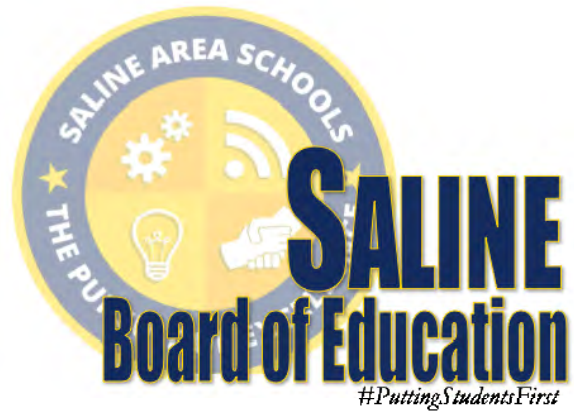


Board of Education Meeting

Liberty School Board Room

October 8, 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 at 6:30 pm by President Michael McVey.

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

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

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. SUPERINTENDENT RECOGNITION

*Saline High School Track & Field Team
Member Recognition & Season Highlights*

Highlighting the remarkable 23/24 season with both boys and girls teams showcasing their impressive performances. Girls Team: 82 athletes and placed second in both SEC and Regional championships. Boys Team: 107 athletes, won SEC league title and Regional title for 13th consecutive season. Also set five new school records.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

STUDENTS

Issac Furlong, student - spoke in regards to the football situation, both forfeitures and eligibility

Coleman Ross, Jaiden Leonard, students - spoke in regards to the football situation, both forfeitures and eligibility

OTHER PUBLIC STAKEHOLDERS - None

5. **RESPONSE TO PREVIOUS PUBLIC COMMENT**

AGENDA

6. **REVISIONS/APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

MOTION made by Treasurer Gerbe, support Trustee Austin **to approve the agenda as printed.**

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

7. **STUDENT SHOWCASE**

Saline High School Key Club

Presenters: Maddie Finocchiaro & Ria Kak

Key Club is a high school service organization that focuses on volunteering and providing students with enriching volunteer opportunities that promote leadership and build character. The club has 85 active members and has collectively completed 2,138 hours of community service and participated in 187 service events. Three active partnerships include: Give365: an outreach program within Ann Arbor Parks & Recreation that focuses on cleaning up parks and trails; Saline Area Social Services: a 100% community funded organization that provides food assistance and emergency aid and House by the Side of the Road: an organization that providing clothing and small household items to underprivileged people in the community. The Key Club is affiliated with Saline Kiwanis, Saline MS Builders Club and Circle K. The Club has 3 primary areas of focus: (1) zero hunger, (2) good health and wellbeing, and (3) quality education.

8. **ACTION ITEMS**

A. MOTION made by Vice President Steben, support Trustee Austin **to approve the minutes from the September 24, 2024 closed session under 8(a) of the Open Meetings Act for both the purpose of Discussion of Personnel Matters and Superintendent Evaluation.**

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

- B. MOTION** made by Treasurer Gerbe, support Trustee Estep **to approve the bid of Dow Equipment Service, Inc. as recommended by Lecole Planners and submitted by Rex Clary, Executive Director of Operations for the Diesel Exhaust Fluid and Lubrication Equipment for the New Operations Center in the amount of \$54,670.00.**

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

9. SCHEDULED REPORTS

A. Michigan Integrated Continuous Improvement Process (MICIP) Update

Presenter: Teaching & Learning Team

The Michigan Integrated Continuous Improvement Plan is a comprehensive plan that outlines the district's goals and strategies for improving student achievement and closing the achievement gap. It is a top priority for the district.

The district has made significant progress in improving student achievement, particularly in reading and math. The district is also working to improve teacher quality and retention through professional development and support. The district's assessment system is designed to provide a comprehensive understanding of student learning using various types of assessments which are meant to provide an understanding of where students' learning is and what skills they require.

NWEA assessments have undergone changes to better align the assessment with grade-level expectations and Common Core standards. However this changes means multiple years of data can't be compared, fall scores in math may be slightly deflated and winter/spring scores in math may be slightly inflated. Diagnostic foundational skills assessments in K-3 provide a deeper understanding of students' skills in several areas helping to identify areas of strength and weakness in learning, inform instruction and intervention and provide a more comprehensive understanding of student learning.

Presented the highlights in reading and math. State assessment results rank our district among the top performers in the state. Attendance is crucial for student success as well. We are seeing positive trends in attendance rates across the last few years.

Our ELL services have shown positive results with students who previously received ELL services performing well on assessments.

The 35J grant provides funding for districts to improve literacy instructional practices in K-5 spaces. This grant invests in high-quality research-based practices and professional learning for teachers. This is providing our teachers training and support in addition to decodable textbooks that pinpoint exact phonic skills for our students. Each K-2 classroom has received additional decodable texts, and an additional \$1000 to upgrade their classroom libraries. We are partnering with Julia Lindsay to provide professional development made possible by the 35J grant.

The Early Warning and Monitoring System is a mechanism for identifying at-risk students. This in particular looks at various indicators of student success such as attendance, grades and other risk factors identified by teachers. Intervention teams meeting regularly to discuss students who have been identified as at-risk.

Key Dyslexia Legislation has passed to improve the way schools screen and support students. The legislation and data analysis presented demonstrate a commitment to improving instruction and supporting students.

10. **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

A. **BOE Ad Hoc Committee Report**

Facilitator, Vice President Steben

The Ad Hoc committee was formed to appeal the decision by the MHSAA that required the Saline High School football program to forfeit their first three games and for one of their players to be deemed ineligible for the remainder of the season. This committee is made up of 3 board members in addition to 3 parents and the Varsity coach. They met 2 times to discuss the content of the appeals letter. They took no action other than to work on the draft of the appeal letter.

11. **ADMINISTRATION / BOARD UPDATES**

Superintendent Laatsch: Acknowledgement to the Athletic Department and Director Mantha for the significant improvements that have been made since she has taken over. This has included a process for onboarding coaches, creation of an evaluation process, improved grade check process, changes to the interview process for coaches, improved visibility of the department as well as the development of an athletic handbook. Additional improvements include a well-maintained website, implementation of Big Teams for electronic collection of athletic registration materials. Saline has also hosted the SEC Women's Leadership Conference for the past 3 years.

Student Representatives Sonnenday & Allmand: Congratulations to the Marching Band for receiving perfect scores at a recent competition. Shoutout to the football team for all their support of the Marching Band. Thank you to Key Club for their presentation and congratulations to the track team for their recognition this evening.

Trustee Austin: Thank you to those parents and students who have come out to speak publically at Board meetings recently.

Secretary Miller: Congratulations to a successful homecoming weekend. It takes a lot of work to put these events together. Keeping students central in our decision making. Thank you for coming to meetings to speak.

President McVey: Participated in the ChadTough Run on Sunday, September 29th. Great to see so many people come out to support such a great cause. Thank you to my colleagues who came out to walk in the Homecoming parade.

Vice President Steben: The FSAS will host a fall luncheon later this month. This is a fundraiser for the foundation and also a great opportunity to learn about some of the grants. Friday, October 11th is ChadTough Night at the game and also the FSAS Hall of Fame weekend. We can accomplish so much more with civil conversation and respect. Appreciates Superintendent Laatsch's partnership in supporting the DEI efforts in the district.

Treasurer Gerbe: Congratulations to our Band and the Homecoming Crew. Appreciate that the community has come together to problem solve. Looking forward to ChadTough night.

Trustee Gold: Acknowledgement to National Hispanic Heritage Month. Reminding our community about the Special Education Millage that is on the ballot in Nov. This is an important millage to support our special education students. Wishing Jewish families in our district Shana Tova.

Trustee Estep: Leadership from the football team, coach, staff and parents has been very inspirational. Acknowledgement for how they have lifted up their teammate. Important that everyone's experience gets heard and validated.

12. **CONSENT AGENDA**

MOTION made by Trustee Gold, support Vice President Steben **to authorize the Consent Agenda as printed:**

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

- A. **Approval** of the Board of Education Meeting Minutes of September 24, 2024
- B. **Approval** of the Board Policy Committee Minutes of September 24, 2024
- C. **Approval of Payment** of the General Fund Accounts Payable of October 8, 2024, in the amount of \$1,908,376.79
- D. **Approval of Payment** of Bond Series III Accounts Payable of October 8, 2024 in the amount of \$26,287.00
- E. **Approval of Payment** of 2023 Bond Fund Series I Accounts Payable of October 8, 2024 in the amount of \$967,686.80
- F. **Receive and File** Human Resources Report

CLOSING

13. **ITEMS SCHEDULED ON THE NEXT AGENDA**

- A. Bond Update

14. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

STUDENTS

OTHER PUBLIC STAKEHOLDERS

Eugene Rush, Parent - Spoke regarding personal experience of their son being a victim of racial discrimination

Sabrina Pattillo, Parent - Spoke regarding personal experience of their son being a victim of racial discrimination

Meghan Gunnerson, Parent - Spoke regarding the Ad Hoc Committee's composition

Jolena Nollar - Spoke regarding the appeal process to MHSAA

Danielle Sims-Woods, Parent - Spoke in regards to implicit bias to ensure fair treatment of all individuals.

Shaun Furlong, Parent - Spoke regarding the football situation, acknowledging and learning from mistakes is crucial for growth and improvement

15. NEXT MEETING

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

16. CLOSED SESSION

MOTION made by Vice President Steben, support Secretary Miller **to enter Closed Session of the Board of Education at 8:35 pm, with the intent to re-enter Open Session at approximately 10 pm, for the purpose of discussion of personnel matters under Section 8(a). Under Section 8(a) a simple majority vote is sufficient to enter into a closed session.**

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

MOTION made by Trustee Austin, support Trustee Estep **to re-enter Closed Session of the Board of Education at 9:56 pm, with the intent to re-enter Open Session at approximately 10:30 pm for the purpose of discussion of items covered under Section 8(h) materials exempt from discussion or disclosure by state or federal statute. Under Section 8(h) a simple majority vote is sufficient to enter into a closed session.**

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

MOTION made by Vice President Steben, support Treasurer Gerbe **to direct Superintendent Laatsch to submit a formal letter of appeal to the Michigan High School Athletic Association (MHSAA) on behalf of the Board of Education.**

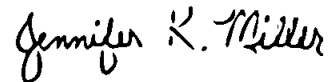
Ayes - All Present - **MOTION CARRIED 7-0**

17. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION made by Trustee Estep, support Secretary Miller **to adjourn the Regular Board of Education Meeting of October 8, 2024, at 10:32 PM.**

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

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jennifer K. Miller". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and "M".

Jennifer Miller
Board Secretary

Recorded by: Betty Jahnke