

SALINE AREA SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

MINUTES
April 10, 2007

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of the Saline Area School District was held on Tuesday, April 10, 2007, in the Board Conference Room at Historic Union School.

Board Members present: Trudy Driscoll, Lisa Slawson, Kim Van Hoek, Bari Livsey, and Paul Hynek
Absent: Art Trapp and Dave Phillips

Central Administrators present: Beverley Geltner, Nancy Brenton, and Betty Rosen-Leacher

Others present: Brian Cox of The Saline Reporter, Tim Heim, Jim Letcher, Juan Lauchu, Mary Lirones, Judy Fritts, Marilyn Clark, David Raft, several students, and four community members

I. CALL TO ORDER of the Regular Meeting of April 10, 2007, by President Driscoll at 7:01 p.m.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. ITEMS OF INTEREST AND INQUIRY

A. Public

- Mary Lirones thanked the administration for “pulling the plug on video games” – a good decision. She remarked that the young organizer received a lot of press and has a future in politics.

B. Administration

- Superintendent Geltner announced that Dr. Sean Enright has been appointed Executive Director of Assessment and Secondary Instruction, effective July 1, 2007. His responsibilities will include 08-09 restructuring of the scheduling model; assessment of strengths and weakness of students moving from grade 6 to 7 and grade 8 to 9; district-wide assessment (MEAP, etc.); secondary scheduling 7-12; math and foreign languages; school improvement and NCA, etc. She noted that Dr. Enright has served as High School Assistant Principal for the past seven years, and he is competent and knowledgeable. This move will create an opening - Assistant Principal at Saline High School.
- Superintendent Geltner stated that the City of Saline and the school district are hosting another Town Hall Meeting on Thursday, April 19, 2007, 7:00 p.m., in the Ellen Ewing Auditorium at Saline High School. Mr. Lou Glazer, President and Co-Founder of *Michigan Future, Inc.* (a non-partisan, non-profit organization), will be the keynote speaker – “Developing a New Agenda for a New Michigan Economy: A New Path to Prosperity.”
- Superintendent Geltner talked about the disgraceful behavior of Don Imus of MSNBC, who has been suspended because of his comments about one of the women’s college basketball teams – sponsors are pulling out.

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- Superintendent Geltner shared that students think that their privacy is secure when they use *Face Book* and *My Space*, but it is not. She was made aware of recent notations made by Saline students on *Face Book* and *My Space*, and they are in gross violation of the student conduct code. Students do enjoy the right to freedom of speech, which is protected by the First Amendment. Dr. Geltner has met with many of the students and their parents, however, and informed them of the administration's objections to staff members being the target of improper and profane language. Parents have been cooperative, grateful that they were contacted, and ashamed of their children's behavior. She has contacted district legal counsel, the Saline and Pittsfield Police Departments, and U of M and ACLU representatives regarding this matter. She is also going to write letters to *Face Book* and *My Space*.
- Superintendent Geltner announced that a Community Forum has been scheduled for Wednesday, May 9, 2007 (9:30-11 a.m. and 7-8:30 p.m.) to address the issue of internet safety. Saline Middle School Principal Nic Cooper, reps from the Saline and Pittsfield Police Departments, and an ACLU rep will participate in this forum. Also, an in-service is being planned for teachers.

(7:16 p.m. - The required Board member attendance check was conducted. Absent – Art Trapp and Dave Phillips.)

- Superintendent Geltner said that Representative Pam Byrnes has submitted a proposed house bill dealing with bullying - cyber bullying and bullying because of sexual orientation. Dr. Geltner noted that she has a passage from the Old Testament hanging in her office – “Thou shalt not stand idly by.”
- Assistant Superintendent Rosen-Leacher announced that the Community Ed Department and Literacy teachers are conducting a *Summer Literacy Academy* for at-risk elementary students. A fee will be charged to attend this program, but scholarships are available.
- Assistant Superintendent Rosen-Leacher stated that three Middle School teachers completed the *Reading Apprenticeship Program* at WISD – training for trainers. Eight to fifteen more teachers will train this summer. Saline Schools is a Model School for the county. Jim Letcher and Mary Hendricks are the Literacy Coordinators for Grades 1-4.
- Superintendent Geltner talked about transitioning students from Grades 4 to 5, 6 to 7, and 8 to 9, and providing new learning opportunities for those students.
- Superintendent Geltner told the board that, as a result of the interviews she conducted with the finalists, she was not convinced that any one of them possessed the qualifications Saline is looking for in its Director of Special Education; therefore, she did not fill the position. WISD has agreed to provide Saline with support by lending us a member of its Special Education staff and to help us find a Director of Special Education.

- Deputy Superintendent Brenton shared a copy of a letter sent to all Saline families asking for their help in projecting the 07-08 school district enrollment. Parents are being asked to provide us with their children's names, current grades, and current buildings, and indicate whether the students are returning next year – Yes, No, Unsure. In light of the economy and plant closings, Saline may project "Zero" growth or a decline in enrollment for next school year. It's been 25 years since the school district has seen a decline.
- Deputy Superintendent Brenton talked about the dissemination of information pertaining to the May 8 Sinking Fund Millage Election. "Question and Answer" fliers have been prepared for distribution and presentations will be made to community and school groups.
- Secretary Van Hoek asked if responses to the millage request have been positive or negative.
- Deputy Superintendent Brenton responded that only a few people have commented that it is not a good time because of Michigan's economy.

C. Board of Education Members

- Vice President Slawson spoke to an article she read in The Wall Street Journal about blogging and how employers are not hiring individuals who use blogs inappropriately.
- Vice President Slawson announced that *Board Candidates Night* is now scheduled for Wednesday, April 25, 2007, 7:00 p.m., Liberty School Auditorium, sponsored by The Saline Reporter and school parent groups. Sue Collins, a writer for the newspaper, will be the facilitator. If members of the community cannot attend, they may write or email questions (issues that need to be addressed by candidates) to Lisa Slawson at lisaslawson@yahoo.com or Brian Cox at bcox@heritage.com. Also, time will be allotted at the end of the evening for questions from the audience.
- Trustee Hynek said that he read in a Detroit Free Press article that Bloomfield Hills School District spent \$716,000 on electronic whiteboards for elementary classrooms. Bloomfield Hills is a school district that receives a much higher foundation allowance per student than Saline. Equity for public schools in Michigan is being sought – www.citizensforequity.org.
- Trustee Livsey requested that Assistant Superintendent Wall continue to provide the board with budget updates. She requested a copy of the budget sheet that the board received on March 27, when she was absent. President Driscoll and Superintendent Geltner agreed with the importance of these updates.

IV. REVISIONS/APPROVAL OF AGENDA

President Driscoll asked if there were any revisions to the agenda.

MOTION by Lisa Slawson, seconded by Paul Hynek, to approve the agenda as printed.
MOTION CARRIED. Ayes – all present.

V. SCHEDULED REPORTS/PUBLIC STATEMENTS

Saline High School Advanced Placement Program

High School Counselor Tim Heim and Assistant Superintendent Rosen-Leacher provided the board with an overview of the AP Program.

- Two years ago, SHS was named among top 1,000 schools in nation.
- AP Courses: Art Studio 2D and 3D; Biology; Chemistry; Calculus AB and BC; English Lit. and Comp.; English Lang. and Comp. (new); Environmental Science; Government and Politics and Government and Politics Comparative; Music Theory; Physics C; Psychology; Spanish Language (new); Statistics; US History. Instructors of AP courses must submit course syllabus to College Board AP.
- 1980's Historical Data: 1980 – 48 students, 57 exams = 52.5% grade 3 or higher; 1985 – 88 students, 116 exams = 65.5% grade 3 or higher; 1989 – 71 students, 111 exams = 74.8% grade 3 or higher. Grade 3 or higher earns free college credit (3, 4, 6, and sometimes 8 college credits).
- 1990's Historical Data: 1990 – 71 students, 134 exams = 80% grade 3 or higher; 1995 – 111 students, 188 exams = 78.7% grade 3 or higher; 1999 – 167 students, 255 exams = 84.7% grade 3 or higher.
- 2000's Historical Data: 2000 – 161 students, 220 exams = 95% grade 3 or higher; 2003 – 259 students, 394 exams = 91% grade 3 or higher; 2006 – 268 students, 357 exams = 94% grade 3 or higher.
- AP Instructor Dr. Jere Hassberger recognized for his students scoring 5 or better in Calculus.
- AP demonstrates rigor of schedule and saves student dollars.
- AP Savings: 269 students, 357 exams x 5 college credits = 1,675 credits; EMU \$220 credit hour = \$368,500; MSU \$254 credit hour = \$425,450; U of M \$330 credit hour = \$552,750.
- Block Schedule and AP: Format to “double up” on curriculum; sequence of curriculum; 90 minutes a day, all year.
- Typical Rigorous AP Schedule: Sophomore – AP US History; Junior – AP Science, Math, or Social Studies; Senior – 2 AP Science, Math, Art, English, Music, Social Studies.
- Trimesters and AP: 70 minutes a day, all year; 52.5 hours less instruction than block; less opportunities to take AP courses; cannot “double up” on courses. Assistant Superintendent Rosen-Leacher and staff will be working on these issues.

VI. ACTION ITEMS

Superintendent's Contract

President Driscoll presented Dr. Geltner's contract for ratification and signatures.

MOTION by Lisa Slawson, seconded by Bari Livsey, to ratify the three-year contract between Beverley B. Geltner, Superintendent of Schools, and the Saline Area School District's Board of Education. **MOTION CARRIED.** Ayes – all present.

VII. DISCUSSION ITEMS - None

VIII. CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION by Bari Livsey, seconded by Paul Hynek, to authorize the following items as part of the Consent Agenda:

- A. Approval of the Minutes** of the Regular Meeting of March 27, 2007.
- B. Approval of Payment** of the General Fund Accounts Payable of March 27, 2007, in the amount of \$109,058.15, and the General Fund Accounts Payable of April 10, 2007, in the amount of \$98,634.82.
- C. Receive and File** the letter of acceptance from Deputy Superintendent Brenton for the resignation of Elaine Muncey, Teacher Consultant, effective June 11, 2007.
- D. Receive and File** the letter of acceptance from Human Resources Director Callan for the resignation of Scott Orwig, Director of Special Education, effective March 29, 2007.
- E. Receive and File** the 2007-08 Tenure Memo dated April 3, 2007, as prepared by Deputy Superintendent Brenton.
- F. Acceptance** of Superintendent Geltner's recommendation to extend the contracts of Assistant Superintendent Betty Rosen-Leacher and Assistant Superintendent Thomas Wall through June 30, 2010.

MOTION CARRIED. Ayes – all present.

IX. ACTION ITEMS – None

X. DISCUSSION ITEMS - None

XI. PUBLIC COMMENT

- Troy Erby's student teacher commented that he was granted admission to the University of Michigan even though the high school he graduated from did not offer AP courses.
- A member of the community asked where she could get a copy of the AP College Board Course Descriptions.
- Assistant Superintendent Rosen-Leacher responded that the information is available online.
- High School Counselor Tim Heim offered to lend her his notebook for a weekend.

XII. ITEMS SCHEDULED ON NEXT AGENDAS

- Building/Department Report?
- Budget Update

(8:05 p.m. – *Break*)

XIII. CLOSED SESSION

MOTION by Bari Livsey, seconded by Lisa Slawson, to enter Closed Session of the Board of Education at 8:10 p.m., with the intent to re-enter Open Session at 9:00 p.m., for the purpose of discussion related to negotiations. **MOTION CARRIED.** Ayes – all present.

(8:10 p.m. - Enter Trustee Dave Phillips.)

(8:35 p.m. - The required Board member attendance check was conducted. Absent – Art Trapp.)

RE-ENTER OPEN SESSION at 8:50 p.m.

XIV. POST-CLOSED SESSION ACTIONS - None

XV. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Kim Van Hoek, seconded by Bari Livsey, to adjourn the Regular Board of Education Meeting of April 10, 2007, at 8:50 p.m. **MOTION CARRIED.** Ayes – all present.

Respectfully submitted,

Kimberly W. Van Hoek, Secretary

By: Marilyn S. Martin, Recording Secretary