

Board of Education Meeting

Liberty School Board Room

October 14, 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 was called to order at 6:31 pm by President Michael McVey.

Board Members Present: Tim Austin, Darcy Berwick, Lauren Gold, Nate Hanson, Michael McVey, Jennifer Steben and Jason Tizedes

Central Administration Present: Superintendent Kowalski, Assistant Superintendents Baaki Diglio and Owsley, Executive Directors Clary, Davis, Martin and Voelker

2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

3. **PUBLIC COMMENT** - None

4. **RESPONSE TO PREVIOUS PUBLIC COMMENT**

AGENDA

5. **REVISIONS/APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

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

Revision: Switch Item 7 and 8 in the agenda.

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

6. STUDENT SHOWCASE

Miss Saline Scholarship Program

Presenters: *Madylin Marshall, Jillian Hayes, Sophie Zadvinskis, and Co-Director Kim Bryant*

The Miss Saline Pageant was founded in 1948, a tradition where young women in the community compete for a scholarship and provide service in the community for one year. The current Miss Saline, Madylin Marshall, is the 77th titleholder. First runner up was Sophie Zadvinskis and second runner up Jillian Hayes. Kim Bryant is the Co-Director. The core values of the program are community pride, service, empowerment of women and preservation of tradition.

Interested applicants apply between March and the end of May with transcripts, recommendation letters and essay responses. Miss Saline is chosen during Summerfest.

Some of the many events that Miss Saline participates in include: Stuff the Bus, Elementary Open Houses, Rec Center Events, Oktoberfest, Homecoming and Holiday parades, the Annual Scarecrow Competition and more community outreach events.

It's important to emphasize that the Miss Saline Program is a leadership and service program and not a beauty contest.

7. SCHEDULED REPORT

(moved to #7 per revised agenda motion)

A. CTE Millage Update

Presenter: Kara Stemmer, Director, South and West Washtenaw Consortium

The districts served under the upcoming CTE millage includes Dexter, Chelsea, Lincoln, Milan, Manchester and Saline. This presentation highlights the importance of the upcoming CTE millage on the November 4th ballot. 78% of students who graduated and took CTE classes report using the skills learned in those classes. It was also noted that many students pair AP classes with a CTE class to enhance both academic rigor and practical skills. CTE prepares students for both college bound and career bound futures.

Interest in CTE has risen over the past several years by 72% enrollment. With the successful passing of the millage, more students can be accepted into classes. The millage will also support new equipment, maintain existing programming and expand capacity for the growing demand in CTE.

There are currently 24 classes, 23 programs, and 900 students enrolled. There will be an Open House on October 21 from 5:30 - 7:00 where the public can tour SWWC labs and facilities, and listen to students present on their experiences. If the millage passes, all the funds generated will be allocated directly back to CTE.

8. ADMINISTRATION AND BOARD COMMITTEE UPDATES

(moved to #8 per revised agenda motion)

Superintendent (Kowalski): Reminder to families and staff that Fall Break is coming up October 17–20. It's a great time to celebrate the learning and growth already happening across our schools. Inquires about snow days. Students will play a role in our announcements this year. The *How We Communicate* series is launching soon to strengthen clarity and transparency for families about how and when they'll hear from us. The *Meet the*

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Superintendent: Fall Edition events have been wonderful. Thank you to all who joined *Pizza and Priorities*—and providing invaluable insights. More opportunities ahead, including *Trunk or Treat* on October 22, *Tailgate with the Team* on October 24, and the *Special Education Listening Lab* on November 12.

Thank you to the Foundation for Saline Area Schools for hosting the FSAS Hall of Fame event and celebrating our outstanding alumni. Encourage everyone to attend the FSAS Fall Luncheon on October 22 and the SHS STEAM Center tour that follows. This will be held in the HS Auxiliary gym.

Student Representative (Hayes): Welcome to the AP Gov students who are in attendance. Fall sports are coming to a close. Encourage students to sign up for winter sports. Congratulations to the Salinian Yearbook staff which earned a Spartan Award for “All Things Considered”, one of only 6 national honors, showcasing it as a model for award winning HS yearbook. Events coming up include the Craft Show on November 8th, and the Connecting Program will present at the 10/28 Board Meeting.

Citizens for a Quality Community (McVey/Hanson): Next meeting on Thursday, October 16th.

Chamber of Commerce (Austin): Upcoming community events: “Ignite your Leadership” on Thursday, October 30th at the EHM Building. Also on November 11th “Building Business Relationships”, the 50th holiday parade at 5 pm on December 6th.

Foundation for Saline Area Schools (Steben): Attended the Saline Alumni Get together at Dan’s on Oct. 9th. Congratulations on a successful Hall of Fame event and congratulations to all the recipients. Other events include: FSAS fall fundraiser on Oct 22 at HS Aux Gym, Dec 6th Holiday Parade, and Feb 20th Spring Fundraiser at Webers featuring dueling pianos. There is \$100K of grant monies available.

Board Associations (McVey): WASB represents nine districts. Will be attending a deep dive into School Finance and also an AI session in March. Also serve on the MASB Government Relations committee. Listed to Jennifer Smith MASB News from the Capital on the finalized state budget.

Sex Education Advisory Board (Gold): Discussed the Be Safe program and implementation barriers. Reviewed rollout of the elementary and middle school curriculum.. Reviewed potential HS curriculum which will be presented to the board for review.

DEI Advisory Committee (McVey/Gold): No recent meeting. 11 new members to the DEIAC

Wellness (Berwick): no report

City of Saline (McVey/Steben): Waiting to meet with new City Manager, Dan Swallow.

CARES (Berwick): CARES meeting on October 15th to review Round 1 of grant submissions.

Miscellaneous: (Vice President Steben) Acknowledgement of the recent passing of 2023 SHS graduate Riley Behrman.

9. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Board Finance Committee Update

Facilitator: Tim Austin, Chair

The Finance Committee met before the board meeting. Per-Pupil Funding Discussion. The exact dollar amount is still uncertain. Initial projection of \$455 increase per pupil may be closed to \$200 per student after adjustments, still reflecting an increase.

B. Policy Committee: 1st Reading

Facilitator: Lauren Gold, Chair

Policy 7440.01 - Video Surveillance and Electronic Monitoring (Neola Update)
Move to 2nd reading (potential action item)

Reviewed Neola update to Policy 7440.01. Red and green markings indicate changes. Trustees can email the Policy Chair with any additional questions. Mostly updates to language regarding video monitoring and student privacy with an emphasis on balancing safety with privacy concerns. 2nd reading at the October 28, 2025 Board Meeting.

C. Thrun Policy Service Discussion

Facilitator: Michael McVey, President

The board is being asked to move the district's policy service from Neola to Thrun. There have been discussions and policy committee reviews about this over the past year. The last transition in policy service from MASB to Neola took place in 2017. Thrun is already the district counsel of record which offers benefit to using their policy service. A review of the timeline was discussed. It was also suggested that Board members could reach out to districts which have switched from Neola to Thrun for additional insights into the transition process. The board will evaluate which system best fits district needs.

Comparison costs will be compiled and documents relevant to the discussion making process will be sent to board members in preparation for the next meeting and further discussion.

10. CONSENT AGENDA

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

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

- A. **Approval** of the Regular Board of Education Meeting Minutes of September 30, 2025
- B. **Approval** of the Board Policy Committee Meeting Minutes of September 30, 2025
- C. **Approval of Payment** of the General Fund Accounts Payable of October 14, 2025, in the amount of \$4,614,703.70
- D. **Approval of Payment** of the 2021 Bond Fund Series III Accounts Payable of October 14, 2025 in the amount of \$2,564.18
- E. **Approval of Payment** of 2023 Bond Fund Series I Accounts Payable of October 14, 2025, in the amount of \$120,415.87
- F. **Approval of Payment** of 2025 Bond Fund Series II Accounts Payable of October 14, 2025, in the amount of \$77,902.48
- G. **Receive and File** Human Resources Reports

- H. Approve the updates to Policy 8330 - Student Records

CLOSING

11. **ITEMS SCHEDULED ON NEXT AGENDA**

Transition Plan from the Superintendent

12. **PUBLIC COMMENT** - None

13. **NEXT MEETING**

The next Board of Education Meeting will be held on October 16, 2025, at 5 PM for the purpose of a Board Retreat.

14. **CLOSED SESSION**

MOTION made by Secretary Berwick, support Treasurer Austin to enter Closed Session of the Board of Education at 8:10 pm, with the intent to re-enter Open Session at approximately 9:10 pm, for the purpose of Superintendent Evaluation Section 8(a). Under Section 8(a) a simple majority vote is sufficient to enter into a closed session.

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

15. **ADJOURNMENT**

MOTION made by Trustee Gold, support Trustee Hanson to adjourn the Regular Board of Education Meeting of October 14, 2025 at 9:13 PM.

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

Respectfully submitted,



Darcy Berwick
Board Secretary

Recorded by: Betty Jahnke