

## Board of Education Meeting

Liberty School Board Room

April 9, 2024, 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 of Education Present:** Tim Austin, Susan Estep, Brad Gerbe, Lauren Gold, Michael McVey, Jennifer Miller and Jennifer Steben

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

#### 2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

#### 3. SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOGNITION

- *HS/MS Choirs*
- *SHS Boys Hockey*

#### 4. SPECIAL PRESENTATION

*Gift from the Hot Rods Motorcycle Awareness & Prevention Foundation  
2 Benches*

5. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

**STUDENTS - None**

**OTHER PUBLIC STAKEHOLDERS - None**

6. **RESPONSE TO PREVIOUS PUBLIC COMMENT**

<b>AGENDA</b>
---------------

7. **REVISIONS/APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

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

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

8. **STUDENT SHOWCASE**

**Pleasant Ridge Student Council**

*Presenters: Adair Beeman, Brielle Brabbs, Reese Brennan, Cate Daiek, Addison Kendrick, Peter LeCompte, Madison Miller, Garnet Music, Juniper Pando, Madison Richardson, Jude Scadding, Norah Timmerman, Hayden Yentz Advisors: Trina Bell and Stacy Garin*

PR Student Council members highlighted a lot of the activities they organize and sponsor at Pleasant Ridge. They include “Socktober” - collecting socks for Saline Area Social Services, “Veterans Day” - honor and recognize veterans connected to PR students and families, “Magic of Christmas” - donating and delivering gifts to support families in need, “Say Hey Day” - encourage the many different ways to say “hello” and encourage everyone to feel included throughout the day by saying hello to as many people as possible, “This is Me Day” - students are encouraged to dress to show their interest or personalities, “Earth Day” - helping the earth stay free from litter. The PR student council also has a store and these funds go towards all the charitable events. Through all these events, students learn about community service, leadership skills, what inclusion means and importantly how to have fun while doing all these wonderful things for the community.

9. **ACTION ITEMS**

A. **MOTION** made by Treasurer Gerbe, support Trustee Austin to approve the minutes from the March 12, 2024 closed session for the purpose of Superintendent Evaluation Section 8(a).

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

- B. **MOTION** made by Trustee Austin, support Secretary Miller **to follow the recommendation of the CARES Advisory Council to approve the allocation of funds as follows in the total amount of \$54,418.40 as submitted by Brian Puffer, Director of Community Education.**

Braille Literacy Project, Liberty Club - **\$800**  
Equipment Replacement, Saline Area Senior Center - **\$7358.00**  
The Lü, Woodland Meadows Elementary - **\$20,000**  
Meals on Wheels, Evangelical Home Foundation - **\$20,000**  
Pool Sound System, SHS Girls Water Polo - **\$6260.40**

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

- C. **Recording Secretary Jahnke indicated a correction was needed in the wording of the motion to change “purchase” to “adopt”**

**MOTION** made by Vice President Steben, support Treasurer Gerbe **to revise the motion to change the word “purchase” to “adopt” prior to the vote.**

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

**MOTION** made by Vice President Steben, support Treasurer Gerbe **to approve the recommendation, per Board Policy 2510, to adopt the Big Ideas textbooks and associated ebook digital licenses, through Cengage Learning for HS Geometry Fundamentals, HS Algebra 2 Fundamentals, HS Precalculus, 8th Grade Math, 7th Grade Math and 6th Grade Math, as submitted by Kara Davis, Executive Director of Teaching and Learning.**

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

- D. **MOTION** made by Secretary Miller, support Treasurer Gerbe **to approve the purchase from InaCompTSG of speakers and signage to complete coverage of the InformaCast notification system at Saline Middle School and Saline High School in the amount of \$159,575.00 as submitted by Jay Grossman, Director of Technology.**

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

- E. **MOTION** made by Vice President Steben, support Trustee Austin **to approve the purchase of a new HP DL325 server appliance from InaCompTSG in the amount of \$201,456.00 in order to maintain current security and vulnerability updates as submitted by Jay Grossman, Director of Technology.**

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

10. **SCHEDULED REPORTS**

**A. Teaching & Learning Update**

*Presenters: Teaching & Learning Team*

Highlighting the work of the Teaching & Learning Team in addition to the English learner program here at Saline Area Schools. Reviewed the mission of the Teaching & Learning team. The team, created in 20/21, brings together MTSS, literacy coaches, EL, science supports in addition to other important roles to support SAS students, staff and families. The primary goal of their work is to promote culturally responsive instruction, curricular alignment and fidelity, the responsible and effective use of resources and positive, engaging student experiences for ALL. This is achieved through a continuum of supports. The T&L team is interconnected with many other areas throughout the district. T&L continuously is monitoring improvement plans. They collect and analyze a lot of data which leads to the primary role being to partner with stakeholders and coordinate action around the different components of the continuous learning plan. One component they are developing is the shared assessment vision for all of our staff and building leaders. Also presented on how the work the T&L team is doing is actually monitored and how they guide their own improvement as a team and the processes that they are using. Another important component is the Curriculum Review Process. Since 2022 curriculum review has been taking place in K-12 Math, K-12 Science, Y5-3 Specials and 6 Reading. This brings together experts in the different content areas to look more deeply into the data and making targeted improvements based on identified areas. District collaboratives include Early Childhood Program, Admin Guidelines for Instructional Opt Out Policy, AI and Book/Text Selection Guidelines. Also showed “State Grants at a Glance” that are significant right now and how we leverage the grants that are available to us.

Highlights of the English Learner program include supporting all english learners and their families. The EL team is made up of 7 EL specialists, 1 EL teacher, 1 EL coordinator/EL teacher. There has been a 54% enrollment increase in the last 5 years which includes 150% increase in entering levels ELs (limited to non english speaking). The mission of the program in addition to support is also to help bridge the cultures. The top languages include Spanish, Chinese, Portuguese, Russian and Tamil/Telugu/Hindi. We are seeing a trend in increased Russian/Ukrainian population in addition to needed support for newcomers and EL tutoring outside of school and into summer. Supports for EL students include after school tutoring, purchase of iPads, digital platforms that support literacy, language glossaries for state testing. The department has made improvements to the EL at a Glance Document which is similar to an IEP. This not only supports the student’s success but is beneficial to both the Gen Ed staff and EL staff. Also part of what the EL program does is support the families. We provide registration support, district-approved home visits, family engagement events, and at home access to digital platforms.

**11. DISCUSSION ITEMS**

**A. Policy Updates - 1st Readings**

*Facilitator: Jenny Miller, Chair*

Policy 5113: School of Choice Program  
Policy 8300: Continuity of Organizational Operations Plan  
Policy 0141.1: Student-Body Representative  
Policy 6152: Student Fees, Fines and Supplies

Minimal discussion on the above policy updates other than to get clarification on Policy 6152 and it's previous appearance on a Board agenda back on December 14, 2021. It was pulled for further review and then in the midst of changing committee members, it was overlooked and did not move forward through the approval process.

These policies will again appear as discussion items on April 23rd with the option for a motion to approve them.

**B. Finance Committee Updates**

*Brad Gerbe, Chair*

Met today at 5 pm. Discussed FOIA requests and that sometimes they are related to finances. The district transparency page does contain a lot of information that is available to the public so a FOIA request isn't always necessary to obtain all finance information. Also on the agenda was enrollment numbers and the impact on our budget. Spring count is 10% of our FTE for the following school year. This informs our overall projections for budgeting. Per pupil allowance is our major funding source. Reviewed the IT purchases that are on the agenda for approval today. Ongoing work for the District Strategic Council and Finance in right-sizing the district budget, and also conversations about Early Childhood education and budget implications.

**12. ADMINISTRATION / BOARD UPDATES**

**Superintendent Laatsch:** Congratulations to President McVey on receiving the MASB Level 7 President's Award recognition. This is quite an accomplishment totaling over 1300 educational credits. We appreciate his ongoing professional development. Also congratulations to Athletic Director Ashley Mantha who received from the National Interscholastic Athletic Administration Association the certified Athletic Administrator endorsement with the successful completion of 5 courses and an exam. The EMU iNVENT Team led by Professor Shiri Vevek and the team consisting of 2 SHS students, Suhani Dalela and Alice Jiang has spent over a year creating an invention designed to assist people in changing positions safely and independently. It's called the "Sitter-Upper". They will be 1 of 7 teams presenting on June 12th at MIT. Also we send well wishes to the HS Ethics Team who will be competing in Chapel Hill, NC for a National Championship and also the Heritage / SMS First Robotics Team going to the World Championship in Houston, Texas. Good Luck to all those teams.

**Students Representatives Clark & Iadipaolo:** Congratulations to the members of the Youth Council and Student Government who recently met with Congresswoman Dingell. Also student volunteers (Caroline Clark included) and teacher Jason Gumenick will be working with the League of Women Voters on April 24th to help to register students to vote. Good luck to all Juniors who will be taking the SAT, ACT Workkeys, and MStep tests this week. Excited for the start of spring sports and support for all those teams. Great to watch the progress on the bond projects at the HS. Successful

relocation of the HS front office to the east wing of the building during this construction time. Thank you to the district for the solar eclipse glasses.

**Trustee Austin:** At a recent visit to MSU touring the engineering facilities, professors are impressed with the level of knowledge that students have coming into the program which says a lot about the computer science, CAD, CIM courses that are available for our students here in Saline. They leave with a great deal of knowledge and skills for pursuing their next level of education.

**Treasurer Gerbe:** Thank you to spring sport coaches for all their efforts and involvement with our students. Good luck to Juniors who are testing this week. I would like to recognize and thank the Paraprofessionals and librarians and the work they do in our schools. Encourage parents to participate in the climate survey which provides valuable feedback to our district. Thank you to the choirs for their performance this evening. April 25th there is a Prohibitive Language Professional Development session with Thrun at the WISD at 6 pm. Proud of the work that is being done by the Board of Education.

**Secretary Miller:** On April 1st, I met with Neola Rep Melody Strang to review Legal Alerts and the new policy updates recommended by Neola. These updates will be reviewed at a Policy Committee Meeting on May 28th before being brought to the full board. Happy Passover to those to celebrate. Happy to hear about the efforts to register HS students to vote. Thank you to the choir and congratulations to the Hockey team as well. Recognize all those to celebrate Eid Mubarek and Ramadan. April is Arab American Heritage Month. Thank you to Pleasant Ridge and highlighting the student work done there as members of the Student Council. A true testament to our compass. April is also the month of the Young Child. Thank you to our educators who work with our youngest learners.

**President McVey:** Presented at the Annual Conference of the Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development in Washington, DC, to share examples of how school boards across the nation have found unique and powerful ways to engage with their communities. In addition, he will be presenting an information session for the community interested in how to run for the Saline Area Schools Board of Education. The dates are next Tuesday evening, April 16, at 7 pm, and also on Tuesday, April 30, at the same time. It will be held at the Saline District Library. This is a service traditionally provided to the community by board members not actively seeking election in the next cycle.

**Vice President Steben:** It was great to start the meeting with the recognition of our MS/HS Choirs, Men's Varsity Hockey Team and the student showcase presentation by our Pleasant Ridge Student Council. Through my position at UM Ross School of Business, I often get to connect with former Saline students. Always encouraging to hear how they are doing.

**Trustee Estep:** Attended the SEAB on March 18th along with Trustee Gold. The committee is exploring curriculum options and doing some comparisons. Next meeting is April 25. The DEIAC met on March 20th. This included a working meeting where there were opportunities for input into the work being done around the administrative guidelines that would support the SAS Transgender and Nonbinary Students policy. There were community groups and student organizations represented. There was also sharing from families, students and staff who are navigating the policy in addition to providing feedback on improvements that could be made. Also attended the SHS Extracurricular Night.

Lots of great representation from athletic groups, club groups and student organizations. April is Arab American Heritage month. The museum in Dearborn has free admission the entire month of April. April is also Sexual Assault Awareness Month and also Child Abuse Prevention Month.

**Trustee Gold:** Thank you for the Passover wishes. Best wishes to those who celebrate Ramadan and Easter. April is Autism Awareness month. Thank the educators who work with our students on the spectrum. Invite and encourage the community to attend the upcoming Listening Sessions being hosted by Superintendent Laatsch. They will all be held at Liberty. As a member of a religious minority, I personally invite families who are part of a religious minority to attend.

- April 29: Families of students who identify as Black or African American.
- May 2: Families of students who identify as Asian, Hispanic, Latino, Native American, or Pacific Islander
- May 7: Families of students with special needs
- May 8: Families of students who identify as LGBTQIA+
- May 13: Families of students with religious viewpoints

**13. CONSENT AGENDA**

**MOTION** made by Secretary Miller, support Trustee Gold **to authorize the Consent Agenda as printed.**

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

- A. **Approval** of the Board of Education Meeting Minutes of March 12, 2024
- B. **Approval** of the Board Finance Committee Meeting Minutes of March 12, 2024
- C. **Approval** of the Board Compensation Committee Meeting Minutes of January 29, 2024
- D. **Approval** of the Board Compensation Committee Meeting Minutes of March 5, 2024
- E. **Approval of Payment** of the General Fund Accounts Payable of April 9, 2024, in the amount of \$3,839,572.15
- F. **Approval of Payment** of Bond Fund Series III Accounts Payable of April 9, 2024 in the amount of \$15,925.00
- F. **Approval of Payment** of 2023 Bond Fund Series I Accounts Payable of April 9, 2024 in the amount of \$116,515.54
- G. **Receive and File** Finance and Human Resources Reports

<b>CLOSING</b>
----------------

**14. ITEMS SCHEDULED ON NEXT AGENDA**

Superintendent's Recognition: Auto Tech / FFA & Ag Science  
Scheduled Reports: Threat Assessment Overview & SWWC Update

15. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

**STUDENTS - None**

**OTHER PUBLIC STAKEHOLDERS - None**

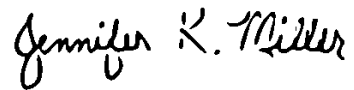
16. **NEXT MEETING**

The next Board of Education Meeting will be held on April 23, 2024, at 6:30 PM.

17. **ADJOURNMENT**

**Without Objection** the Regular Board of Education Meeting of April 9, 2024 was adjourned at 8:45 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,



Jennifer Miller  
Board Secretary

*Recorded by: Betty Jabnke*