

Board of Education Meeting

Liberty School Board Room

August 26, 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, Lauren Gold, Nate Hanson, Michael McVey, Jennifer Steben and Jason Tizedes

Board Members Absent: Darcy Berwick

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

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. PUBLIC COMMENT - None

4. RESPONSE TO PREVIOUS PUBLIC COMMENT

AGENDA

5. REVISIONS/APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

Ayes - All Present - **MOTION CARRIED 6-0**

Added Agenda Item:

5. **DISCUSSION ITEM**

A. Middle School Situation

*Facilitator: Rex Clary, Executive Director of Operations
Meghan McCarthy, Nova Environmental*

Executive Director Clary presented the timeline of events that led up to the decision to delay the opening of the Middle School caused by mold-related humidity issues. The Middle School remained closed, and the reopening has been pushed to Thursday. This was mainly to give the educators preparation time in their classrooms. The final narrative and report package will be posted to the district website. There were some concerns regarding the possibility of exceeding the 6-day limit, but at this point, it will be a “cross that bridge” when/if the situation arises. Up to 3 days can be waived by the state.

It was recommended by Nova Environmental that performing some proactive sampling in late July/early August should be done. Also suggested that mandatory weekly building walk throughs be done by the facilities staff during the summer months and providing some professional development for staff on identifying humidity-related issues.

6. **SCHEDULED REPORTS**

A. Bond Project / STEAM Center Update

Facilitators: Rex Clary, Kara Davis, Jackie Martin

This was an update to the Board primarily focusing on the Heritage Edition STEAM center which is part of the district’s bond-funded improvements. On the north side, 8600 sf of new STEAM and Art rooms and on the south side the remodel of 4300sf primarily two classrooms, resource room and remodeled conference room. The old art room will be converted to the life skills space. Also included in this project will be boiler replacement, HVAC upgrades, and emergency generator. The existing courtyards will be enclosed and transformed into secure, gated learning areas. Features may include astro-turf, pollinator garden and architectural learning zones.

There will be a public open house for the STEAM Center and Weight Room on September 27, 2025 in collaboration with STEM boosters and student groups. September 16th will be a celebration of the final football season at Crabtree Field with a presentation at 5:30 honoring

the field's history. There will be a plaque dedication planned for Jack Crabtree and Clem Corona honoring their legacy. The new MS track must be operational by spring 2026 for the 300+ middle school athletes

7. **ADMINISTRATION / BOARD UPDATES**

Superintendent Kowalski: Welcome back to students and staff. Expressed appreciation for all the new hires, paraeducators and food service staff. Highlighted the first week of school successes in welcoming thousands of students, involvement in some opening day activities at different schools, community events and positive staff interactions. Highlighted some upcoming events including Community Listening Lab at Heritage, Pizza & Priorities on October 6th, 1st first football game and events at the Saline Fair.

Student Representative Jillian Hayes: Wonderful experience with Link Crew transitioning the new freshmen class into the building and helping them feel welcomed and comfortable getting around the building. Fall sports are kicking off. Hope to have Link/Crew/Web and Harvest Buddies at the Sept 9 meeting. Ms Saline is confirmed for the Oct 14 Student Showcase.

Trustee Hanson: Thank you to Trustee Tizedes for his vulnerability and transparency during his board updates at the August 12th Board meeting. Thank you to Dr. Kowalski for your support of the football team. Appreciates the transparency regarding the MS mold issue.

Treasurer Austin: Thank you to all who help with the start of the school year. Thank you to Dr. Kowalski even during her short time here in the district for the clear communication with us and the community.

Secretary Berwick (Absent, update read by President McVey): Apologies for not being in attendance this evening. STEM booster event went well.

Vice President Steben: Thank you to all the various bldg teams for their hard work over the summer. I attended the staff opening day event on August 20th. There was a lot of positivity among the SEA. Excited for the start of the new school year. Acknowledging the joy as well as the struggle. Sending best wishes to PR and Liberty.

Trustee Gold: Pleased about the agreement with the SEA. Good luck to all the students and parents as the school year starts.

Trustee Tizedes: Acknowledgement to the Operations team for all their great work even in light of all the challenges. Welcome back to everyone.

President McVey: Will be attending the fair. Enjoyed Staff Opening Day at Saline High School. Also starting my 45th year of teaching at EMU.

8. CONSENT AGENDA

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

Ayes - All Present - **MOTION CARRIED 6-0**

- A. **Approval** of the Regular Board of Education Meeting Minutes of August 12, 2025
- B. **Approval** of the Finance Committee Minutes of August 12, 2025
- C. **Approval** of the Policy Committee Minutes of August 12, 2025
- D. **Approval** of the Special Board Meeting Minutes of August 19, 2025
- E. **Approval of Payment** of the General Fund Accounts Payable of August 26, 2025, in the amount of \$3,430,264.20
- F. **Approval of Payment** of the 2021 Bond Fund Series III Accounts Payable of August 26, 2025 in the amount of \$296,404.75
- G. **Approval of Payment** of 2023 Bond Fund Series I Accounts Payable of August 26, 2025, in the amount of \$3,644,794.35
- H. **Approval of Payment** of 2025 Bond Fund Series II Accounts Payable of August 26, 2025, in the amount of \$85,514.71
- I. **Receive and File** Human Resources Reports
- J. **Approval** of Policy Updates
 - 1. Policies 1130/3110/4110 Conflict of Interest
 - 2. DEI Policy 9141
 - 3. Policy 7440.01 Small Unmanned Aircraft Systems

CLOSING

9. ITEMS SCHEDULED ON THE NEXT AGENDA

Introduction of 25/26 New Hires

10. PUBLIC COMMENT - None

11. NEXT MEETING

The next Board of Education Meeting will be held on September 9, at 6:30 PM.

12. ADJOURNMENT

*Board of Education Meeting Minutes
August 26, 2025*

MOTION made by Trustee Tizedes, support Vice President Steben **to adjourn the Regular Board of Education Meeting of August 26, 2025, at 7:15 PM.**

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Darcy Berwick". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Darcy Berwick
Board Secretary

Recorded by: Betty Jabnke