

# Board of Education Meeting

Liberty School Board Room

July 8, 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 at 6:30 pm by President Michael McVey.

**Board Members Present:** Tim Austin, Darcy Berwick, Michael McVey, Jennifer Steben, Jason Tizedes.

**Board Members Absent:** Lauren Gold

**Central Administration Present:** Superintendent Kowalski, Assistant Superintendent's Baaki Diglio and Owsley, Executive Directors Clary, Davis and Voelker.

#### 2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

#### 3. BOARD PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT - President Michael McVey

Presented a plaque of appreciation to Brad Gerbe for his service on the Board of Education from 2021-2025.

#### 4. SUPERINTENDENT'S STATEMENT - Superintendent Rachel Kowalski

Expressed gratitude to the district and community for the warm welcome.

#### 5. PUBLIC COMMENT

**STUDENTS - None**

**OTHER PUBLIC STAKEHOLDERS - None**

**EXTENDED PUBLIC COMMENT**

*Stacey Rumpsa*

*Executive Director, Foundation for Saline Area Schools*

An annual update was provided to the Board. Highlights include 8 new sponsors, \$73,500 total donations and \$60,000 in sponsorships for the upcoming school year. 35 grants were funded. Plans are underway for the Foundation's Hall of Fame event on October 10th in the Saline HS Auditorium. Other events being planned include: Saline Summerfest, Alumni Committee Golf Outing, Fall Fundraiser Luncheon, and the Spring Fundraising Event featuring Dueling Pianos.

**6. RESPONSE TO PREVIOUS PUBLIC COMMENT**

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

**MOTION** made by Vice President Steben, support Trustee Austin **to approve the agenda as revised adding A. to 10. Discussion Item.**

**10. Discussion Item**

**A. Status of Trustee Vacancy**

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

**8. SCHEDULED REPORTS**

**A. Technology Department Annual Review**

*Presenter: Jay Grossman, Director of Technology*

The technology department has nine members who manage the entire district. This past school year they managed 3,368 help tickets. They support over 2100 daily use student devices, 750 staff devices and about 700 shared managed devices. Additional responsibilities include maintaining PowerSchool, preparing for staff training, prepping devices, performing audio/video installations, and implementing cyber security measures. The team is also developing an in-house AI, in collaboration with Dexter, with the goal of releasing it to staff and students in the coming fall. The aim is to be cost-effective by using a one-time computer purchase instead of paying yearly fees.

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This past year has seen the replacement of the entire copy machine fleet with more energy efficient copiers in addition they have standardized AV for K-3 classrooms. There is continual work on the network infrastructure due to construction/bond projects. Also working on consolidating communication platforms to ParentSquare. Training is being provided to staff and families.

Upcoming projects include support of the Liberty Athletic Field, middle school renovations including the senior center, robotics, cosmetology spaces, and the Heritage construction project.

**9. ACTION ITEMS**

- A. MOTION** made by Trustee Austin support Trustee Tizedes to **approve the Closed Session minutes of June 10, 2025, for the purpose of Collective Bargaining 8(c) of the Open Meetings Act.**

**Ayes** (Austin, Berwick, Tizedes, McVey)

**Abstain** (Steben, was not in attendance for the 6/10/25 Closed Session)

**MOTION CARRIED 4-1**

- B. MOTION** made by Secretary Berwick, support Trustee Tizedes to **appoint Tim Austin as the Board Treasurer per Policy 0152 - OFFICERS.**

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

- C. MOTION** made by Vice President Steben, support Secretary Berwick **to approve, per Board Policy 2510, the following textbook and associated ebook digital license: Impact, Second Edition by National Geographic Learning at an annual cost of \$1145 as submitted by Kara Davis, Executive Director of Teaching and Learning. This will provide a comprehensive and cohesive curriculum for 6-12 English Learners students.**

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

- D. MOTION** made by Treasurer Austin, support Trustee Tizedes **to name the following banks or depositories for the various funds of the Saline Area Schools in fiscal 2025/26 year:**

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

Bank of Ann Arbor

Michigan Liquid Asset Fund (MILAF)

Old National Bank

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- E. **MOTION** made by Secretary Berwick, support Treasurer Austin **to authorize Rachel Kowalski , Superintendent, as the primary signer on all checks written by the District, with Miranda Owsley, Assistant Superintendent of Finance as alternate on all accounts listed.**

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

**Bank of Ann Arbor**

2021 Bond Checking Account

2023 Bond Checking Account

2025 Bond Checking Account

**Michigan Liquid Asset Fund (MILAF)**

2021 Bond Investment Account

2023 Bond Investment Account

2025 Bond Investment Account

General Fund Investment Account

**Old National Bank**

General Fund

General Fund Payroll

Community Education

Recreation/CARES

Food Service

Student Activity

Student Activity, The Edge

Flex Benefits - Maestro

2016 B&S Debt Service

2018 B&S II Debt Service

2021 B&S III Debt Service

2018 Refunding Debt Service

2023 B&S I Debt Service

2025 B&S II Debt Service

Sinking Fund

Paul Handy Scholarship Fund

Tim Kiraly Memorial Fund

Horticultural Award

Randy Hoffman Fund

Rachael Townsend Fund

Dora Mae Mayer Memorial Scholarship

Kathryn Steiner Burr Scholarship

- F. **MOTION** made by Secretary Berwick, support Trustee Tizedes **to authorize Rachel Kowalski, Superintendent, and Miranda Owsley, Assistant Superintendent of Finance, as signatories on transfers of investment monies.**

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

- G. MOTION** made by Trustee Tizedes, Treasurer Austin **to adopt the resolution for continued participation in the State of Michigan Loan Revolving Fund as submitted by Assistant Superintendent Miranda Owsley.**

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

- H. MOTION** made by Vice President Steben, support Secretary Berwick move **to appoint the Thrun Law Firm, P.C., of Lansing, Michigan and Collins & Blaha, P.C as legal counsel for the school district or board for the 2025-26 school year. In addition, the District is authorized to utilize other law firms pending areas of expertise.**

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

**10. DISCUSSION ITEM**

**A. Status of Trustee Vacancy**

Board members discussed the process of filling the vacancy left by the resignation of Brad Gerbe. It was noted that the initial statement lacked options to provide for accommodations for candidates that were unable to interview in person and also there is no clear policy in the Board Operating Procedures that addresses that issue. The consensus was to adhere to the stated plan.

**MOTION** made by Trustee Tizedes, support Treasurer Austin **that the Board will only interview candidates on July 14, but may consider all candidates.**

**Ayes** – Jennifer Steben, Darcy Berwick, Michael McVey  
**Nays** - Jason Tizedes, Tim Austin

**MOTION CARRIED 3-2**

**11. ADMINISTRATION / BOARD UPDATES**

**Superintendent Kowalski** - District is planning 3 days of meetings next week with the Central Office and District leadership teams.

**Treasurer Austin** - On June 24th, the WISD adopted a resolution to place the CTE millage on the ballot. This vote will occur November 4th. Meeting with Jeff Higgins from Plante Moran to discuss this year's upcoming audit.

**Secretary Berwick** - Saline Summerfest is scheduled for August 8th and 9th. Miss Saline will be crowned on Saturday, August 9th.

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**President McVey** - Attended the International Society of Technology and Education (ISTE) and Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development (ASCD) conferences.

**Vice President Steben** - Requested that the Policy Committee add the trustee appointment process to their next meeting agenda for review and discussion. Accompanied the SHS Varsity Cheer team to Honolulu where they participated in events. They are coached by Cathy Mutter. A reminder to everyone driving around the high school to drive safely.

**Trustee Tizedes** - Acknowledgement to the Operations team for their hard work. Reminder to the community that the school district continues to function year-round, even during the summer.

**12. CONSENT AGENDA**

**MOTION** made by Trustee Tizedes, support Vice President Steben 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 June 10, 2025
- B. **Approval** of the Budget Hearing Minutes of June 10, 2025
- C. **Approval** of the Finance Committee Meeting Minutes of June 10, 2025
- D. **Approval of Payment** of the General Fund Accounts Payable of July 8, 2025, in the amount of \$4,809,878.48
- E. **Approval of Payment** of the 2021 Bond Fund Series III Accounts Payable of July 8, 2025 in the amount of \$74,850.00
- F. **Approval of Payment** of 2023 Bond Fund Series I Accounts Payable of July 8, 2025, in the amount of \$1,889,406.36
- G. **Approval of Payment** of 2025 Bond Fund Series II Accounts Payable of July 8, 2025, in the amount of \$6,315.00
- H. **Receive and File** Finance and Human Resources Report

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

**14. PUBLIC COMMENT**

**STUDENTS**

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**OTHER PUBLIC STAKEHOLDERS**

**Julie Kelly, newly retired SAS teacher & Board candidate** - addressed the board as a candidate as she will be absent from the public meeting on July 14th due to a planned vacation.

**15. NEXT MEETING**

The next Board of Education Meeting will be held on July 14, 2025, at 6:30 PM.

**16. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION** made by Trustee Tizedes, support Treasurer Austin **to adjourn the Regular Board of Education Meeting of July 8, 2025, at 7:44 PM.**

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

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.

Darcy Berwick  
Board Secretary

*Recorded by: Betty Jahnke*