

Board of Education Meeting

Liberty School Board Room
February 13, 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 of February 13, 2024 was called to order by President Michael McVey at 6:30 pm.

Board Members Present: Tim Austin, Susan Estep, Brad Gerbe, Lauren Gold, Michael McVey, Jennifer Miller and Jennifer Steben

Central Administration Present: Superintendent Laatsch, Assistant Superintendent Owsley, Executive Directors Clary, Davis & Martin

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Following the Pledge, President McVey invited Ron Beaton to the podium.

Ron Beaton of Hot Rods Motorcycle Awareness & Suicide Prevention Foundation made a presentation to the Board regarding "Buddy" benches they wish to donate to our district. So far 11 benches have been donated to school districts throughout Michigan. The benches offer a place for students who are feeling lonely and isolated to sit. Peers are encouraged to interact with someone sitting on the bench. Each bench is engraved with the suicide and crisis lifeline number (988) and the message "You Are NOT. Buddy Benches are made of reusable plastic and are produced by OCC Outdoors in Indianapolis, Ind.

The Board will consider this offer and will be discussed at an upcoming meeting.

3. **SUPERINTENDENT’S RECOGNITION**

- *SHS Men’s Soccer*

4. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

STUDENTS - None

OTHER PUBLIC STAKEHOLDERS

Changming Fan, Community Member

EXTENDED PUBLIC COMMENT

*Harvest Points of Pride
Emily Sickler, Principal*

5. **RESPONSE TO PREVIOUS PUBLIC COMMENT**

AGENDA

6. **REVISIONS/APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

MOTION made by Secretary Miller, support Trustee Estep **move to approve the agenda as revised.**

Revisions: Under Action Item B. remove “Michael McVey” and replace it with ”(name)”.
Under Scheduled Report add B. Finance Committee Report

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

7. **STUDENT SHOWCASE**

Young Adult Program - Community Employment Highlights

Presenters: Kevin Musson, Monica Ellis, Nu2 Again Staff, YAP Staff and Students

Student Showcase highlighted the Community employment partnerships that have been supporting our Young Adult Program and students for many years. Among these are Saline Area Social Services, NU2U Again, CVS, Tractor Supply, Yost Arena, Brookside Golf Course, Saline Rec Center, and Saline Area schools. Students can choose placement based on their strengths and desires and can also rotate through several to determine what suits them best. In addition YAP students are also employed in the district. This has included custodial, food service and Community Education summer programming. Community Partner NU2U Again spoke about the benefits of the students working there as well as the benefit to the consumer. Several of the YAP students spoke through video recording about their work experiences and the benefits from their employment. Also talked about the importance of MRS

(Michigan Rehabilitation Services) in helping provide job coaching and skill building to our students as they prepare to leave the YAP into the workforce.

8. ACTION ITEMS

- A. **MOTION** made by Vice President Steben, support Trustee Austin **to accept the recommendation of Interim Special Education Director, Kevin Musson, to appoint Tara Hayes to fulfill the term originally held by Ann Babcock, as the Saline Area Schools representative for the WISD Parent Advisory Council.**

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

- B. **MOTION** made by Vice President Steben, support Treasurer Gerbe **to cast our 1 collective vote for the Region 7 MASB Board of Directors for (name) Michael McVey. This is a 3-year term. The completed ballot will be cast and confirmed by the Superintendent's secretary by no later than 1 p.m. on Wednesday, March 6, 2024.**

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

- C. **MOTION** made by Treasurer Gerbe, support Trustee Austin **to approve \$35,798 to Techno CNC System LLC, \$85,680 to Jim Lofts & Associates, and \$88,332 to Heidelberg USA for the purchase of CTE equipment as recommended by Kara Stemmer, Director of the South and West Washtenaw Consortium**

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

- D. **MOTION** made by Vice President Steben, support Trustee Estep **to accept the recommendation by Director of Technology Jay Grossman to award Turnkey Network Solutions the project to install fiber optic cables to provide network connectivity to the new Hornet Operations Center in the amount of \$70,263.00.**

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

- E. **MOTION** made by Vice President Steben, support Treasurer Gerbe **to accept the recommendation of Director of Technology Jay Grossman to award payment of \$1,144,870.77 to Barton Malow for the oversight and payment of the projects listed below:**

\$488,356.00 - Classroom A/V: Replacement/adjustment of projectors, audio systems, add wireless display capabilities (Screenbeam).

\$135,742.72 - Replacement of cabling for display to projectors.

\$155,916.86 - Access Control systems for STEAM/Robotics, Weight Room, Operations Center - Install and program door access control systems for identified doors in the construction of STEAM/Robotics, Weight Room and Operations Center.

\$310,337.53 - A/V for STEAM/Robotics, Weight Room, Operations Center to include network cabling, sound systems, video display systems, wireless access points

\$54,517.55 - 5% Contingency

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

- F. **MOTION** made by Trustee Austin, support by Secretary Miller **to approve the recommendation from Clark Construction to enter into contracts with the Trade Contractors as outlined in the attached memo in the amount of \$13,427,161.00 and \$50,000 for Architect/Permit Fees to Kingscott Architects as submitted by Rex Clary, Executive Director of Operations.**

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

- G. **MOTION** made by Treasurer Gerbe, support Trustee Estep **made by to accept the recommendation of Lecole Planners to approve the Project Contingency Allocation to the Operations Center as submitted by Rex Clary, Executive Director of Operations. The contingency request is \$1,600,000.00.**

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

9. **SCHEDULED REPORTS**

A. **Safety and Security Update**

Presenters: Rex Clary, Jay Grossman, Jackie Martin

Presented updates regarding the Safety and Security efforts in the district. This included a review of the various teams that meet, such as Internal Safety and Security, Interdisciplinary team, Administrative team, building level, families and visitors. It takes the cooperation of all these groups at all levels. We appreciate the patience of our visitors and families as we implemented a new entrance system into all our buildings. There will be a new “command center” at the new Operations Center for video and access controls. We also rely on Medical Emergency Response Teams and Student Behavior Response Teams. Much of this training is provided by our District Nurse Karan Hervey and her team. Also an important part of this effort is the Informacast system which is now operable in all 7 bldgs. We have 540 cameras which primarily are used to review footage after an event has occurred. This could be property damage, student altercations, loss of district property, location of students that elope from classrooms. There is grant funding available to enhance safety & security. Through the 907c grants we are looking at getting proposals for additional enhancements. Another part of safety and security is the training piece. There are regular drills in all buildings including fire/evacuation, lockdown, several weather and medical/cardiac emergencies. Staff training is available through our District Nurse as well as through partnerships with outside Safety and Security consultants, and district-wide professional development. Rex Clary, Jay Grossman and Jackie Martin will be attending the Michigan School Safety Academy in March.

B. **Finance Committee Update**

Brad Gerbe, Chair

Overview of the finance committee meeting that met prior to the Board Meeting. This is a brand new committee starting January. Assistant Superintendent Owsley presented an overview of the SAS Finance structure. We are a \$77M business. This is made up of a lot of different funds. The proposed funding increase for 24/25 is \$241 per student. Governor Whitmer is committed to Early Childhood access for all 4 year olds, also the possibility of 2 years of free Community College to HS graduates, free breakfast and lunch program continues. The budget is always a work in progress but looks promising from the state.

Wednesday, February 14 is Spring Count Day. We are in line and on track with our budget numbers. A budget amendment will be coming either in March or April. School of Choice will come to the full board for a discussion on February 27th with action hoping to be taken on March 12th.

The District Strategic Council is still working on cutting \$1M from the budget for the next 3 years. The Bond projects are moving according to plan. Lots of exciting things are happening and after Spring Break we will see a lot of work happening at the HS with the STEAM/Weight Center projects beginning.

10. ADMINISTRATION / BOARD UPDATES

Superintendent Laatsch: Spoke in support of our school community coming together to support the recent tragedy experienced by the Dorr Family. A fire recently destroyed their home. So grateful for the generosity of our families in supporting them. Highlighted the EMUINVENT Team which includes 2 Saline High School students. Their project has identified that community-dwelling persons aged 60 and above may not be able to move or change positions without assistance. Will be visiting local senior living facilities as they begin work on the design phase of this project.

Student Representative Clark and Iadipaolo: There were lots of great Valentine's events going on at the HS. Winter sports are coming to an end. Shoutout to FFA and their recent competition.

Trustee Gold: Acknowledgement for Black History Month. Congratulations to the Ethics Team for their recent state award. So many great things are going on with our students, it's hard to keep up which is a good thing.

Trustee Estep: WM Kids Heart Challenge, "Finn's Mission" which is an American Heart Challenge service-learning program and teaches life saving skills to students. SMS Pals Club went bowling at Station 300. Thankful for the recently passed Gun Safety & Gun Safe Storage resolution. Wishing everyone a Happy Chinese New Year and Black History Month.

Vice President Steben: Acknowledges Black History Month. Recently attended the monthly FSAS Meeting and looking forward to the upcoming March 9th fundraiser "Blue Jeans & Bling" event at the Sheraton. Encourages participation from fellow Board Members. Also congratulations to the Ethics Team, Swim & Dive, and Cheer. Lots of great moments for our athletic teams. Very proud to observe our student athletes when they travel outside the district.

Secretary Miller: Reminder that you can donate to FSAS through their silent auction even if you're not able to be in attendance. Really enjoy the Superintendent's Recognition. Thank you to the Athletic department for honoring our athletes with National Signing Day opportunities throughout the school year. Musicians competing at MSBOA Solo & Ensembles. The Connecting Club made a recent presentation to the Freshman class about the rewarding benefits of participating in a class like "Connecting"..

Treasurer Gerbe: Thank you for the Superintendent's Recognition portion. Grateful to the FSAS for bringing Julie Lythcott-Haims to present in the district on February 1, 2024. It was a very inspiring message to parents.

Trustee Austin: Shoutout to all the great things going on in Athletics, especially grateful to see the resurgence of the Pep Band at some athletic events. Thank you to Nate Lampman.

President **McVey:** Noted that changes to Michigan's Public Employment Relations Act (PERA) take effect today, Feb. 13, 2024. Policy Committee will be looking at Neola updates to several PERA policies soon. Thank you to the Grievance committee which has been activated due to a recent grievance. Will be participating in the upcoming Polar Plunge to support Special Olympics.

11. CONSENT AGENDA

Trustee Estep requested that **A. Approval** of the Board of Education Meeting Minutes be considered separately. She requested an addition to the minutes under her comments during Administration/Board Updates to read "I'm disappointed I was not appointed to the Policy committee this year. I proudly served on the Policy Committee for five years, and served as Chair for two years." Minutes of January 30, 2024 will be corrected by Recording Secretary, Betty Jahnke, prior to posting.

MOTION made by Secretary Miller, Trustee Gerbe **to authorize the Consent Agenda as amended.**

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

- A. **Approval** of the Board of Education Meeting Minutes of January 30, 2024
- B. **Approval of Payment** of the General Fund Accounts Payable of February 13, 2024, in the amount of \$2,983,606.01
- C. **Approval of Payment** of Bond Fund Series III Accounts Payable of February 13, 2024, in the amount of \$20,960.00
- D. **Approval of Payment** of 2023 Bond Fund Series I Accounts Payable of February 13, 2024, in the amount of \$1,045,636.39
- E. **Receive and File** Human Resources Report

CLOSING

12. ITEMS SCHEDULED ON NEXT AGENDA

Athletic Department Update
School of Choice Discussion
Closed Session (Collective Bargaining)

13. PUBLIC COMMENT

STUDENTS - None

OTHER PUBLIC STAKEHOLDERS

Changming Fan, Community Member

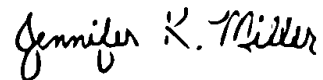
14. NEXT MEETING

The next Board of Education Meeting will be held on February 27, 2024, at 6:30 PM.

15. ADJOURNMENT

RECOMMENDED MOTION ... to adjourn the Regular Board of Education Meeting of February 13, 2024, at 9 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Jennifer K. Miller
Board Secretary

Recording Secretary, Betty Jahnke