

Board of Education Meeting

Liberty School Board Room

June 11, 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**

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 Owsley and Diglio, Executive Directors Clary and Martin

2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

3. **SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE**

Introduction of 24/25 Student Representatives: *Tommy Allmand & Kate Sonnenday*
Superintendent Laatsch

4. **SPECIAL RECOGNITION**

23/24 District Retirees & Resignations with 15+ Years of Service

5. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

STUDENTS - None

OTHER PUBLIC STAKEHOLDERS - None

6. RESPONSE TO PREVIOUS PUBLIC COMMENT

AGENDA

7. REVISIONS/APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

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

8. ACTION ITEMS

A. MOTION made by Secretary Miller, support Treasurer Gerbe **to approve the food service management contract with Chartwells for the 2024-25 School Year as submitted by Miranda Owsley, Assistant Superintendent of Finance**

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

B. MOTION made by Treasurer Gerbe, support Trustee Austin move **to adopt the amended General Appropriations Act for 2023-2024 Final Amended Budgets, 2024-2025 Original Budgets and the 2024 L-4029 tax rates as submitted by Miranda Owsley, Assistant Superintendent of Finance**

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

C. MOTION made by Trustee Austin, support Trustee Gold **to approve the Community Education Rental Rates as submitted by Brian Puffer, Director of Community Education**

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

D. MOTION made by Secretary Miller, support Vice President Steben **to follow the recommendation of the CARES Advisory Council to approve the Round III allocation of funds as follows in the total amount of \$50,070.84 as submitted by Brian Puffer, Director of Community Education.**

Adaptive Summer Cycling, PEAC - \$5,625.00

Air Conditioning Completion Project, Saline Area Social Services - \$17,862.50

Enhancing SHS Tennis Courts w/ Benches, SHS Hornet Tennis - \$4,928.34

Kids' Corner Safety Upgrades, Saline Parks & Recreation - \$2,675.00

Kids Summer Camp Patio Space, Saline Parks & Recreation - \$2,000.00
New Goalie Equipment, SHS Field Hockey - \$2,000.00
Saline Varsity Sideline Cheer Uniforms - SHS Varsity Sideline Cheer - \$5,000.00
Sparkle & Shine STARS CheerABILITIES Squad, Work & Play
Special Needs Resource Center, Inc. - \$4,000.00
Water Polo Equipment, SHS/SMS Boys/Girls Water Polo - \$5,980.00

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

9. **SCHEDULED REPORTS**

A. Wellness Committee Annual Overview

Presenters: Musetta Deneen & Noel Koller

The Wellness Committee supports families and provides strategies to assist families who seek services in the school district. They presented their annual overview, highlighting their mission to ensure the wellness policy created by the Board is implemented and reviewed regularly. The committee is made up of parents, staff members including administration, nurses, and social workers. The committee aims to support and improve the physical and mental health of the school community, both staff and students, through education, experiences, and access to services. The committee used the School Health Index tool, created by the CDC which helps identify strengths and weaknesses of health and safety policies and procedures, helps to develop an action plan to address areas of weakness and to also promote health and enhance overall health and behaviors. Key areas of focus were Social and Emotional Climate and Family Engagement. Next steps will include recommendations for areas that didn't score well on the index tool as well as working on developing a social-emotional curriculum for the district.

B. Technology Department Annual Overview

Presenter: Jay Grossman, Director of Technology

This annual update provided an overview of the Tech department's busy year. They received almost 2900 help tickets this year with only 27 currently remaining open. They support about 2100 daily use student devices and over 500 staff devices. They also manage around 900 devices for state testing. The Technology Department maintains the district's student information system, PowerSchool, which includes a range of systems such as Google Classroom, Remind, SchoolMessenger and Naviance. In all the network closets this year, the batteries were replaced with 10-year lithium batteries. Core routers were upgraded to handle over 100 gigabits per second. The Storage Area Network was upgraded to allow for better storage, can compress data by up to 50%, increased speed and optimal encryption and back up for district operations. The Verkada Camera System has been completed. There are now 548 cameras on campus and a visitor system with secure vestibule access. InformaCast system upgrade is also complete with over 700 speakers installed including panic buttons, strobe lights and digital/audio signage. Work upcoming includes a 2 year project to standardize audio video equipment in all classrooms, and connecting fiber optics from the middle school to the new operations bldg.

Switches in all 40 network closets will also be upgraded. By the start of the new school year, all new Epson copiers will be installed and functioning.

C. Foundation for Saline Area Schools Annual Overview

Presenter: Stacey Rumpsa, Executive Director

The annual update to the Board highlighted the total revenue of the different events this year. The annual employee campaign brought in \$9000. The fall luncheon brought in \$41,000, Giving Tuesday \$5,000, the year-end appeal letter \$18,000, Blue Jeans & Bling net revenue was \$56,100, Superintendent's Circle dinner was \$20,000 and general donations totaled \$9,300. 27 grants were funded this year totaling \$96,300. Net donations for the 23/24 year were \$207,202. The Hall of Fame will be held October 11th. Inductees this year will be Ray and Mary Larned, Brian Warra, Robbie Felton, Greg DeGrand, Lila Howard and Norma Freeman. The Alumni Banquet will be held June 21st at SMS which will include an open house event to showcase the alumni archives, the Alumni Golf Outing will be July 15th at Brookside and the Fall Fundraiser will be October 30th at 12 noon at Liberty. Student Representatives for the 24/25 school year will be Grace Oberski and Bryce Nadig. One of the Foundation's goals for the upcoming year is to put more emphasis on family involvement and showcase the impact of the foundation on the school experience.

10. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Board Policy Committee Update

Facilitator: Jenny Miller, Chair

1. 5/28/24 Meeting Review

The Policy Committee has been working on updating policies, including the evaluation of the superintendent, in response to changes at the state level. This policy is being updated to mirror the policy for administrators and professional staff with a 3 point scale replacing the previous 4 point scale. There will no longer be a "highly effective" rating. This policy 1240 appears on the consent agenda today. Also on consent are Policy 2410 which has been rescinded, and revised policies 2414 and 2418 which have been updated due to the deletion of M.C.L 388.1766, the repealed section pertaining to a disciplinary policy for referral of pupils for abortion or assisting student in obtaining an abortion. 3 of the Neola updates in the most recent volume were merely "technical corrections" which included punctuation and pronoun changes. These changes did not impact policy operation or procedures and were pushed through for production into the manual.

2. Policy Discussion (1st Readings)

PO5511 Dress and Grooming - this policy first introduced in 2009 was recommended for our district in 2022. The policy committee reviewed the recommendations from Neola in addition to the DEIAC. Administrators will also look to this policy when reviewing handbooks to ensure language aligns with the policy. The goal is to impose only minimum and necessary restrictions on students' taste and individuality and to direct staff to enforce the school's dress

code in accordance with SAS non-discrimination policies. The policy committee would like this policy to promote the least restrictive enforcement possible and focus on ensuring that the dress code does not interfere with education. Key additions to the policy include “students have the right to dress in accordance with their sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression” within the constraints of the dress code. Next steps will be adding this to the July 9th agenda as an action item.

PO1540 Administrative Staff Reductions/Recalls - New policy in 2023 and should be adopted. This addresses the need for a way to recall staff should the need arise. This policy is in alignment with current state law which was recently changed.

B. Board Finance Committee Update

Facilitator: Brad Gerbe, Chair

The budget committee met this evening. We had a brief discussion about the budget hearing presentation that took place this evening and the eventual approval of the budgets. We also have our first look at the introductory budget for the 24/25 school year. The district has also been awarded \$600,000 from the EPA to purchase 3 electric buses. This will not cover the entire cost but certainly will help to alleviate a portion. We also talked about the CARES Grants and are happy to support programs in our local community. The finance committee is also closely watching the allocation of funds, particularly with regards to how healthcare is being funded.

C. Public Facing Administrative Guidelines

Facilitator: Trustee Susan Estep

Administrative Guidelines and handbooks are considered an extension of the policy manual and are binding upon all employees and students. The district's policy manual and handbooks are maintained on the district website. The administrative guidelines are not yet publicly available. In 2018 district purchased AGs and Policies from Neola. In 2021 the policy committee discussed updating AGs with Neola communicating they would provide an updated manual in January 2022. In 2022 a timeline was discussed with Neola for implementing and creating AGs. Since that time, the administration has been meeting regularly to work on and implement AGs but are still not publicly available. The importance of transparency is key to building trust with the community, increasing consistency and making sure policies are accessible and transparent. Currently only the WISD and the Ypsilanti Community School District have given public access to their AGs. Revisions should be considered to policy 1230.01 which hasn't been updated since 1995. Additional considerations should be to have online forms available. The purpose of administrative guidelines is to provide guidance on how to enact policies in a school district. They are typically written by school administrators who are considered the experts on how to implement policy.

11. ADMINISTRATION / BOARD UPDATES

Superintendent Laatsch: Nice article in the Sun Times regarding our District Nurse Karan Hervey receiving the Distinguished Service Award. Congratulations to her and well deserved.

Trustee Austin: Lots of bond work taking place this summer. On Saturday June 15th at the Washtenaw Farm Council Grounds, Saline Area Social Services will be hosting a Food Truck festival from 11 am til 3 pm.

Trustee Estep: SEAB public hearing was held on Monday, June 10th. Very pleased with how it went. Cameron Cochran and Kristin Hoffman-Peavler, co-chairs, did a great job in presenting the curriculum and supporting data. There will be opportunities for public feedback as well as viewing the curriculum prior to the 2nd public hearing which has not been scheduled yet. Happy Pride Month.

Secretary Miller: Happy summer to all staff and students. Juneteenth will be recognized next week on the 19th and there are events throughout Saline and surrounding towns for our community to attend.

Vice President Steben: Thank you to our retirees for your service to our district. Congratulations to our graduates.

Treasurer Gerbe: Congratulations to our retirees and all your years of service. Thank you to SEAB both those attending and those presenting. Thank you to our voters for the support of the bond. You'll notice all the work going on this summer. Lots of exciting projects taking place. Attended the flag raising ceremony at City Hall for Pride Month. Thank you to Caroline Stout for her help to bring attention to literacy and early intervention around dyslexia.

Trustee Gold: Let's celebrate Pride Month. 1st Friday in June was National Gun Violence Awareness Day. Reminding the community about the importance of safe gun storage. Also encourages the community and educators to remember to supervise children around water to help keep them safe. Encourages swim classes at early ages and the use of life vests.

12. CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION made by Vice President Steben, 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 May 28, 2024
- B. **Approval** of the Board Policy Committee Meeting Minutes of May 28, 2024
- C. **Approval of Payment** of the General Fund Accounts Payable of June 11, 2024, in the amount of \$3,735,036.40
- D. **Approval of Payment** of 2023 Bond Fund Series I Accounts Payable of June 11, 2024 in the amount of \$723,485.39
- E. **Approval** to adopt the 2024-2025 MHSAA Membership Resolution

- G. **Approval** of the 2024-2025 MASB Membership Renewal in the amount of \$8511.63
- H. **Receive and File** Finance and Human Resources Report
- I. **Approval** of Neola Policy Updates (February 2024)
 - PO1240 Evaluation of the Superintendent (revised)
 - PO2410 Prohibition of Referral or Assistance (rescinded)
 - PO2414 Reproductive Health and Family Planning (revised)
 - PO2418 Sex Education (revised)

CLOSING

13. **ITEMS SCHEDULED ON NEXT AGENDA**

County CTE Report
Superintendent Listening Session / Perception of Equity Survey
Bullying Report
Superintendent Evaluation, Quarterly Update

14. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

STUDENTS - None

OTHER PUBLIC STAKEHOLDERS

Sarah Yousif, Recent Grad - Spoke in support of Vice President Steben's upcoming BOE campaign
David Hayward, Parent - Spoke in regards to the discussion regarding the Dress and Grooming Policy
Tiffanie Alexander, Parent - Spoke in regards to maintaining the DEI lens

15. **NEXT MEETING**

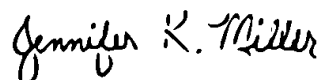
The next Board of Education Meeting will be held on July 9, 2024 at 6:30 PM.

16. **ADJOURNMENT**

MOTION made by Treasurer Gerbe, support Trustee Austin **to adjourn the Regular Board of Education Meeting of June 11, 2024, at 10:15 PM.**

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

Respectfully Submitted,



Jennifer Miller
Board Secretary

Recorded by: Betty Jabnke