

Board of Education Meeting

Liberty School Board Room

November 11, 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 Saline Board of Education Meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm by President Michael McVey.

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

Board Members Absent: Tim Austin & Jennifer Steben

Central Administration Present: Superintendent Kowalski, Assistant Superintendent's Baaki Diglio and Owsley, Executive Directors

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. PUBLIC COMMENT - None

4. RESPONSE TO PREVIOUS PUBLIC COMMENT

AGENDA

5. REVISIONS/APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION was made by Secretary Berwick, support Trustee Gold **to approve the agenda as printed.**

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

6. STUDENT SHOWCASE

Veteran's Day Presentation

Presenters: Students from Woodland Meadows

Principal Laura Washington emphasized the day's significance and highlighted photos from past Veterans Day activities that take place at Woodland Meadows dating back to 2014. This year the students at WM performed for about 40 Veterans at their school in addition to performing at Linden Square. They shared some of their music selections with all those in attendance at the Board meeting.

7. ADMINISTRATION AND BOARD COMMITTEE UPDATES

Superintendent (Kowalski)

Schools throughout the district are wrapping up the 1st trimester and preparing for the start of the 2nd trimester. Thank you to WM and acknowledgement of our community veterans. Thank you to the community and county for voting in the CTE millage. This will have positive outcomes for all students K-12. Reminder about the upcoming performance of Little Women by the SHS Drama Club. Board members participated in voting for SACC Holiday Parade student poems and artwork. Donation boxes are located throughout the district to collect toys and coats for members of the community in need. Saline Middle Schools recent food drive collected over 870 lbs of food for Saline Area Social Services. The HS Key Club also organized food baskets for local families. We are currently transitioning from fall to winter sports. Members of the Chamber Choir were among eight Michigan Choirs that performed for the MSU Choral Invitational. Tomorrow there is a meet and greet with SEAC (Special Ed Advisory Committee) at Heritage. This begins at 6 pm.

Student Representative (Hayes)

Woodland Meadows students recently donated 3000 lbs of food to Saline Area Social Services. Reminder about upcoming exams and the Little Women performances at the high school.

Citizens for a Quality Community (McVey/Hanson) - no report

Chamber of Commerce (Austin) - no report

Foundation for Saline Area Schools (Steben) - no report

Board Associations (McVey) - no report

Sex Education Advisory Board (Gold) - Next meeting possibly in early December

DEI Advisory Committee (McVey/Gold) - Next meeting November 19th

Wellness (Berwick) - no report

City of Saline (McVey/Steben) - no report

CARES (Berwick) - Next meeting December 4th

Miscellaneous

8. SCHEDULED REPORT

a. Audit Report

Presenter: Plante Moran, Jeff Higgins, Partner

Audit Opinion: Unqualified (Clean) opinion - highest assurance level. A clear audit indicates that the district's financial statements are free of material misstatement and comply with applicable standards, confirming the reliability of the subsequent financial data.

Revenue Breakdown (FY 2025)

- Total Revenue: \$78.6 million
- State Sources ($\approx 70\%$): \$54 million
- Federal Revenue (special education, etc.): \$1.6 million
- Local Revenue (property taxes): \$9 million

Expenditure Breakdown (FY 2025)

- Total Expenditures: \$73.9 million
- Salaries & Benefits: \approx \$64 million ($\approx 87\%$ of total)
- Supplies & Other: \$9.5 million ($\approx 13\%$)
- Miscellaneous: $< 1\%$

Net Fund Balance Change

- **Revenue – Expenditures = +\$4.9 million** → added to fund balance.
- Positive net income recorded **each year since 2019** (with pandemic-related fluctuations).

9. ACTION ITEMS

- A. MOTION** made by Trustee Tizedes, support Secretary Berwick **to accept the Audit Report as presented and submitted by Assistant Superintendent Miranda Owsley.**

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

- B. MOTION** made by Secretary Berwick, support Trustee Gold **to adopt the Annual Summer Tax Resolution as submitted by Assistant Superintendent Miranda Owsley.**

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

- C. MOTION** made by Trustee Tizedes, support Secretary Berwick **to award Monroe Heating and Cooling Co. a contract in the amount of \$381,500.00 plus a 10% contingency for the District-wide Filter First Fixture Replacement as recommended by Lecole Planners and submitted by Rex Clary, Executive Director of Operations.**

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

10. DISCUSSION ITEMS

- A. 2026 Board Calendar Discussion**

Facilitator: President McVey

Discussion to put back a 2nd meeting in March since it will not be affected by the 2026 Spring Break calendar. Also changing the first August BOE meeting to the 1st Tuesday in order to approve as many new hires as possible prior to the District/HR Onboarding which likely occurs the 2nd week in August. Changes will be indicated and presented at the next meeting for approval through the consent agenda.

B. Policy Committee Meeting Update

Facilitator: Lauren Gold, Chair

This meeting was held with attorneys from Thrun Law Policy Service so that members of the policy committee could participate in a discussion regarding the changeover to utilizing Thrun Policy Service. It was recommended that committee members could look at other Michigan districts who had recently changed over from Neola to Thrun, locally including Chelsea, Dexter and Milan and other districts like Forest Hills and Grand Rapids. The key objectives are to align district policies with Michigan law, streamline the administration of the policies and in keeping policies student-centered. Most of the discussion was around the incorporation of bespoke policies.

Next steps: A discussion item will be placed on the December board meeting agenda for full board discussion and consideration.

11. CONSENT AGENDA

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

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

- A. **Approval** of the Regular Board of Education Meeting Minutes of October 28, 2025
- B. **Approval** of the Board Policy Committee Meeting Minutes of October 28, 2025
- C. **Approval** of the Board of Education Retreat Minutes of October 16, 2025
- D. **Approval of Payment** of the General Fund Accounts Payable of November 11, 2025, in the amount of \$2,575,952.21
- E. **Approval of Payment** of 2025 Bond Fund Series II Accounts Payable of November 11, 2025, in the amount of \$330,554.63
- F. **Receive and File** Finance and Human Resources Reports

CLOSING

12. ITEMS SCHEDULED ON NEXT AGENDA

*Board of Education Meeting Agenda
November 11, 2025*

Action Items related to the Bond
Special Music
Possible SEAB Public Hearing
Approval of New HS Courses
Evaluation (Closed Session)

13. PUBLIC COMMENT - None

14. NEXT MEETING

The next Board of Education Meeting will be held on December 9, 2025, at 6:30 pm.

15. MOTION made by Trustee Tizedes, support Trustee Hanson **to enter Closed Session of the Board of Education at 7:30 PM, with the intent to re-enter Open Session at approximately 8 PM, for the purpose of the school board to review attorney client privileged communication pursuant to Section 8(h) of the Michigan Open Meetings Act. Under Section 8(h) a 2/3 roll call vote of members elected or appointed and serving is required.**

Ayes: Hanson, Gold, Berwick, Tizedes, McVey

Absent: Austin & Steben

16. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION made by Trustee Tizedes, support Trustee Hanson **to adjourn the Regular Board of Education Meeting of November 11, 2025 at 7:46 PM.**

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

Respectfully submitted,



Darcy Berwick
Board Secretary

Recorded by: Betty Jahnke