

**SALINE AREA SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
MINUTES
April 24, 2007**

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of the Saline Area School District was held on Tuesday, April 24, 2007, in the Board Conference Room at Historic Union School.

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

Central Administrators present: Beverley Geltner, Nancy Brenton, and Tom Wall

Others present: Brian Cox of The Saline Reporter, Scot Graden, Sandy Stafford, Tara Sturgeon, Brian Puffer, Rebecca Groeb-Driskill, Laurie Allmendinger of The Ann Arbor News, Deana Stewart, Patti Henes, Cyndi McLennan, Judy Fritts, Marilyn Clark, Julie Harsh, Tim Heim, Jase Wholehan, Jim Letcher, Jere Hassberger, David Medley, David Friese, Sarah Slater, Suzanne Klein, several community members, and several high school students

I. CALL TO ORDER of the Regular Meeting of April 24, 2007, by President Driscoll at 6:31 p.m.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. ITEMS OF INTEREST AND INQUIRY

A. Public - None

B. Administration

- Assistant Superintendent Wall shared information about state school funding; proposals have now gone through the three houses (loss of \$100-\$124 per student); expect a compromise by May 1 – if senate agrees with house, loss of \$35 per student – governor will sign; teacher retirement fund may be impacted; Saline's \$200,000 loss will be prorated over payments received in May, June, July, and August; even with all the changes, state still has a \$62 million shortfall.
- Assistant Superintendent Wall handed out copies of his progress report on the mid-year budget adjustments and spoke to the estimated savings and the realized savings to date.
- Superintendent Geltner said that negotiations still continue with the three remaining bargaining units; there may be more savings in health care costs; \$670,000 savings in SEA health care costs; contracts may go to board shortly, possibly next meeting.
- Superintendent Geltner shared a letter she received from *Expansion Management* (a magazine that helps growing companies evaluate future locations). The school district was recognized as one of the nation's best public school districts and awarded a *Gold Medal* certificate.

(6:46 p.m. - The required Board member attendance check was conducted. Absent – None.)

- Deputy Superintendent Brenton reviewed the Central Office Reorganization Proposal for 07-08. Cabinet: Geltner and Wall no increase for 07-08; Rosen-Leacher no increase for 07-08 and will not accept \$2,400 vehicle stipend; Brenton working under full-year contract through GMS, Inc. – savings of approximately \$29,000. Technology: will not replace retiring Director Coryell; technology operations will report to Assistant Superintendent

Wall; Brian Grossman appointed "Lead" of building techs (will coordinate help tickets, purchase of materials for building techs, etc.); Technology Steering Committee will be established. Human Resources: Director Callan 4 days/wk. for 20% salary reduction; retiring Suzie Stalker of the District Information Office will not be replaced. Business Office: Janice Warner will move from Financial Secretary to Executive Accountant and supervise accounts payable and expand her responsibilities. Curriculum & Instruction: Sean Enright moves to Executive Director of Assessment & Secondary Education; Jackie Lane moves to Program Developer (quasi-supervisory role over building secretaries related to SMS, expands training with building secretaries, and provides input to building principal for evaluation) under Assistant Superintendent Rosen-Leacher. Executive Secretaries: retiring Marilyn Martin and Judy Herrygers replaced at lower cost through GMS; title change from Executive Secretary to Executive Assistant; one reports to Superintendent and one to Deputy Superintendent. Office Personnel: some duties may be reassigned among secretaries and coordinators to maximize efficiency and flow of communication.

- Superintendent Geltner said that further reductions may occur – district will maintain 5% fund equity and a balanced budget.

C. Board of Education Members

- Vice President Slawson reminded everyone of the Board Candidates Forum on Wednesday, April 25, 7:00 p.m., Liberty School Auditorium. She applauded Brian Cox of The Saline Reporter for the newspaper's sponsorship and his help in organizing this event.
- President Driscoll asked the board candidates, who were seated in the audience, to stand and introduce themselves – David Friese, Suzanne Klein, David Medley, Sarah Slater.
- Trustee Hynek asked board members if they had read the April 22 article in The Ann Arbor News, "Outside-the-box ideas on Ann Arbor schools' fiscal crunch". He offered copies to those interested in reading the article.

IV. REVISIONS/APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Superintendent Geltner requested that a Closed Session be added to the agenda for the purpose of discussion related to the sale of property.

MOTION by Lisa Slawson, seconded by Kim Van Hoek, to approve the agenda as revised.
MOTION CARRIED. Ayes – all present.

V. SCHEDULED REPORTS/PUBLIC STATEMENTS

Community Education Department Report

Director Graden and members of his staff presented this report.

- 1950 - Community Education started in Flint; originally funded by Mott Foundation.
- *What is Community Education?* - Director Graden cited an answer and quote from Dr. Jack Minzey's Reforming Public Schools through Community Education.

- *Mission Statement* – Integrity and excellence are the cornerstones of Saline Community Education. The practice of integrity requires at all times that we do the right thing. The delivery of excellence demands that we recognize that even the best service can always be improved.
- *Saline Community Education* – Cultural Arts, Aquatics, Early Childhood, Facilities, Latchkey, and Recreation & Enrichment.
- *Cultural Arts* (Rebecca Groeb-Driskill, Cultural Arts Program Specialist and Theater Manager) Community programs include Junior Theater, Broadway Boot Camp, and Page to Stage, Peanut Butter Players, Fiddlers ReStrung, 6th Grade and Middle School Fiddle Clubs, and Middle School Jazz Band. School Curriculum – provide support to Music Department, High School Drama Club, Hornet Light & Sound Tech Club, presentations by academic classes, and Heritage and Middle School Creative Arts. Other Programs – Camp Shakespeare, Guest Artists, Weber-Blaess Traditional Holiday Program, Saline Area Players, Varsity Blues, and area dance companies. Points of Pride – Program development and growth, facility and technical support, Camp Shakespeare, and Guest Artists Toledo Symphony Orchestra and U of M Men’s Glee Club. Future Challenges – facility limitations. Future Plans – Staff recruitment and development.
- *Aquatics* (Sandy Stafford, Aquatics Program Specialist) – Community programs include Saline Stingrays, Open Swim, Spring Swim & Dive Clinics, and Middle School Swim & Dive. School Curriculum – Freshmen Physical Education Classes, Lifetime Fitness Classes, and Special Education Groups. Athletic Programs – Men’s and Women’s Water Polo, Men’s and Women’s Swim & Dive, and training for Cross Country, Football, Track, and Wrestling teams. Other Programs – USA Swimming, host meets for SEC, WISC, SMSL, and Junior Olympics, and rental of pool for birthday parties and testing of Boy & Girl Scout Troops. Points of Pride - Program development and growth and hosting of meets. Future Challenges – Demands on programs (quality vs. quantity), pool time/space, and equipment maintenance. Future Plans - Work with local organizations to assist with overflow (recreation center), time slot rotations throughout seasons, in-house monitoring/maintenance, and cross training of staff.
- *Early Childhood* (Director Graden) – Research shows that for every \$1.00 spent on early childhood, there is an \$8 return. Current Programs: Pooh Corner Preschool at Union School serves 140 families, offers 2 & 3 day-a-week options, follows High Scope Curriculum, and is lab school for S&WWC Child Care Class (Liz Galimore); Preschool Adventure at Houghton School serves 41 families, targets 3 & 4 year olds, and offers “Summer Sandbox” Program; First Steps Washtenaw at Liberty School serves 68 families, is part of a county-wide program, offers playgroups for birth to 3 years old and parent education curriculum, conducts home visits, and is a year-round program. Points of Pride – Program support and highly trained and professional staff. Future Challenges – Demands on programs (building space) and maintaining stable employee base. Future Plans – Pooh Corner to Houghton School, coordinate all programs (birth to 5).
- *Facility Use* (Director Graden) – Points of Pride are efficient operation (praise for Sharon Dunny and Jeff Burman) and supporting community needs. Future Challenges – Welcoming vs. Security, available space, and cost of providing space. Future Plans – Develop Liberty site as a revenue source, expand use of turf fields, market facilities to potential clients, and promote “non-peak” use.

- *Latchkey* (Tara Sturgeon, Latchkey Director) – Current programs open daily 6:45 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.; operates in all elementary buildings (Grades K-6); over 400 families served in 05-06; on average 150 students attend prior to school and 200 attend after school; care offered to families (35-50 kids) on half days, in-service days, Presidents' Weekend, and Spring Break; activities in all programs implement creative expression, math, science, literacy, fine and gross motor skills, socialization, and team building; all are State Licensed Child Care Programs. Points of Pride – Development of fun math and science activities and attracting students who don't "need" care. Future Challenges – Economic factors and Kindergarten care option. Future Plans – Summer Latchkey at Liberty School and increasing the variety of new activities.
- *Recreation & Enrichment* (Brian Puffer, Program Specialist) – Adult programs include Adult Fitness, Business & Finance Classes, Dog Training Classes, Art Classes, and Adult Flag Football. Enrichment programs include After-School Spanish Classes, After-School Art Classes, Girls on the Run, I'm Taking Care (babysitter training), and Summer Math & Reading. Recreation programs include Middle School Athletic Teams, Summer Athletic Camps & Clinics, After-School Basketball & Volleyball Skills, Heritage Cross Country, Youth Golf Training, and Basketball, Flag & Jr. Tackle Football, and Volleyball youth leagues. High School Equestrian Team under this umbrella. Points of Pride – Program growth and development, Jr. Tackle Football League, and Youth Basketball League. Future Challenges Economic factors and facility availability. Future Plans – Survey community needs and implement revenue-generating programs.
- *Budget Information* (Director Graden) – 06-07 Department Budget - \$2,010,000 revenues (\$247,000 from CARES) and \$1,960,000 expenses = \$123,000 revenue generated and given to General Fund.
- *Program Summary* (Director Graden) – Began in Saline in 1972 (three directors – Eugene Fisher, Nancy Brenton, and him); 10 full-time staff (also praised Patti Waltz, Lori Mozucha, and Courtney Prestia); serves prenatal to 80+ years; responsive to community interests/needs; school district liaison to Chamber, Senior Center, Soccer Association, and Youth Baseball & Softball. New programs for 06-07 are Camp Shakespeare, Chess Clubs, Guest Artist Series, Rock Band Boot Camp, Summer Diving & Spring Dive Clinic, Summer Latchkey at Liberty, Summer Literacy Academy, and Youth Sculpture Class.

(In preparation for the following grievance hearings, President Driscoll read the definition of a grievance and the procedures to be followed.)

VI. Grievance Hearing

- A. Grievance Defined** by President Driscoll
- B. Presentation of Grievance** (re Ed Gall) by Jase Wholehan, Contract Manager for the SEA
- C. Response to Grievance** by Deputy Superintendent Brenton
- D. Questions** from Board Members
- E. Deliberation and Decision:**

MOTION by Kim Van Hoek, seconded by Lisa Slawson, to deny the grievance as presented.
MOTION CARRIED. Ayes – all present.

VII. Grievance Hearing

- A. Grievance Defined** by President Driscoll
- B. Presentation of Grievance** (re John Mason, Music Coordinator) by Jase Wholehan, Contract Manager for the SEA
- C. Response to Grievance** by Deputy Superintendent Brenton
- D. Questions** from Board Members
- E. Deliberation and Decision:**

MOTION by Lisa Slawson, seconded by Bari Livsey, to deny the grievance as presented.
MOTION CARRIED. Ayes – all present.

VIII. Grievance Hearing

- A. Grievance Defined** by President Driscoll
- B. Presentation of Grievance** (re Music Overages) by Jase Wholehan, Contract Manager for the SEA
- C. Response to Grievance** by Deputy Superintendent Brenton
- D. Questions** from Board Members
- E. Deliberation and Decision:**

MOTION by Trudy Driscoll, seconded by Kim Van Hoek, to table the decision on the Music Overages grievance until the May 8 board meeting to allow time for President Driscoll and Deputy Superintendent Brenton to obtain clarification from legal counsel. **MOTION CARRIED.** Ayes – all present.

IX. ACTION ITEMS

Salt Storage Agreement

Assistant Superintendent Wall provided the board with the details of this agreement.

MOTION by Art Trapp, seconded by Paul Hynek, to receive and file the Salt Storage Agreement between the City of Saline and the Saline Area School District. **MOTION CARRIED.** Ayes – all present.

X. DISCUSSION ITEMS - None

XI. CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION by Lisa Slawson, 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 April 10, 2007, the Special Meeting of April 17, 2007.

- B. Approval of Payment** of the General Fund Accounts Payable of April 24, 2007, in the amount of \$186,457.07.
- C. Receive and File** the letter of acceptance from Human Resources Director Callan for the retirement of Kitty Coryell, Director of Technology, effective June 30, 2007.
- D. Receive and File** the letter of acceptance from Human Resources Director Callan for the retirement of Gustie Szumko, Houghton 1st Grade Teacher, effective June 11, 2007.

MOTION CARRIED. Ayes – all present.

XII. ACTION ITEMS – None

XIII. DISCUSSION ITEMS - None

XIV. PUBLIC COMMENT - None

XV. ITEMS SCHEDULED ON NEXT AGENDAS

- Board Performance Appraisal Form to Board Members
- Budget Update
- Grievance Hearings

(9:05 p.m. – *Break*)

XVI. CLOSED SESSION

MOTION by Bari Livsey, seconded by Art Trapp, to enter Closed Session of the Board of Education at 9:10 p.m., with the intent to re-enter Open Session at 9:30 p.m., for the purpose of discussion related to the sale of property. **MOTION CARRIED.** Ayes – all present.

(9:15 p.m. - The required Board member attendance check was conducted. Absent – None.)

RE-ENTER OPEN SESSION at 9:30 p.m.

XVII. POST-CLOSED SESSION ACTIONS - None

XVIII. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Bari Livsey, seconded by Lisa Slawson, to adjourn the Regular Board of Education Meeting of April 24, 2007, at 9:30 p.m. **MOTION CARRIED.** Ayes – all present.

Respectfully submitted,

Kimberly W. Van Hoek, Secretary

By: Marilyn S. Martin, Recording Secretary