

Board of Education Meeting

Liberty School Board Room

MAY 27, 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 of May 27, 2025 was called to order by President Michael McVey.

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

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

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOGNITION

Student Representative Recognition

Tommy Allmand & Kate Sonnenday (will be recognized at the 6/10 Board Meeting)

The Board recognizes and thanks the student representatives for their service. Each received a \$500 scholarship and plaque of appreciation.

4. SPECIAL RECOGNITION

24/25 District Retirees

Nathan Bush

Julie Kelley

Staci Nazareth

Kristi Cundiff

Drew Denzin

Greg Erickson

Mary Howley-Visel

Stephen Laatsch

Nathan Lampman

Kimberly Munn

Jeffrey Kazee

Melanie Hensley

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*Cynthia Glennie
Su-Fen Lin*

*Patricia Fair
Deb Palmer*

*Grant Fanning
Carol Melcher*

5. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

STUDENTS - None

OTHER PUBLIC STAKEHOLDERS - None

6. **MASB Awards**

Trustee Tim Austin: Award of Merit for completing 100-level CBA trainings & an additional 45 hours credits of service

Vice President Steben: Master Board Member Award for completing nine advanced level credit courses and a minimum of 368 credits of service

Board President McVey: New Specialty Award for community relations

AGENDA

7. **REVISIONS/APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

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

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

8. **ACTION ITEMS**

A. MOTION made by Vice President Steben, support Trustee Tizedes **to approve the resolution which designates Michael McVey as the representative of this Board to cast a vote for three (3) candidates to the vacancies on the Board of Washtenaw Intermediate School District on June 2 2025. They are as follows:**

1. Diane Hockett for 6 year term
2. Mary Jane Tramontin for 6 year term
3. Dorcas Musili for 2 year term

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

- B. MOTION** made by Trustee Austin, support Secretary Berwick **to support the resolution authorizing the WISD to place the question of authorizing the millage for Career and Technical Education purposes on the November 4, 2025 ballot.**

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

- C. MOTION** made by Treasurer Gerbe, support Trustee Austin **to approve the Closed Session minutes of May 13, 2025, for the purpose of Collective Bargaining 8(c) of the Open Meetings Act.**

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

- D. MOTION** made by Vice President Steben, support Trustee Tizedes **to approve the MHSAA 2025-26 Membership Resolution as submitted by Superintendent Laatsch. This is required to maintain membership for junior high/middle and senior high schools and must be formally adopted by the Board of Education.**

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

9. SCHEDULED REPORTS

A. South & West Washtenaw Consortium Update

Presenters: Kara Stemmer, Director & Trent Trout, Computer Integrated Manufacturing Teacher

The South & West Washtenaw Consortium is made up of six school districts: Chelsea, Dexter, Manchester, Milan, Lincoln and Saline. SWWC accepts 11th and 12th graders into career and technical education programs. There are currently 920 students in CTE classes. There are 438 specifically from Saline who are enrolled already for next school year.

Increased demand certainly creates enrollment challenges due to limited seats. Recruitment strategies include the SWWC Open House, Business Showcase and 10th grade visits. The #gethired initiative connects students with local business partners for potential work-based learning opportunities. Many of the CTE programs will offer credentials providing students with certifications enabling immediate employment. Addressing limitations include hiring more staff, offering more sections, securing more space and acquiring more funding.

Trent Trout, manufacturing instructor, spoke to the Board on the grant received from the SME Education Foundation. This foundation works to inspire, prepare and support the next generation of manufacturing and engineering. The school applied to become a SME Prime Program and is now one of the 118 SME Prime Schools in the US, 50 of which are in Michigan. This program provides resources to better prepare students for the future in manufacturing engineering. They have also supported the school with nearly \$360,000 in equipment, curriculum and professional development. One of the exciting new pieces of equipment acquired through the grant included a Stratus F170 3D printer. Students

participated in five manufacturing-based competitions this year ranging from local college to national levels. There were also a significant number of certifications issued to students this year.

10. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Policy Committee Update

Chair, Lauren Gold

Discussion & 1st Reading of:

Policy 5330.01 - Epinephrine Auto-Injectors

Revisions due to new legal immunity provisions and updated terminology to include nasal spray epinephrine. Also clarified procedures for notifying individuals after an event.

Policy 7540.09 - Artificial Intelligence

Ensures AI use aligns with state and federal laws, as well as board policy. Policy will evolve with technology.

Policy 7540.04 - Staff Technology Acceptable Use and Safety

Updates terminology, references and authentication. Adds cybersecurity procedures and aligns with previously updated student acceptable use policy.

Policy 5500 - Student Conduct

Overlaps with policy 7540.09 and addresses academic honesty in relation to AI usage.

Policy 7440 - Facility Security

Grants the superintendent discretion to use new security technologies.

The above policies will be placed on the June 10th Board Agenda for the 2nd reading, discussion and possible action.

11. ADMINISTRATION / BOARD UPDATES

Superintendent Laatsch: Thank you for the honoring of retirees. The contributions of the retirees to our district representing 412 years of service, is outstanding.

Each trustee used this opportunity to acknowledge the contributions that Superintendent Laatsch has made to the Saline Area School district.

There was also much support from trustees supporting the CTE millage that will be placed on the ballot in the fall. This will be an investment in the future by preparing students for the workforce.

President McVey presented an update on contract negotiations, the proposal that was presented on May 13, 2025. The offer presented represents a 14.5% salary increase for certified staff on steps and a 6.5% salary increase for certified staff off steps over a two-year period.

12. CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION made by Trustee Gold, support Vice President Steben 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 May 13, 2025
- B. **Approval** of the Finance Committee Meeting Minutes of May 13, 2025
- C. **Approval** of the Policy Committee Meeting Minutes of May 20, 2025
- D. **Approval** of the Special Board Meeting Minutes of May 20, 2025
- E. **Approval of Payment** of the General Fund Accounts Payable of May 27, 2025, in the amount of \$632,057.73
- F. **Approval of Payment** of the Bond Fund Series III Accounts Payable of May 27, 2025 in the amount of \$61,947.00
- G. **Approval of Payment** of 2023 Bond Fund Series I Accounts Payable of May 27, 2025, in the amount of \$1,458,624.76
- H. **Receive and File** Human Resources Report

CLOSING

13. ITEMS SCHEDULED ON THE NEXT AGENDA

Presentation of Athletic 5|3 Consulting Athletic Department Review
State of the District Address

14. PUBLIC COMMENT

STUDENTS - None

OTHER PUBLIC STAKEHOLDERS

Ruth Jaynes (Taxpayer) - Spoke regarding the Bond fund allocations impacting the Saline Senior Center

Sarah Walker (SME Prime Program, CTE) - Spoke regarding the SME Prime program grant and praises of the SWWC Computer Integrated Manufacturing program

15. NEXT MEETING

The next Board of Education Meeting will be held on June 10, 2025, at 6:00 PM beginning with the Budget Hearing, immediately followed by the Board Meeting..

16. CLOSED SESSION

MOTION made by Trustee Austin, support Treasurer Gerber **to enter Closed Session of the Board of Education at 8:35 PM, with the intent to re-enter Open Session at 9 PM, 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.**

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

17. RE-ENTER OPEN SESSION

Without objection, President McVey called to re-enter Open Session of the Board of Education meeting at 9:53 PM.

MOTION made by Vice President Steben, support Trustee Tizedes **to establish a portion of the District's 25/26 school calendar specifically through November 30, 2025, pursuant to the Michigan Public Employment Relations Act.**

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

18. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION made by Trustee Tizedes, support Treasurer Gerbe **to adjourn the Regular Board of Education Meeting of May 27, 2025, at 9:54 PM.**

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

Respectfully submitted,


Darcy Berwick
Board Secretary

Recorded by: Betty Jahnke