

# Board of Education Meeting

Liberty School Board Room

September 10, 2024, 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 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, Voelker

#### 2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

#### 3. MEET NEW HIRES

*Introduction: Superintendent Laatsch*

24/25 new employees of the Saline Area School district were introduced.

#### 4. PUBLIC COMMENT

### STUDENTS

**M Halbrecht, Student** - Spoke regarding the SEAB's proposed curriculum presentation.

**OTHER PUBLIC STAKEHOLDERS**

**Megan Gunnerson, Parent** - Spoke regarding the SEAB's proposed curriculum presentation.

5. **RESPONSE TO PREVIOUS PUBLIC COMMENT**

<b>AGENDA</b>
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6. **REVISIONS/APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

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

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

7. **ACTION ITEMS**

**A.** **MOTION** made by Vice President Steben, support Trustee Gold to appoint Susan Estep as the voting delegate and Michael McVey as the alternate representing the Saline Board of Education at the 2024 MASB Delegate Assembly being held on Thursday, October 24, 2024

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

8. **SEAB PUBLIC HEARING #2**

*Presenter: Cameron Cochran & Kristen Hoffman-Peavler*

The Sex Education Advisory Board (SEAB) is a committee formed in accordance with Michigan law, which specifies the parameters regarding its makeup and charge. The SEAB is responsible for reviewing the sex education curriculum and in this most recent cycle, has done so for 4th through 8th grade. This specific curriculum has not been updated in several years, and in the 4th/5th grade has remained the same since its introduction. The current curriculum is considered inadequate for reasons including the ways in which students engage with educational content has changed and it also does not meet the diverse needs and experiences of all students. This proposed curriculum has been recommended after 3 years of review by SEAB.

The proposed new curriculum provides a more comprehensive and inclusive education on human development and relationships, addresses the diverse needs and experiences of students, and also aligns with the SAS compass which emphasizes diversity, equity and inclusion.

The benefits of the proposed curriculum are expected to help students build a better understanding of themselves and others and provide students with the knowledge and skills necessary to make informed decisions about their health and well-being. The proposed Positive Prevention Plus curriculum is designed to fulfill the requirements of Senate Bill 66 which requires schools to provide education on consent and sexual assault.

Grade Level Overview:

**4th Grade:** Friendship, Bullying Behaviors, Puberty, Hygiene, Staying Safe & Healthy

**5th Grade:** Puberty, Human Reproduction, Hygiene, Diseases and Their Transmission, Staying Safe & Healthy

**6th Grade:** Understanding Your Body, Gender and Sexual Orientation, Exploring Friendships, Bullying & Abuse

**7th Grade:** Exploring Friendships, Bullying & Abuse, The HIV/AIDS Epidemic, Media & Peer Pressure, How Viruses Spread

**8th Grade:** Understanding Your Body, Preventing an Unplanned Pregnancy, Teen Pregnancy (Choices & Responsibilities), Preventing STIs, Recognizing and Reducing Risks, Goal Setting

The district has guidelines for opting out, which involve providing alternative assignments and ensuring consistency across schools and classrooms. Opting out of sex education is a state law that the district must offer.

The SEAB will continue to gather feedback from teachers before coming back to the Board of Education at a future date with final recommendations and to seek final approval of the curriculum.

## 9. **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

### **Board Finance Committee Update**

*Facilitator: Brad Gerbe, Chair*

The finance committee met just prior to the board meeting. The district is always working to make sure that finances and structures are equivalent. The goal is to have a balanced budget while maintaining optimal class ratios and sizes. The district has spent approximately \$29M of the \$180M bond with a total of \$35M being encumbered on projects. The District will be presenting a Bond update at a future Board meeting in October. The initial feedback on the 23/24 year audit is good and should be completed by the end of October/early November. The district is also waiting on some clarity on the 3% pass through and MPSERS adjustment from the state. Safety and Security continue to be of importance to the district and exploring any upgrades to current infrastructure to ensure the utmost safety of our students and staff. These discussions will continue to take place on the Capital Projects agenda with District administration.

## 10. **ADMINISTRATION / BOARD UPDATES**

**Superintendent Laatsch:** Thank you to all staff for a great start to the school year. Also a special thank you to Rex Clary for being on top of all the bond projects happening this summer.

**Trustee Austin:** Thank you to the staff for a great start to a new year. Great start for the transportation department as well being fully staffed to transport all our students with no cancellations of routes being necessary.

**Secretary Miller:** Thank you to the staff for a positive start to a new year. Policy Committee will meet on Monday, 9/16 at 5:30 pm to consider some revisions to Policy 9141 Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Advisory Committee. There are a number of vacancies on this committee. There will also be a Policy Committee meeting on 9/24/24 at 5 pm.

**President McVey:** On Thursday 9/12, there will be a Board of Education Candidates forum. This will be moderated by students of Saline High School. Both our student representatives Tommy and Kate will be present.

**Vice President Steben:** Some date reminders: Homecoming Parade will be 10/4 with a 5 pm start, FSAS fall luncheon is on 10/30 at Liberty School cafeteria from 11:30 am to 1 pm, deadline to submit grants to FSAS is 11/3, Chadtough Run is Sunday, 9/29 with a 2:30 pm start time. They have already secured \$73,500 in corporate sponsorships. Shoutout to the student section at the football game.

**Treasurer Gerbe:** Will be attending the candidate forum on Thursday evening.. Nice to meet the new staff this evening. Our district does a great job with safety and security. It's important that parents know their children are safe at school. Ongoing conversations are important.

**Trustee Gold:** Attended the recent MS open house. Shoutout to the students who were greeting and handing out maps. They did a great job and represented MS well. Thank you to Cameron Cochran and Kristen Hoffman-Peavler for their presentation and all the hard work they have done on SEAB. October is childhood cancer awareness month.

**Trustee Estep:** Will be attending the candidate forum on Thursday evening. Excited that it will be student-led. The DEIAC has a meeting on September 25th at 6:30 pm. Ryan Kerr is one of the chairs. Several new members need to be appointed to fill vacancies and hope to do that prior to the next meeting.

## 11. CONSENT AGENDA

**MOTION** made by Steben, Miller, support to **authorize the Consent Agenda as printed:**

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

- A. **Approval** of the Board of Education Meeting Minutes of August 27, 2024
- B. **Approval** of the Board Policy Committee Minutes of August 27, 2024
- C. **Approval of Payment** of the General Fund Accounts Payable of September 10, 2024, in the amount of \$3,597,102.78
- D. **Approval of Payment** of Bond Series III Accounts Payable of September 10, 2024 in the amount of \$88,571.30
- E. **Approval of Payment** of 2023 Bond Fund Series I Accounts Payable of September 10, 2024 in the amount of \$1,180,084.32

- F. **Receive and File** Finance and Human Resources Reports
- G. **Reaffirm** the Return to In-Person Instruction & Continuity of Services Plan  
(last required approval)
- H. **Approval** of Neola Updates to Policy 2266 Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Sex in Education Programs or Activities

**CLOSING**

12. **ITEMS SCHEDULED ON NEXT AGENDA**

Enrollment Update  
WEOC Presentation

13. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

**STUDENTS - None**

**OTHER PUBLIC STAKEHOLDERS**

**Meghan Gunnerson, Parent** - Spoke regarding the SEAB's proposed curriculum presentation.

14. **NEXT MEETING**

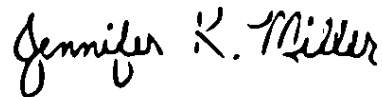
The next Board of Education Meeting will be held on September 24 , 2024 at 6:30 PM

15. **ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION** made by Trustee Estep, support Trustee Austin, support to **adjourn the Regular Board of Education Meeting of September 10, 2024, at 9:02 PM.**

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

Respectfully submitted,



Jennifer Miller  
Board Secretary

*Recorded by: Betty Jabnke*