

Board of Education Meeting

Liberty School Board Room

September 9, 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, Lauren Gold, Nate Hanson, Michael McVey, Jennifer Steben, Jason Tizedes

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

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. MEET THE 2025/26 NEW HIRES

Facilitator: Assistant Superintendent of HR, Carol Baaki Diglio

The introduction of new employees to the Saline Area School district. 42 new staff attended the August onboarding orientation. An additional session is being planned for October for those who were unable to attend or were hired after the initial orientation.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

Quinn Burns, student - Spoke in appreciation to the community, Board, Superintendent and Athletic Department for their support of the Boys Volleyball program and facilitating their transition to a varsity sport recognized through MHSAA.

5. **RESPONSE TO PREVIOUS PUBLIC COMMENT**

AGENDA

6. **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**

7. **STUDENT SHOWCASE**

HS Link Crew

(Presenters: Sean Litchford, Madylin Marshall, Dylan Erickson, Lillian Black)

Link Crew is a nationally recognized leadership program that assists 9th grade students in adjusting to high school life. The program builds community, encourages academic and personal growth and promotes a positive school climate. Activities include freshman orientation tours, social events, skill-building lessons (study habits) and ongoing check-ins throughout the four-year high school experience. There is an application process to become a Link Leader.

Harvest Buddies

(Presenters: Evelyn O'Keefe, Mia Chen, Cam Mastandrea, Gwendolyn Finch, Charlotte Muth)

The Harvest 3rd Grade Buddies program helps Young 5's and Kindergarten students feel comfortable during their first days of school at Harvest. The "buddies" show them how to walk the halls of the school, open lockers and follow basic school routines. Most importantly the buddies offer a friendly, and welcoming presence to the new students to help ease their transition into school. There are generally about 100 new students each year who receive guidance and support.

8. **ACTION ITEMS**

A. **MOTION ...** to appoint (Name) as the voting delegate and (Name) as the alternate representing the Saline Board of Education at the 2025 MASB Delegate Assembly being held on Thursday, October 23, 2025

Motion withdrawn. No Board Member one will be in attendance.

9. **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

Board Finance Committee Update

Facilitator: Tim Austin, Chair

The Finance Committee met before the Board meeting. There is no resolve yet in approving the state budget. Saline has approximately 3 months of operating revenue which is better than many other Michigan districts. The audit will be presented to the full board in November. Also discussed enrollment trends. While enrollment appears slightly down, it does exceed budgeted projections. Continued discussions regarding School of Choice.

10. ADMINISTRATION / BOARD UPDATES

Superintendent Kowalski: Upcoming community engagement events include: Community and Staff Listening Labs and STEAM Center Grand Opening on September 27th from 1-4 pm. Also attended several open houses and experienced a lot of energy throughout the district as the school year kicked off. Highlighted the importance of the CTE millage and the importance of supporting real-world experiential learning for students Pre K thru 12th grade. Participated in engaged conversations at Rotary Club, Chamber of Commerce and in ParentSquare conversations throughout the community.

Trustee Hanson: Acknowledgement to the whole Friday Night Lights game experience, including the band under the direction of new Band leader Ben Reed, dance team, cheer, players & coaches. Congratulations to the Boys Volleyball team.

Treasurer Austin: Acknowledgement to the band, shout out to Alum CJ Carr and being starting QB at Notre Dame, welcome to the new hires and reminder regarding the Runtough event on September 28th.

Secretary Berwick: Reminder about the STEAM Center Open House on September 27th from 12 to 4. Acknowledgement that September is Suicide Prevention and Awareness Month.

President McVey: Enjoys being penpals with WM students (5th consecutive year), congratulations to the football team for their recent performance. Shoutout to Student Rep Jillian Hayes competing at her XC meet, reminder about Runtough event on September 28th.

Vice President Steben: Shoutout to the XC team, acknowledgement to all the new hires, also to the Boys Volleyball team for their varsity sport recognition. Assisted with the Junior Hornet Cheer fundraiser. Attended the 1st FSAS meeting of the new year. \$115,000 in grant monies available. Upcoming event reminders: September 19 Homecoming parade, October 22 is the FSAS fall fundraiser, February 20 is the FSAS Dueling pianos event.

Trustee Gold: Acknowledgement to the new hires. Special shouts to OT and Speech & Language therapists. Acknowledgement of Dr. Kowalski's hard work and presence in the community.

Trustee Tizedes: Acknowledgement of the 80 new staff members. Congratulations to the Boys Volleyball team. Shoutout to Principal Sickler and the 3rd grade buddies program. Encouraged parents to please be monitoring electronics and online gaming platforms that students may be accessing.

11. CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION made by Vice President Steben, support Trustee 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 August 26, 2025
- B. **Approval of Payment** of the General Fund Accounts Payable of September 9, 2025, in the amount of \$4,387,250.35
- C. **Approval of Payment** of 2023 Bond Fund Series I Accounts Payable of September 9, 2025, in the amount of \$92,326.77
- D. **Approval of Payment** of 2025 Bond Fund Series II Accounts Payable of September 9, 2025, in the amount of \$479,061.20
- E. **Receive and File** Human Resources Report
- F. **Receive and File** 25/26 SEA Approved 182 Day Calendar

CLOSING

12. ITEMS SCHEDULED ON NEXT AGENDA

MICIP update presented by Teaching & Learning Team

13. PUBLIC COMMENT - None

14. NEXT MEETING

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

15. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION made by Trustee Tizedes, support Treasurer Austin **to adjourn the Regular Board of Education Meeting of September 9 2025 at 7:19 PM.**

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

*Board of Education Meeting Minutes
September 9, 2025*

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Darcy Berwick". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal line extending from the end.

Darcy Berwick
Board Secretary

Recorded by: Betty Janke