

SALINE AREA SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION - Special Meeting

Monday, October 21, 2024
Liberty School Board Room
6 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.

1. CALL TO ORDER

This special meeting of the Board of Education was called to order at 6 pm by President Michael McVey.

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

Board Members Absent: Jennifer Steben

Central Administration: Superintendent Laatsch, Saline HS Principal Theresa Stager, Assistant Principals Deneen and Rafko.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

Tameka and Shawn Leonard came to the podium and Tameka spoke regarding an incident that occurred in the parking lot of SHS. She reported that their child's car had been vandalized ("tagged") with hate speech. He shared the support her child received from school personnel. She also voiced concern when the consequences are only known by those committing the harm and not the larger community and expressed her desire for community prevention and the need for more acceptance and tolerance of diversity.

Sabrina Patillo and Joshua Rush (son) came to the podium and Sabrina spoke. She shared that both of her sons were impacted by racism during their time at SHS. She expressed that after her eldest, she thought things were getting better but doesn't feel that way now. She asked that the decisions regarding consequences and discipline of students committing racist acts stand so that the board isn't condoning the behavior. She wants to see change.

4. APPOINTMENT OF HEARING OFFICER

MOTION made by Secretary Miller, support Treasurer Gerbe **to appoint Jennifer Starlin of the Thrun Law Firm, P.C. to serve as Hearing Officer and to make evidentiary and procedural determinations on behalf of the Board of Education for the expulsion appeal matter before the Board on Monday, October 21, 2024.**

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

5. CLOSED SESSION

MOTION made by Trustee Estep, support Trustee Austin **to enter Closed Session of the Board of Education at 6:10 PM, pursuant to Section 8(1)(b) of the Michigan Open Meetings Act and upon the request of the student's parents to consider the disciplining of a student whose identity is known to the Board. Under Section 8(1)(b) a simple majority vote is required.**

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

6. RE-ENTER OPEN SESSION without objection to re-enter Open Session of the Special Board of Education Meeting at 12:10 AM.

7. DECISION BY THE BOARD

MOTION made by Treasurer Gerbe, support Secretary Miller **to uphold the administration's decision with modification to add a fourth option to allow the student to stay in an online or alternative program until the end of the second trimester. If the student completes supervised restorative practices that include education, counseling, and an agreed upon re-entry plan, administration will consider his re-entry to the high school at the end of the second trimester. If this option is accepted, and if the student earns his way back into the high school setting, the discipline entry will, at the time of re-entry, be coded as "Indecency".**

Ayes - Austin, Gerbe, McVey, Miller

Nays - Estep, Gold

MOTION CARRIED 4-2

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8. NEXT MEETING

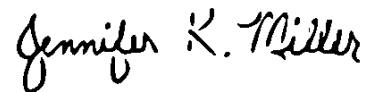
The next Board of Education Meeting will be held on October 22, 2024, at 6:30 PM.

9. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION made by Trustee Estep, support Secretary Miller to adjourn the Special Board of Education Meeting of October 21, 2024, at 12:14 AM.

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

Respectfully submitted,



Jennifer Miller
Board Secretary