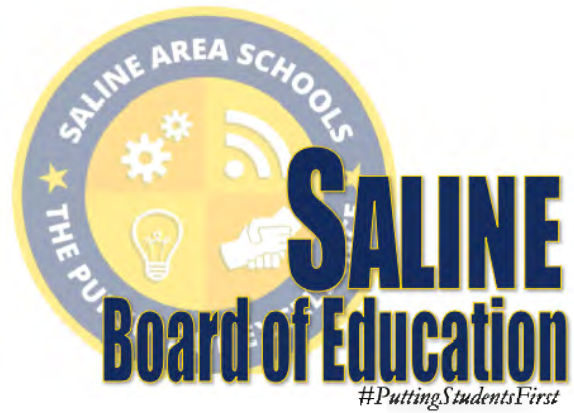


# Board of Education Meeting

Liberty School Board Room  
January 14, 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

### Organizational Meeting of January 14, 2025

1. **CALL TO ORDER** of the Organizational Meeting of January 14, 2025

Meeting was called to order by President McVey at 6:31pm

**Board Members Present:** Tim Austin, Darcy Berwick, Brad Gerbe, Lauren Gold, Michael McVey, Jennifer Steben and Jason Tizedes

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

2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

3. **CEREMONIAL SWEARING-IN OF NEW AND RETURNING BOARD TRUSTEES**

Hon. Anna M. Frushour, 14-A District Court Washtenaw County

*Darcy Berwick, Trustee*      *Brad Gerbe, Trustee*  
*Jennifer Steben, Trustee*      *Jason Tizedes, Trustee*

4. **ACTION ITEMS**

- A. MOTION** made by Trustee Gerbe, support Trustee Steben, **that the Board of Education elect Lauren Gold as temporary chairperson to serve until such time as a president is elected per Policy 0151.**

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

**B. Election of Board Officers**

**1. President**

Trustee Gerbe nominates Michael McVey  
Trustee Austin self nominates

**Vote (5-2):**

Berwick, Gerbe, Gold, McVey, Steben (McVey)  
Austin, Tizedes (Austin)

***2025 Board President will be Michael McVey***

**2. Vice President**

Trustee Austin nominates Jennifer Steben

***2025 Board Vice President will be Jennifer Steben***

**3. Secretary**

Trustee McVey nominates Darcy Berwick  
Trustee Steben nominates Trustee Austin

**Vote (4-3):**

Berwick, Gerbe, Gold, McVey (Berwick)  
Austin, Steben, Tizedes (Austin)

***2025 Board Secretary will be Darcy Berwick***

**4. Treasurer**

Trustee Berwick nominates Trustee Austin  
Trustee Steben nominate Trustee Gerbe

**Vote (5-2)**

Berwick, Gerbe, Gold, McVey, Steben (Gerbe)  
Austin, Tizedes (Austin)

***2025 Board Treasurer will be Brad Gerbe***

**5. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION** made by Vice President Steben, support Trustee Austin **to adjourn the Organizational Meeting of January 14, 2025, at 6:46 PM.**

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

**Regular Board of Education Meeting of January 14, 2025**

6. **CALL TO ORDER** of the regular Board of Education Meeting of January 14, 2025

7. **SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOGNITION**

*MS Robotics Teams*

*SHS eSports Teams*

*Introduction of New Director of Safety & Security, Dan Karrick*

8. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

**STUDENTS - None**

**OTHER PUBLIC STAKEHOLDERS - None**

**EXTENDED PUBLIC COMMENT**

*Foundation for Saline Area Schools Update*

*Stacey Rumpsa, Executive Director*

Executive Director Rumpsa gave a brief update on the Foundation. \$73,500 has been brought in sponsorship funds for the 24/25 school year. Received \$117,000 in donations and in-kind sponsorships from July through December. Awarded \$100,000 in grant funding with approximately \$32K remaining to be used. The "Hall of Fame" is open for nominations. The "Beads and Beats" event will take place on February 28th featuring a live/silent auction and dueling pianos.

9. **RESPONSE TO PREVIOUS PUBLIC COMMENT**

**AGENDA**

10. **REVISIONS/APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

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

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

11. **STUDENT SHOWCASE**

Saline High School High Five Club

*Presenter: Lizzie Thibeault*

The High Five Club is a volunteering club at Saline High School, focused on making a difference in the community, particularly among senior citizens. The club was originally started by a group of friends who wanted to have a bigger impact on the community by giving attention to people who often go unrecognized, our senior citizens. They organize games nights, offer yard clean up, and host holiday card-making events to name a few things. They make connections through social media and through the Director of the Saline Senior Center, who helps them connect throughout the community.

12. **ACTION ITEMS**

- A. **MOTION** made by Vice President Steben, support Trustee Gerbe **to appoint the Board's Recording Secretary Betty Jahnke, Board Secretary Darcy Berwick, and Superintendent Steve Laatsch to serve as the Board's designees for posting legal notices.**

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

- B. **MOTION** made by Trustee Gold, support Trustee Austin **to approve the reappointment of Bari Livsey and Chris Michalak to be the Saline Area Schools representatives on the Local Development Finance Authority for the City of Saline as submitted by Superintendent Laatsch.**

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

- C. **MOTION** made by Vice President Steben, support Trustee Gold **to approve the reappointment of Ben Goodman and Jackie Martin to the Local Access Cable Television Commission for 2025 as submitted by Superintendent Laatsch.**

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

- D. **MOTION** made by Secretary Berwick, support Treasurer Gerbe **to postpone the Board of Education review of the Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) to March**

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

**Note:** Policy Committee will review Policy 8402 for compliance with an annual review.

- E. **MOTION** made by Vice President Steben, support Trustee Austin **to invite the current board president, Michael McVey, to create an ad hoc committee to facilitate the Superintendent search.**

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

- F. **MOTION** made by Vice President Steben, support Treasurer Gerbe **to approve the recommendation to purchase Sorinex Exercise Equipment for the new weight room at**

**Saline High School in the amount of \$427,005.05 as submitted by Rex Clary, Executive Director of Operations.**

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

- G. MOTION** made by Vice President Steben, support Treasurer Gerbe **to approve the purchase proposal from Interkal to replace Saline High School gymnasium east and west bleachers/seating in the amount of \$295,663 as submitted by Rex Clary, Executive Director of Operations.**

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

- H. MOTION** made by Vice President Steben, support Trustee Gold **to approve Bid Package #3 MS Recreation Complex & Parking Lot Contract Award Recommendations in the amounts of \$18,255,709 to Clark Construction for subcontract work, \$742,000 to Kingscott for Architect Services and \$82,237 for permits, water and sewer connections as submitted by Rex Clary, Executive Director of Operations.**

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

- I. MOTION** made by Trustee Austin, support Secretary Berwick **to approve Bid Package #4 Trane Pre-purchase Equipment Saline Middle School - Interior Renovation recommendation in the amount of \$48,981 as submitted by Rex Clary, Executive Director of Operations.**

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

**13. DISCUSSION ITEMS**

- A. Report from ad hoc committee on Third Party Review of Athletics**  
Facilitator: Trustee McVey

The ad hoc committee had established parameters for the review, including the scope of work, timeline, and budget. They initially interviewed 4 consultants. Since the interview process, 2 have withdrawn. Budget and processing times are varied. Considerations when evaluating the proposals included: objectives, flexibility/timing, independence (no connection to MHSAA), personality/collaborative approach.

Next steps look to include an open ad hoc committee seeking input from stakeholders to narrow the review's parameters, possibly re-evaluating proposals for fit, and potentially reaching out to request proposal revisions. Also a possibility of reopening the search process. The ad hoc committee is restricted in their ability to make decisions without holding an open meeting.

**14. ADMINISTRATION / BOARD UPDATES**

**Superintendent Laatsch:** Congratulations to MS Science Teacher Leigh Ann Roehm for being awarded the Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching. This is the highest award that K-12 math and science teachers can receive from the US Government. This award honors the vital role that American teachers and mentors play in shaping the next generation of technical leaders, including scientists, engineers, explorers and innovators. The award comes with a \$10K payment and a national recognition in Washington DC. Thank you to Jason and Darcy for participating in professional development this coming Saturday at WISD completing CBA 101.

**Student Representatives:** Thank you to the SHS High Five for presenting, congratulations to all the MS Robotics and HS eSports teams. Welcome new board members, Jason Tizedes and Darcy Berwick.

**Trustee Tizedes:** Shout out to the Robotics team. Would be great to get more community involvement with our clubs. Acknowledged that some of the club advisors are just community members with a passion.

**Treasurer Gerbe:** Thank you to all who came this evening and to the families of our trustees. Excited for the future of STEAM in our district. Welcome to new Trustees Jason Tizedes and Darcy Berwick. Thank you for your trust in electing me Treasurer again for this year. Congratulations to MS Teacher Leigh Ann Roehm. Looking forward to our tour of the HS Steam and Weight Room. Thank you to our community for passing the bond.

**Vice President Steben:** Thank you recognition as a newly elected Trustee. Appreciated the Oath and Reception and sharing it with family and friends. Welcome to our new Trustees Jason Tizedes and Darcy Berwick. Congratulations to Leigh Ann Roehm. Looking forward to the upcoming FSAS Beats & Beads fundraiser supporting the Foundation for Saline Area Schools.

**Trustee Gold:** Congratulations to Leigh Ann Roehm. Welcome to Dan Karrick. Shout out to the Unified Basketball Team and our special education students. Congratulations to Kim Jasper for being among the named Ann Arbor Family Favorites. Welcome to our new Trustees Jason Tizedes and Darcy Berwick.

**Trustee Berwick:** Honored to be serving on the Board of Education. Our children have now graduated and we loved our experiences at SAS.

15. **CONSENT AGENDA**

**MOTION** made by Secretary Berwick, support Treasurer Gerbe, **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 December 10, 2024
- B. **Approval of Payment** of the General Fund Accounts Payable of January 14, 2025, in the amount of \$5,197,862.75

- C. **Approval of Payment** of Bond Series III Accounts Payable of January 14, 2025, in the amount of \$56,750.00
- D. **Approval of Payment** of 2023 Bond Fund Series I Accounts Payable of January 14, 2025, in the amount of \$1,715,962.25
- E. **Receive and File** Finance and Human Resources Report
- F. **Confirm and Acknowledge** Superintendent's Retirement

<b>CLOSING</b>
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16. **ITEMS SCHEDULED ON NEXT AGENDA**

Board Committee Assignments  
School Board Recognition  
Superintendent Search Firm presentation

17. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

STUDENTS - None

OTHER PUBLIC STAKEHOLDERS - None

18. **NEXT MEETING**

The next Board of Education Meeting will be held on January 28, 2024, at 6:30 PM.

19. **CLOSED SESSION**

**MOTION** made by Vice President Steben, support Trustee Austin **to enter Closed Session of the Board of Education at 8:50 PM, with the intent to re-enter Open Session at 10:15 PM, for the purpose of Complaints and Disciplinary Action 8(a) and Collective Bargaining 8(c). Under Sections 8(a) and (c) of the Open Meetings Act, a simple majority vote is sufficient to enter into a closed session.**

20. **RE-ENTER OPEN SESSION**

**Without objection, the Board of Education re-entered open session at 11:50 PM.**

21. **ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION** made by Secretary Berwick, support Trustee Tizedes **to adjourn the Regular Board of Education Meeting of January 14, 2025, at 11:52 PM.**

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

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Darcy Berwick". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Darcy Berwick  
Board Secretary

*Recorded by: Betty Jahnke*