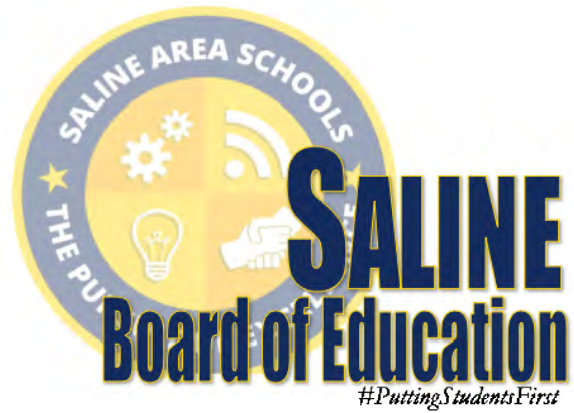


Board of Education Meeting

Liberty School Board Room
October 22, 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 at 6:30 pm by Vice President Steben. (late arrival by President McVey)

Board Members Present: Tim Austin, Susan Estep, Brad Gerbe, Lauren Gold, Michael McVey (8 pm arrival) Jennifer Miller and Jennifer Steben

Central Administration Present: Superintendent Laatsch, Assistant Superintendent's Diglio & Owsley, Executive Directors Clary, Martin & Voelker

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. SUPERINTENDENT RECOGNITION

Saline HS Semifinalists for the 2025 National Merit Scholarship

William Hong, Weiran Jiang, Daniel Lemmerhirt, Leah Mueller, Adrian Sieb, Caleb Summers

Recognition of this year's Saline HS semi-finalists for the 2025 National Merit Scholarship. To be considered for the scholarship award, semifinalists must fulfill several criteria to advance including a detailed application, information on their academic record, participation in school and community activities, acknowledged leadership abilities, employment honors and awards, as well as a written essay and scores on the SAT.

4. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

STUDENTS

Munya Elawar, SHS Student, UpRoar - spoke in support of all LGBTQ+ students, educators, and staff within the district.

OTHER PUBLIC STAKEHOLDERS -

Melissa Johnson, Parent - spoke in regards to the MHSAA appeal and football parent group requesting a third-party investigation.

5. **RESPONSE TO PREVIOUS PUBLIC COMMENT**

AGENDA

6. **REVISIONS/APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

MOTION made by Secretary Miller, support Trustee Gold **to approve the agenda as revised** (*removing 7. Student Showcase which will be rescheduled for a later date*).

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

7. **STUDENT SHOWCASE**

Miss Saline Scholarship Pageant (RESCHEDEULED for a later date)
Presenter: Elizabeth (Lizzic) White Miss Saline 2024

8. **ACTION ITEMS**

A. **MOTION** made by Treasurer Gerbe, support Trustee Gold **to approve the minutes from both the October 3 and 8, 2024 closed sessions under 8(a) and 8(h) of the Open Meetings Act for both the purpose of Discussion of Personnel Matters and Student Discipline.**

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

B. **MOTION** made by Treasurer Gerbe, support Trustee Estep **to approve the purchase of three (3) Model Year 2025 Phase 2 IC SK Salty Electric 77 Passenger Extended Battery School Buses at a cost of \$1,239,258.00 from Midwest Transit as recommended by Rex Clary, Executive Director of Operations.** This purchase is through the MSBO Cooperative bus purchase program.

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

9. **SCHEDULED REPORTS**

A. **Bond Update**

Presenter: Rex Clary, Executive Director of Operations

This presentation provided the Board a review of projects completed or in progress under Phase 1 of the Bond. The Hornet Operation Center is expected to be completed by mid-November with an open house scheduled the week of November 18th. The HS STEAM center is well underway. This will house STEAM spaces including robotics, science and performance spaces. This space in addition to the new HS weight room should be complete in August 2025. The HS will also undergo other construction next summer which includes solar integrated roofing. The Liberty Recreation Complex is currently in the construction documentary phase. This complex will feature a front connector with a stoplight on Maple Rd. Parking lots will be expanded and reconfigured in addition to expanded pathways around and through the new complex. This complex will also include pickleball and tennis courts as well as four natural grass baseball fields. Crabtree field will be relocated closer to the MS. Construction on the Liberty Recreation Complex will begin in May 2025. Renovations at the MS will also include the creation of more innovative inclusive learning environments and updates to the senior center. In the old operations area will be robotics, STEAM, multimedia and special education. In addition the cosmetology program will be relocated to the MS as well near the senior center.

10. **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

SEAB Proposed 4th through 8th Grade Curriculum

Facilitator: President Michael McVey

Background: The Sex Education Advisory Board (SEAB) has thoroughly reviewed the curriculum from Positive Prevention Plus for appropriateness, alignment with educational standards, and responsiveness to the needs of students in grades 4 through 8. The SEAB co-chairs also sought feedback from school staff, conducting surveys to gauge comfort levels with various aspects of the curriculum. Based on this feedback, the co-chairs have made some adjustments to ensure some staff concerns are addressed while maintaining the integrity of the curriculum's educational goals and SEAB recommendations.

Cameron Cochran and Kristen Hoffman-Peavler reviewed the feedback from community, teachers and students with the board and recommended 2 areas of the curriculum be removed. Also the SEAB does recommend mixed-gender classrooms and cited the benefits for this recommendation. The hope is that the Board will consider a vote on the curriculum at the November meeting adopting the modified curriculum as presented. It has been 25 years since the adoption of the last sex ed curriculum for this age group.

11. **ADMINISTRATION / BOARD UPDATES**

Superintendent Laatsch: No report

Student Representatives: Thank you Mr. Clary for all the project updates. Excited about the construction updates and the renovation of the tennis courts which are in poor condition. Thank you and congratulations to the National Merit Scholars and thank you to UpRoar for their comment this evening.

Trustee Austin: Reminder of the importance of voting and supporting the special education millage.

Trustee Estep: October is LGBTQ History Month which was started back in 1994. Support the special education millage.

Secretary Miller: Support for the special education millage. Recognition of Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Also acknowledgement of Mental Health Awareness Month.

President McVey: Last Monday I attended the Legislative Priorities meeting in Livingston County. Will be attending the MASB Annual Leadership Conference this coming weekend.

Vice President Steben: Support for the special education millage. Was disappointed with the appeal being denied. Hope to see continued improvement in this process. Wish the football team good luck this coming weekend. We are listening to the Girls Lacrosse parents and team. I have requested a standing board committee to support Athletics.

Treasurer Gerbe: I think there was value going through the appeal process. Wishing the team continued success. Congratulations to the National Merit Scholars. Shoutout to Tim Austin and his team at A&H for their supporting efforts after the devastation in North Carolina. Acknowledgement to Bus Safety Week and Breast Cancer Awareness. Soccer regionals are taking place this evening. Good luck. Thank you for supporting the special education millage. Grateful for the opportunity to run again for a Board seat.

Trustee Gold: Michigan Education Association site is great for learning about issues and endorsements for candidates.

12. CONSENT AGENDA

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

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

- A. Approval of the Board of Education Meeting Minutes of October 8, 2024
- B. Approval of the Board Special Meeting Minutes of October 3, 2024
- C. Approval of Payment of the General Fund Accounts Payable of October 22, 2024, in the amount of \$4,353,130.08

- D. **Approval of Payment** of Bond Series III Accounts Payable of October 22, 2024, in the amount of \$3,770.00
- E. **Approval of Payment** of 2023 Bond Fund Series I Accounts Payable of October 22, 2024 in the amount of \$970,603.39
- F. **Receive and File** Finance and Human Resources Reports

CLOSING

13. **ITEMS SCHEDULED ON THE NEXT AGENDA**

Hiring Process Report

14. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

STUDENTS - None

OTHER PUBLIC STAKEHOLDERS

Kristen Driver, Parent - spoke regarding Athletics and concerns of parents not being addressed

Suzanne Atzinger, Previous Parent - spoke regarding SEAB curriculum process

Marcy Goyette, 5th Grade Teacher - spoke regarding SEAB curriculum process and teacher feedback

Julie Kelly, 5th Grade Teacher - spoke regarding SEAB curriculum process and teacher feedback

Becky Bendes, Teacher - spoke regarding SEAB curriculum process and teacher feedback

Amy Tesolin, Parent - spoke in support to the football families and students, need to fix systemic issues

Tiffanie Alexander, Parent - thank you to Trustees Estep & Gold, here in support to the football families, supports an independent investigation

Raelyn Davis, Parent - spoke regarding SEAB curriculum process

Tammi Carr, Parent - shared an experience from the prior evening meeting

Jen McPherson, Parent - spoke in support of the football coaching staff and the impact on the players

15. **NEXT MEETING**

The next Board of Education Meeting will be held on November 12, 2024, at 6:30 PM

16. **CLOSED SESSION**

MOTION made Vice President, support Trustee Gerbe **to enter Closed Session of the Board of Education at 9:12 pm, with the intent to re-enter Open Session at approximately 10 pm for the purpose of discussion of items covered under Section 8 (1)(h) materials exempt from discussion or disclosure by state or federal statute. Under Section 8(1)(h) a two-thirds roll call vote is required to convene into closed session.**

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes - Austin, Estep, Gerbe, Gold, McVey, Miller and Steben

MOTION CARRIED 7-0

MOTION made Secretary Miller,, support Trustee Estep **to enter Closed Session of the Board of Education immediately following the first Closed Session with the intent to re-enter Open Session at approximately 10 pm for the purpose of discussion of items covered under Section 8(1)(a) to consider the dismissal, suspension, or disciplining of, or to hear complaints or charges brought against, or to consider a periodic personnel evaluation of, a public officer, employee, staff member, or individual agent, if the named person requests a closed hearing.** Under Section 8(1)(a) a simple majority vote is required to convene into closed session.

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

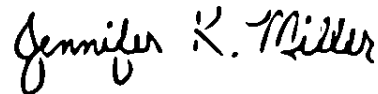
MOTION made by Treasurer Gerbe, support Vice President Steben **to authorize the Board of Education president to facilitate continued MHSAA appeal procedures, to engage legal counsel to review all facets of possible appealable issues, and to further review District eligibility and enrollment processes.**

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

17. **ADJOURNMENT**

Without objection, the meeting of the Regular Board of Education Meeting of October 22, 2024, was adjourned at 1:19 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Jennifer Miller
Board Secretary

Recorded by Betty Jabnke