and new Liberty Rec Complex. Additionally included are A/V, access controls, and video surveillance for the middle school renovations and Liberty Rec Complex.**

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

- F. MOTION** made by Treasurer Gerbe, support Trustee Tizedes **to approve the award payment of \$101,700.00 to InaComp TSG for the purchase of classroom document cameras to be installed this summer at Saline High School, Saline Middle School, Heritage, and Liberty in conjunction with the standardization of classroom A/V project as submitted by Jay Grossman, Director of Technology.**

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

- G. MOTION** Trustee Austin, support Treasurer Gerbe **to approve the Saline High School Furnishing Recommendations as provided by Kingscott Associates, using pre-existing bid contracts, totalling \$1,465,903.92, submitted by Executive Directors Rex Clary and Kara Davis.**

Individual vendor payments will go to the following:

Great Lakes Furniture Supply - \$562,037.49
NBS Commercial Interiors - \$525,262.80
Dew-El - \$164,758.68
ISCG - \$15,577.84
Interior Office Source - \$98,556.42
School Specialty - \$9,485.00
NEIS - \$7,250.00
(and a 6% Contingency of \$82,975.69)

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

7. **SCHEDULED REPORT**

A. Enrollment & School of Choice Report

Presenter: Dr. Steve Laatsch, Superintendent

Dr. Laatsch presented on the impacts to the district & budget with regard to enrollment trends and School of Choice. We are seeing across the state and nation, declining enrollment trends. The declining birthrate is a national trend. In addition, there are more educational options now for families. Saline still remains a destination school district and we hope to attract as many families as possible to the district, also keeping School of Choice options open.

While the district had budgeted for a loss of 110 students, we only experienced a decrease of 77. This resulted in additional revenue of about \$300K which wasn't expected. The goal is to maintain a sustained fund balance within the range of 12-15%. In addition to students in our own buildings, the overall student count also includes Saline students who participate in other Washtenaw Educational Options Consortium programs such as WIHI (Washtenaw International High School) ECA (Early College Alliance), WAVE (Washtenaw Alliance for Virtual Education), and also students whom we provide services to who attend Washtenaw Christian Academy and St. Andrews School.

The district aims to grow enrollment starting at the lower levels. The Young Fives and Kindergarten group is a critical focus because it significantly impacts enrollment trends. The majority of school of choice interest is at the kindergarten level. Capturing students at this grade level means they potentially remain in the district for 13 years. The minimum number of students to be accepted is 25. A lottery system is used if more students apply. For all other grade levels, the minimum is one. More students may be accepted based on trends at that grade level. The School of Choice lottery will be held May 12th.

The School of Choice Guidelines will be presented for approval at the March 11, 2025 Board of Education meeting.

8. **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

A. Adhoc Committee Report 3rd Party Athletic Dept Review Proposals

Facilitator: President McVey

The adhoc committee brought forward, for consideration, 3 candidates for the third party athletic department review. Members of the adhoc committee conducted video interviews and performed reference checks. The initial request for proposal was broad. Candidates did add elements to their proposals which resulted in unique offerings and cost structures.

After much discussion, the Board did entertain a motion as follows:

MOTION made by Treasurer Gerbe, support Trustee Austin **to authorize President McVey to enter into negotiations with Scott Robertson, with the intent to refine the scope of the work and not to exceed \$12K.**

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

9. **ADMINISTRATION / BOARD UPDATES**

Superintendent Laatsch: Thank you to the SEA for speaking tonight and voicing their concerns. Acknowledged the collaborative efforts in reaching tentative agreements of most of the contract items. Mediation for salary related issues begins March 10th

Student Representatives (Allmand & Sonnenday): Good luck to all the Saline bands participating in the upcoming festival season. Polar Plunge was rescheduled due to the cold temperatures and will now be held on February 27th

Treasurer Gerbe: Acknowledge the SEA attending tonight's meeting, and recognition of the teachers as the "heartbeat" of the school district. Support for the collective bargaining process.

Secretary Berwick: Acknowledge the SEA attending tonight's meeting. Also regarding the Enrollment/School of Choice report, our family came into the district as a SOC family. Supports the process.

President McVey: Attended a "Shark Tank" event at the HS recently. Also participating in the Polar Plunge on the 27th. Reminder to the community regarding the stakeholder input sessions hosted by MASB (Michigan Association of School Boards) on February 26th, March 5th and March 11th. Also acknowledged HB 4020 that requires schools to teach African-American history and establishes a commission to update the curriculum.

Vice President Steben: FSAS Beads & Beats Annual Fundraiser is Friday, February 28th. Expressed gratitude for the SEA's presence at this evening's meeting. Also acknowledged the district's collective bargaining team and the hard work they are putting into the process.

Trustee Tizedes: Thank you to the SEA for their presence at tonight's meeting. Also a reminder to the community to be aware of misinformation that sometimes gets posted on social media. Recently some incorrect terminology was used to define a threat which could lead to communication confusion. Important to understand school safety terminology.

10. **CONSENT AGENDA**

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

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

- A. **Approval** of the Regular Board of Education Meeting Minutes of February 11, 2025
- B. **Approval** of the Board Finance Committee Meeting Minutes of February 11, 2025
- C. **Approval of Payment** of the General Fund Accounts Payable of February 25, 2025, in the amount of \$955,546.10
- D. **Approval of Payment** of the Bond Fund Series III Accounts Payable of February 25, 2025 in the amount of \$25,423.94
- E. **Approval of Payment** of 2023 Bond Fund Series I Accounts Payable of February 25, 2025, in the amount of \$1,509,131.76
- F. **Receive and File** Human Resources Report

CLOSING

11. ITEMS SCHEDULED ON THE NEXT AGENDA

DEI AC Update
Safety & Security Update
Emergency Operations Plan (Closed Session)

12. PUBLIC COMMENT

STUDENTS - None

OTHER PUBLIC STAKEHOLDERS - None

13. NEXT MEETING

The next Board of Education Meeting will be held on March 11, 2025, at 6:30 PM.

14. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION made by Vice President Steben, support Trustee Tizedes **to adjourn the Regular Board of Education Meeting of February 25, 2025, at 8:44 PM.**

Respectfully submitted,



Darcy Berwick
Board Secretary

Recorded by: Betty Jahnke