

Board of Education Meeting

Liberty School Board Room

January 13, 2026, 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

Organizational Meeting of January 13, 2026

1. CALL TO ORDER of the Organizational Meeting of January 13, 2026

The Board of Education Organizational Meeting of January 13, 2026 was called to order by President Michael McVey at 6:30pm

Board Members Present: Treasurer Tim Austin, Secretary Darcy Berwick, Trustee Nate Hanson, Trustee Lauren Gold, President Michael McVey, Trustee Tizedes, Vice President Jennifer Steben

Central Administration Present: Superintendent Rachel Kowalski, Assistant Superintendent Carol Diglio, Directors Cleary, Davis, and Owsley

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. ACTION ITEMS

- A. **MOTION** made by Vice President Steben, support Trustee Gold, **that the Board of Education elect Secretary Darcy Berwick to act as temporary chairperson who will serve until such time as a president is elected per Policy 0151**

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

- B. Election of Board Officers

1. President

Board of Education Meeting Minutes
January 13, 2026

Trustee Michael McVey nominates Trustee Tim Austin

Vote 7-0

2026 Board President will be Tim Austin

2. Vice President

President Austin nominates Trustee Jennifer Steben

Trustee McVey nominates Trustee Lauren Gold; Lauren Gold declines the nomination

Vote 7-0

2026 Board Vice President will be Jennifer Steben

3. Secretary

Trustee McVey nominates Darcy Berwick

Vote 7-0

2026 Board Secretary will be Darcy Berwick

4. Treasurer

Trustee Tizedes nominates Trustee McVey

Vote 7-0

2026 Board Treasurer will be Michael McVey

4. **ADJOURNMENT** of the Organizational Meeting of January 13, 2026

MOTION by Treasurer McVey, support Secretary Berwick, **to adjourn the Organizational Meeting of January 13, 2026, at 6:39pm**

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

Regular Board of Education Meeting of January 13, 2026

5. **CALL TO ORDER**

The Regular Board of Education Meeting of January 13, 2026 was called to order by President Tim Austin at 6:41pm

Board Members Present: President Tim Austin, Secretary Darcy Berwick, Trustee Nate Hanson, Trustee Lauren Gold, Treasurer Michael McVey, Trustee Jason Tizedes, Vice President Jennifer Steben

Central Administration Present: Superintendent Rachel Kowalski, Assistant Superintendent Carol Diglio, Directors Rex Cleary, Kara Davis, Miranda Owsley

6. **PUBLIC COMMENT - None**

7. **RESPONSE TO PUBLIC COMMENT** - None

AGENDA

8. **REVISIONS/APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

MOTION made by Vice President Steben, support Secretary Berwick, **to revise the agenda to add a Discussion item regarding committees and to swap ACTION ITEMS A and E**

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

9. **ADMINISTRATION AND BOARD COMMITTEE UPDATES**

Superintendent Update: Superintendent Kowalski recapped the district's first snow day and noted that students are moving forward positively with their education and activities. Secondary parents should look for a survey soon regarding alternative programming. Pleasant Ridge hosted an incredible wax museum highlighting several different types of historical people. There is no school on Monday, MLK Jr. Day, although she will be participating in a local service opportunity along with community members. January is Board appreciation month and there will be a small gathering before the next Board meeting. Many thanks to Michael McVey for his assistance with her transition into this new role as Superintendent and welcome to Tim Austin as the new Board President.

Citizens for a Quality Community: Treasurer McVey noted that the next meeting will occur on January 22nd.

Chamber of Commerce: President Austin had nothing to report.

Foundation for Saline Area Schools: Vice President Steben stated that the Dueling Pianos fundraising event is coming on February 20th at Weber's Inn. She additionally noted that elementary open houses will continue as planned and Superintendent Kowalski confirmed that the district will be hosting a Saline Resource Fair on February 5th to welcome community families and prospective schools of choice families. The Foundation's fundraising has increased since last year and there is money left for grants!

Board Associations: Treasurer McVey stated that the next meeting is an organizational one on January 22nd and the Legislative Breakfast will be on January 26th.

Sex Education Advisory Board (SEAB): Trustee Gold reported that the SEAB Advisors will be presenting at the next Board Meeting on January 27th for their first legally required public hearing. The second hearing has yet to be scheduled. The curriculum being presented is Rights, Responsibilities, and Respect. She also thanked Michael McVey for his time spent as President of the Board.

Board of Education Meeting Minutes
January 13, 2026

DEI Advisory Committee: Treasurer McVey and Trustee Gold said that the next meeting is January 28th and they will be working on their three-year vision.

Wellness: Secretary Berwick noted that there were no updates.

CARES: Secretary Berwick reported that the submission for grants is approaching and the CARES committee will meet in February to discuss.

City of Saline: Treasurer McVey noted that they have not met yet since the new councilmembers were inducted. He's hoping to get a charter going in partnership with the City.

9. ACTION ITEMS

- A. **MOTION** by Vice President Steben, support Trustee Tizides, **to approve the purchase amount of \$435,812.59 for a new building access control system from Sentinel Technologies as submitted by Jay Grossman, Director of Technology. This system will replace our current access controls in all buildings and includes the installation cost as well.**

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

- B. **MOTION** by Trustee Nate Hanson, support Trustee Tizides, **to approve the new course titled Sports Performance to be added to the 26/27 Saline HS Course Catalog as submitted by Kara Davis, Executive Director of Teaching & Learning.**

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

- C. **MOTION** by Secretary Berwick, support Vice President Steben, **to approve the appointments of Miranda Owsley, Jackie Martin, and Sarah Gallagher for the Local Access Cable Television Board as submitted by Superintendent Kowalski.**

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

- D. **MOTION** by Treasurer McVey, support President Austin, **to approve the recommendation of Clark Construction in conjunction with Saline Area Schools and Kingscott to enter into contracts with each trade contractor as listed below for the total amount of \$6,551,758.00 as submitted by Rex Clary, Executive Director of Operations:**

Blue Star - \$109,000

Carpentry Concepts - \$285,000

Simone Constr - \$220,450

Navetta Mason Contractors - \$506,000

Board of Education Meeting Minutes
January 13, 2026

Zak Welding & Custom Work - \$183,300
Carpentry Concepts - \$769,400
CEI Michigan - \$449,640
J.D. Candler Roofing Co - \$87,500
Butcher & Butcher Constr - \$397,942
Carpentry Concepts - \$173,900
DF Floor Covering - \$85,429
Artistic Tile & Stone - \$27,000
Conci Painting - \$46,550
Professional Sprinkler - \$165,980
Adrian Mechanical Services - \$346,000
Monroe Plumbing & Heating - \$1,322,600
Verdeterre Contracting - \$549,669
Construction Contingency (7%) - \$578,129 (Clark Construction)
Construction Field GC's (3%) - \$247,770 (Clark Construction)
Total - \$6,551,758.00

- E. **MOTION** by Treasurer McVey, support Secretary Berwick, **to appoint Betty Jahnke as the Board's Recording Secretary, Darcy Berwick as the Board Secretary, and Superintendent Rachel Kowalski to serve as the Board's designees for posting legal notices.**

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

- F. **MOTION** by President Austin, support Trustee Tizides, **to approve the closed session minutes of December 9, 2025 for the purpose of Superintendent Evaluation Section 8(a).**

Ayes - All Present - **MOTION CARRIED 6-0** (Steben abstained)

11. DISCUSSION

President Austin discussed adding a couple of committees and potentially decreasing Board participation in others. He will assign people to Finance and Policy right away.

12. CONSENT AGENDA

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

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

*Board of Education Meeting Minutes
January 13, 2026*

- A. Approval of the Regular Board of Education Meeting Minutes of December 9, 2025
- B. Approval of Payment of the General Fund Accounts Payable of January 13, 2026, in the amount of \$5,580,894.65
- C. Approval of Payment of Bond Series III Accounts Payable of January 13, 2026, in the amount of \$526,708.20
- D. Approval of Payment of 2025 Bond Fund Series II Accounts Payable of January 13, 2026, in the amount of \$3,419,181.92
- E. Receive and File Finance and Human Resources Reports

CLOSING

13. ITEMS SCHEDULED ON NEXT AGENDA

Pleasant Ridge Student Showcase
Reception & Recognition of Board of Education Month
SEAB Public Hearing #1 (proposed updates to High School Adolescent Health Program)

14. NEXT MEETING

The next Board of Education Meeting will be held on January 27, 2026, at 6:30pm

15. PUBLIC COMMENT - None

16. CLOSED SESSION

MOTION by Vice President Steben, support Trustee Hanson, **to enter Closed Session of the Board of Education at 7:15pm with the intent to re-enter Open Session at 7:45pm, for the purpose of Collective Bargaining 8(c) of the Open Meetings Act. Under Section 8(c) a simple majority vote is sufficient to enter into a closed session.**

(Central Administration joining this Closed Session will be: Superintendent Rachel Kowalski, Assistant Superintendent Carol Diglio, Assistant Superintendent Miranda Owsley, and Executive Directors Rex Clary).

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

17. RE-ENTER OPEN SESSION

Without objection, President Austin called to re-enter Open Session of the Board of Education meeting at 8:06pm

13. ADJOURNMENT

Board of Education Meeting Minutes

January 13, 2026

MOTION made by Treasurer McVey, support Secretary Berwick, **to adjourn the Board of Education Meeting of January 13, 2026, at 8:08pm**

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

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Darcy Berwick". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending from the end of the name.

Darcy Berwick
Board Secretary

Recorded by: Darcy Berwick