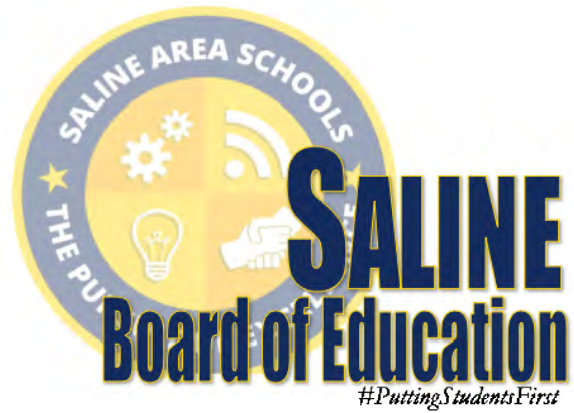


# Board of Education Meeting

Liberty School Board Room  
February 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 Board of Education meeting was called to order by President Michael McVey at 6:30 pm.

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

**Central Administration Present:** Superintendent Laatsch, Assistant Superintendents Diglio & Owsley, Executive Directors Clary, Davis, Martin and Voelker

#### 2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

#### 3. SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOGNITION

**Hunter Easton & Grace Roth**, 2025 Scholar-Athlete Award Finalists

The MHSAA Farm Bureau Insurance Scholar-Athlete Award is in its 36th year and honors the best student-athletes in Michigan. Scholarships are based on achievement and leadership in athletics and activities, as well as responses to short answer and essay questions. One of the most prestigious honors of the MHSAA annual awards.

#### 4. PUBLIC COMMENT

**STUDENTS - None**

**OTHER PUBLIC STAKEHOLDERS**

Jessica Hendricks-Pickles, SAS Parent - spoke regarding the Superintendent search process

5. **RESPONSE TO PREVIOUS PUBLIC COMMENT**

<b>AGENDA</b>
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6. **REVISIONS/APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

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

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

7. **SCHEDULED REPORT**

**A. SWWC/CTE Update - Countywide Expansion**

*Presenter: Ryan L. Rowe, Ph.D. / CTE Director & CEPD Administrator - Washtenaw ISD*

Dr. Rowe provided an update on county wide CTE efforts. CTE has been a large focus of the nine county-wide superintendents, along with the workforce development board and post secondary education partners for the last 3-4 years. The primary goal is to provide world-class education for all students in Washtenaw County. CTE is among several opportunities given to students to immerse themselves in real-life, hands-on experiences.

There are issues that have complicated growth such as a decentralized system in the county, transportation and enrollment issues, lack of awareness and early development, funding constraints, and others. A vocational millage was explained, which currently Washtenaw County does not have. A 1 mil vocational millage could generate \$20M.

Efforts led by area superintendents to expand programming have resulted in the addition of 15-20 CTE programs, particularly in computer science, cybersecurity and healthcare. A new countywide program starting in the fall will be Aviation Aerospace.

Next step plans include providing updates to each Board of Education, hosting a community summit on March 18th, polling the community, and a potential decision for a countywide system of implementing and funding in November of 2025.

8. **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

**A. MASB Board of Directors (Region 7)**

Review of Candidates: Guillermo Z. Lopez, Cory McLaughlin, Jack Temsey

**MOTION** made by Trustee Berwick, support Vice President Steben **to cast our collective vote for Jack Temsey to the MASB Board of Directors, representing Region 7.**

**Ayes:** Austin, Berwick, Gerbe, Gold, Steben Tizedes

**Nays:** McVey

**MOTION CARRIED 6-1**

**B. Board Finance Committee Update**

Chair, Brad Gerbe

The Finance Committee met prior to the Board meeting. Brief discussion on bonds and grants. A budget amendment will be put on the agenda for February 25th for Board action. More specific details regarding expenditures/revenues will be discussed at that time. Finance team is focused on foundation allowance and student enrollment. Currently looking at future forecasts and trends as presented by Superintendent Laatsch and Assistant Superintendent Owsley. There is some uncertainty regarding federal funding. Governor Whitmer's proposed budget includes a fairly robust increase in per-pupil funding. The final budget will depend on negotiations between the Governor and the bipartisan legislature.

**9. ADMINISTRATION / BOARD UPDATES**

**Superintendent Laatach:** Under the leadership of the Special Education department, the Unified Sports program is taking off. Great to watch all the students involved. Upcoming game on Friday at the HS.

**Trustee Austin:** Will be attending the Saline Chamber of Commerce "State of our Communities: Legislative Luncheon" on Friday, Feb. 21st. Acknowledgement of Black History Month.

**Treasurer Gerbe:** Expressed appreciation for all the clubs and organizations available to students and the advisors who make them possible.

**Secretary Berwick:** Recently completed 6 CBAs at the virtual MASB Winter Institute February 7-8. Will be attending the CARES Board meeting tomorrow.

**President McVey:** Recently attended the National School Boards Association conference in Washington DC. Much of the conference focused on AI and recent Executive Orders from the White House. Will be participating in the Polar Plunge on February 19th.

**Vice President Steben:** Shoutout to the Competitive Cheer Team. Thank you to Dr. Laatsch for having attended their competition this past weekend. Foundation for Saline Area Schools met earlier today. There is still \$30K in grant money available to apply for. Their primary fundraiser will be held on February 28th at Travis Point. This will also include a silent auction. Also completed 2 CBAs during

the virtual MASB Winter Institute February 7-8. Request of the SEA to please take all holidays into consideration when deciding on the 25/26 SAS district calendar.

**Trustee Gold:** Acknowledgement of public comment regarding importance of leadership in restorative justice. Grateful for teaching staff highlighting previously untaught history during Black History month.

**Trustee Tizedes:** Aiming to increase enrollments in clubs and activities by getting more students involved. Would like to work with club advisors to address obstacles and how to encourage greater participation.

10. **CONSENT AGENDA**

**MOTION** made by Vice President Steben, support Trustees Tizedes **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 January 28, 2025
- B. **Approval of Payment** of the General Fund Accounts Payable of February 11, 2025, in the amount of \$2,874,464.83
- C. **Approval of Payment** of 2023 Bond Fund Series I Accounts Payable of February 11, 2025, in the amount of \$68,079.99
- D. **Receive and File** Finance and Human Resources Report

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

Enrollment & School of Choice Update  
Budget Amendment

12. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

**STUDENTS - None**

**OTHER PUBLIC STAKEHOLDERS**

**Sabrina Pattillo, parent** - spoke regarding racial targeting incident last fall involving her son.

13. **SUPERINTENDENT SEARCH DISCUSSION**

**MASB Timeline for Superintendent Search**

Facilitator: Jay Bennett, Assistant Director of Executive Search Services, MASB

The Board of Education voted at the January 28th meeting to partner with MASB in the Superintendent's Search. This discussion, facilitated by Jay Bennett, was primarily focused on:

- Review of the search process by MASB
- Clarify the role of the search consultant & Board of Education
- Plan a detailed timeline for the search
- Discuss salary range / Contract Negotiations
- Adopt a preliminary job posting
- Applicant Review / Interview Process Structure & Guidelines
- Gathering Community Input / Create Candidate Profile
- Decision Making Phase / Hiring / Onboarding

The entire search process will be conducted in open session. Next steps will be for the Board to give their input into the stakeholder survey so that the district can then shortly thereafter begin sending out the press releases regarding stakeholder group meeting dates and times. These will occur late February/early March. Consideration will be given to all district staff cohorts, community members & partners, families and students.

14. **NEXT MEETING**

The next Board of Education Meeting will be held on February 25, 2025, at 6:30 PM.

15. **CLOSED SESSION**

**MOTION** made Trustee Austin, support Vice President Steben **to enter Closed Session of the Board of Education at 9:55 PM, with the intent to re-enter Open Session at 10:10 PM, for the purposes to consider a confidential attorney-client communication pursuant to Section 8(h) of the Open Meeting Act.**

**This requires a two-thirds roll call vote of elected or appointed members.**

**Roll Call Vote**

Austin - Aye  
Berwick - Aye  
Gerbe - Aye  
Gold - Aye  
McVey - Aye  
Steben - Aye  
Tizedes - Aye

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

**16. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION** made by Treasurer Gerbe, support Trustee Tizedes **to adjourn the Regular Board of Education Meeting of February 11, 2025, at 11:05 PM.**

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

Respectfully submitted,



Darcy Berwick  
Board Secretary

Recorded by: Betty Jahnke