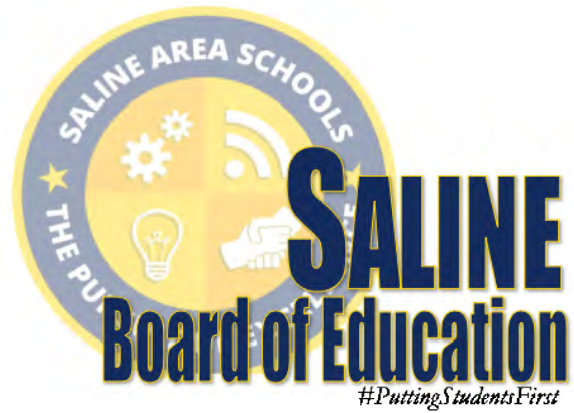


# Board of Education Meeting

Liberty School Board Room  
January 28, 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

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

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

#### 2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

#### 3. SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOGNITION

- **Leigh Ann Roehm**, Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching
- **National School Board Recognition Month**

#### 8. PUBLIC COMMENT

**STUDENTS** - None

#### **OTHER PUBLIC STAKEHOLDERS**

**Kim Jasper, MS Principal** - representing SASSA, expressed gratitude for the Board's support of students and staff.

#### 9. RESPONSE TO PREVIOUS PUBLIC COMMENT

**AGENDA**

**10. REVISIONS/APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**MOTION** made by Treasurer Gerbe, support Trustee Austin **to approve the agenda as printed.**

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

**11. STUDENT SHOWCASE**

**Miss Saline Pageant Scholarship**

*Presenters: Lizzie White-Miss Saline 2024, Madylin Marshall-1st Runner-Up, Julianna Marini-2nd Runner Up  
Advisor: Kimberly Bryant*

Lizzie White is the 76th recipient of the Miss Saline pageant award. This organization provides an incredible opportunity for young women to compete for scholarships, strongly emphasizing community service and ambassadorship. This isn't a beauty contest, but about young women exhibiting community involvement, leadership and personal growth qualities. The 2024 winners are Miss Saline - Lizzie White, First Runner Up - Madylin Marshall and Second Runner Up - Julianna Marini. Lizzie thanked many of the community sponsors including Katherine Kelly Orthodontics, Renew Salon and Spa, Heidi McClelland Photography, Still Waters Counseling, the Coy Family, Brewed Awakenings and Kim Bryant. Judges for this year's contest were Amanda Coy, Brittany Bryant, Jeffrey McLaughlin, Mayor Brian Marl and Julie Picknell. Miss Saline and her court are very involved in both school and community events throughout the year. The pageant aims to foster strong family bonds and positive community impact. There are also 2 significant fundraisers, Toys for Tots which collected over 1200 toys to donate over the holiday season and the Valentine's Day fundraisers, currently ongoing, benefiting Elle's Place.

**12. ACTION ITEMS**

**A. MOTION** made by Vice President Steben, support Trustee Gold **to approve the revised closed session minutes of January 14, 2025 for the purpose of Complaints and Disciplinary Action 8(a) and Collective Bargaining 8(c).**

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

**13. DISCUSSION ITEMS**

**A. Report from ad hoc committee on Superintendent Search Firms**

Facilitator: President McVey

Saline Area Schools Superintendent Steve Laatsch will be retiring at the end of this school year, effective July 1, 2025. Three search firms are being interviewed this evening. Each firm has 20 minutes for a presentation including questions from the Board.

1. **Ray & Associates**, Sheila Alles, Regional Search Associate & Kathy Schoenfelder, Coordinator of Leadership Acquisitions
2. **Michigan Leadership Institute** (MLI) John Silveri, Regional President
3. **Michigan Association of School Boards** (MASB) Jay Bennett, Assistant Director of Executive Search Services

Each potential search partner spoke to the board regarding their search process, highlighting their firms experience, networking and commitment to ensure a smooth and transparent process. Areas included in their presentation addressed timeline, recruitment process, vetting and screening, candidate evaluation, how input is gathered, creating compensation packages, creating a superintendent profile, stakeholder meetings, site visits and post search supports.

**MOTION** made by Vice President Steben, support by Trustee Tizedes **to choose Michigan Association of Schools Boards (MASB) as the superintendent search partner.**

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

B. **Committee Assignments**

Facilitator: President McVey

**Confirmed 2025 Committee Assignments:**

Policy: Chair Lauren Gold, Darcy Berwick, Michael McVey

Finance: Chair Brad Gerbe, Tim Austin, Jason Tizedes

Evaluation & Compensation: Brad Gerbe, Jennifer Steben, Jason Tizedes

Grievance: Brad Gerbe, Michael McVey, Jennifer Steben

Citizens for a Quality Community: Darcy Berwick

Chamber of Commerce: Tim Austin

Foundation for Saline Area Schools: Jennifer Steben

Board Associations: Michael McVey

Sex Education Advisory Board: Lauren Gold, TBA

DEI Advisory Committee: Lauren Gold, Michael McVey

Wellness Committee: Darcy Berwick

City of Saline: Michael McVey

CARES: Darcy Berwick

14. **ADMINISTRATION / BOARD UPDATES**

**Superintendent Laatsch:** Spoke regarding immigration and student support. The district is actively monitoring national messaging concerning immigration and working with safety, security and legal teams to protect student privacy. The district does not collect immigration or citizenship status during enrollment. Protocols and resources are being provided to staff to address potential situations. The

Executive Order on gender ideology does not necessitate immediate action, and the district continues to uphold its transgender and gender non-conforming student policy.

**Student Representatives:** The Polar Plunge event is scheduled for February 19th during Hornet time at the HS. Funds raised support the Special Olympics.

**Trustee Austin:** Shout out to Clark Construction. Lots of progress is being made on the STEAM center and weight room at the HS. This will have such a positive impact for our Robotics teams. Acknowledgement of the retirement of Nate Lampman after many years of service to our students and music department. He has impacted many lives in such a positive way during his tenure.

**Treasurer Gerbe:** Congratulations to Leigh Ann Roehm on her award. Thank you to Miss Saline and her court for their leadership and positive impact on the community and our students. Appreciation for Board Appreciation gifts. Impressed by the tour of the STEAM and weight room at the HS and the anticipation of this space as a venue for major events enhancing Saline's image as a destination for large competitions.

**Secretary Berwick:** Enjoyed the tour of the new STEAM center and weight room at the HS. Excited for the positive impact this will have on the Robotics teams and Science Olympiad. Thank you to the Miss Saline Court for their work and emphasizing the significance of the program beyond the pageant aspect. The link is live for the 2025 application process.

**Vice President Steben:** Enjoyed the tour of the new STEAM center and weight room. Also thank you to the voters who support this bond. The HS is such a positive center of this community and it's exciting to see so much activity going on there both in the evenings and on weekends. Excited for the growth.

**Trustee Gold:** Enjoyed the tour of the new STEAM center and weight room. Grateful for the Board Recognition gifts. Acknowledgement to MLK Jr. Day.

**Trustee Tizedes:** Enjoyed the tour of the new STEAM center and weight room. Acknowledgement to those community members who give back to the school community as coaches and teachers. Expressed appreciation to his board constituents and the impact they have had on him personally.

15. **CONSENT AGENDA**

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

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

- A. **Approval** of the Organizational & Regular Board of Education Meeting Minutes of January 14, 2025
- B. **Approval of Payment** of the General Fund Accounts Payable of January 28, 2025, in the

amount of \$1,271,783.45

- C. **Approval of Payment** of 2023 Bond Fund Series I Accounts Payable of January 28, 2025, in the amount of \$2,272,424.18
- D. **Receive and File** Human Resources Report

<b>CLOSING</b>
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16. **ITEMS SCHEDULED ON THE NEXT AGENDA**

SWWC/CTE Update - Countywide Expansion

17. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

STUDENTS - None

OTHER PUBLIC STAKEHOLDERS - None

18. **NEXT MEETING**

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

21. **ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION** made by Vice President Steben, support Trustee Austin **to adjourn the Regular Board of Education Meeting of January 28, 2025, at 9:36 PM.**

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

Respectfully submitted,



Darcy Berwick  
Board Secretary

Recorded by: Betty Jahnke