

SALINE AREA SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

MINUTES
September 11, 2007

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of the Saline Area School District was held on Tuesday, September 11, 2007, in the Board Conference Room at Historic Union School.

Board Members present: Lisa Slawson, Trudy Driscoll, Paul Hynek, David Friese, Bari Livsey, David Medley, and Kim Van Hoek

Central Administrators present: Beverley Geltner, Betty Rosen-Leacher, Tom Wall, Scot Graden, Ann Callan, and Sean Enright

I. CALL TO ORDER of the Regular Meeting of September 11, 2007, by President Slawson at 7:03 p.m.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. ITEMS OF INTEREST AND INQUIRY

A. Public

- Betsy Marl, Saline resident and employee wanted to thank staff members for their assistance in her move from Houghton to Woodland.

B. Administration

- Superintendent Geltner introduced and welcomed new middle school assistant principal Michelle Szczechowicz.
- Superintendent Geltner informed the Board that the first all administrators meeting was held today and was superb. She said that Neal Elyakin made a special education presentation. He went over how an IEP is a legal document...it's an IOU that we must adhere to. We now have a process of systems and monitoring. Also Betty Rosen-Leacher and Ann Callan presented our new teacher evaluation process. We have lacked guidance in the past however, we now have a plan.
- Superintendent Geltner said that the opening of school went 90% well. Some of the glitches were in: the middle school schedule; class sizes and transportation. She said that the majority of the problems were worked out however we're still looking at transportation stops. She noted that parents had concerns with the consolidation of stops. They are used to having them very close. She praised the Transportation Department staff that went above and beyond to assist our families. She also shared an article that she read in the New York Times titled, *Walking is Good for our Kids*.
- Board Secretary Hynek noted that we were not the only district that had to consolidate.
- Superintendent Geltner asked that if anyone is not yet signed up on the district email lists, they can go to our website to sign-up. It is a good way to have up to date knowledge of what is happening in our district.

- Assistant Superintendent Rosen-Leacher shared that we had we hired three new 3rd grade teachers that she believed were the strongest candidates.
- Superintendent Geltner noted how imperative it is to educate our youngest children appropriately to build a strong foundation for later years.
- Assistant Superintendent Rosen-Leacher said that there were some glitches in the synchronization of eSembler with Chancery however, they have been worked out. One of the options this program offers is a grading system that will allow parents up-to-date access to their child's academic performance. She said that the staff has been wonderful working with the changes. She also noted that the district is moving forward with curriculum updates.
- Board Secretary Hynek asked if there was an "official" start for the grading program.
- Assistant Superintendent Rosen-Leacher replied that the plan is total implementation by Parent-Teacher Conferences.
- Executive Director of Human Resources Sean Enright reported that on August 28, 2007, Mark Westerberg presented to administrators on Trimesters. The Chelsea Schools joined us. Trimesters will allow us to offer more programs. It will meet the needs of all our students. Science and math are already working on new classes. A letter was sent home to parents of students in grade 7-12.
- Trustee Kim Van Hoek attended the meeting and said that she thought that trimesters are very interesting.
- Trustee Driscoll said that she thought they were very interesting as well. She also thought that the presenter was very good.
- Executive Director of Human Resources Sean Enright said that trimesters allow the assessment process to just fall in place.
- Assistant Superintendent Wall gave a Transportation PowerPoint presentation on how the reduction of bus stops has saved the Saline Area Schools transportation department 7.4% from last year. (The PowerPoint is posted on the SAS website)
- Trustee Kim Van Hoek inquired why and how was it decided to put some of the bus stops back in place.
- Assistant Superintendent Wall replied that decisions were made based on the number of students and safety concerns and that there may be additional changes necessary in the near future.
- Assistant Superintendent Wall thanked Cyndi McLennan and Patti Henes in the Transportation Department for all their hard work.
- Assistant Superintendent Wall shared that we are at the low end of the Foundation Allowance. October 1st is the State's budget deadline.
- Board President Slawson shared that she met with a lobbyist and he told her that the budget issues are very scary.

- Superintendent Geltner thanked Tom Wall, Cyndi McLennan and Patti Henes for their diligence in working out the transportation issues. She said she realized all the time and effort that went into the process.
- Scot Graden and Cindy Serling presented a kick-off SAS Marketing PowerPoint. They asked for volunteers for their committee and that everyone be a Saline Area Schools “cheerleader.”
- Secretary Paul Hynek asked if there would be a specific Marketing Policy.
- Superintendent Geltner said that the Policy Committee was meeting and they will work it out.

C. Board of Education Members

- Board President Slawson thanked Cindy Serling for taking the lead on the Saline Area Schools booth at the annual Saline Fair that was held September 4-8, 2007. The booth looked great and everyone had a good time.
- Board President Slawson shared that she; along with fellow Board members David Friese, David Medley and Dr. Geltner toured every school on Thursday, September 6, 2007. She was struck by the excellent teaching going on in the district.
- Trustee Friese thanked the administration and teachers for welcoming them in their buildings. He also said that he was a teacher for 30+ years and could recognize good teaching...and we have some good teaching going on in Saline Area Schools.
- Trustee Medley said that he has never seen anywhere such an exemplary place as Saline Area Schools.
- Trustee Kim Van Hoek noted that as a former principal how helpful that the new Special Education Handbook would have been for her. She said it is an excellent tool for staff.
- Trustee David Friese said that his wife who works in the Wayne Westland Schools would like to share the handbook with her staff. She said they could really benefit from it.
- Superintendent Geltner said that Neal Elyakin has done a fine job providing special education clarity.
- Superintendent Geltner shared that she read an article titled, “Are Teachers Paid Too Much.” She said that she was disturbed by the article. She noted that teachers should be our most valued profession and the most highly paid. Teachers mold the youth who will lead the future.
- President Slawson asked for a volunteer to work with Julie Harsh, Food Services Director on the Wellness Committee.
- Trustee David Friese said that he would volunteer to serve on the Wellness Committee.

IV. REVISIONS/APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Vice President Driscoll requested the following revisions to the agenda: to move the Bullying, Harassment, and Hazing Administrative Regulation from the Consent Agenda to a Discussion Item; under Discussion Item A to read Board goals, not District goals; and in the August 14, 2007

minutes, page 2, C, bullet #4 should read, "Saline Public Library, and that Scot Graden and staff were doing a great job," not the Board.

President Slawson requested a change in order of Discussion Items to read: A, Addition of Student Representative on the Board of Education; B, Board Goals; C, Calendar, and D, Bullying, Harassment, and Hazing Administrative Regulation.

MOTION by David Friese, seconded by Trudy Driscoll, to approve the agenda as revised.

MOTION CARRIED. Ayes – all present.

V. SCHEDULED REPORTS/SCHEDULED PUBLIC STATEMENTS - None

VI. ACTION ITEMS

None

VII. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Addition of Student Representative on the Board of Education

Superintendent Geltner led this discussion.

- Her former district had two
- Student would be a non-voting member
- Typically appointed by the principal for 1 year
- The Board could post the position or the school could appoint
- There will be guidelines for the position
- There will be no liability
- The Student Rep may not attend any Closed Sessions

Executive Director of Human Resources Enright said he thought it was a great idea. He expressed that one student really can't represent 1830 students however it can give the Board a good perspective.

Trustee Friese expressed that it enhances the democratic process in regards to civic responsibility.

Trustee Van Hoek said that she feels strongly that we rely on the high school for their input.

Board President Slawson shared that she spoke with Ben Williams, Principal at the high school and he thought it would be a good opportunity for a student. She thinks there should be an application process which then Mr. Williams and his staff should decide who should serve on the Board.

Trustee Driscoll thinks that there should be a policy drawn up.

B. Board Goals

Board President Lisa Slawson led this discussion. A list of possible goals that were brainstormed at the Board Retreat was given out. The Board narrowed the goals to four:

- **Accountability** – Develop and implement a process of continuous dialog and review leading to the Superintendent's yearly evaluation. Form an Advisory sub Committee.

- **Communication & Marketing** – Promote & support district efforts. Write a policy. Work with the Marketing Committee.
- **Financial Stability** – Maintain a 5% fund balance and bring budget in balanced.
- **Review of the Governance Model** – Board President Slawson will take the lead.

C. Calendar

Board President Lisa Slawson led this discussion and they decided that they would like to hear from the following:

- Special Education
- Chamber of Commerce (October 9, 2007)
- Athletics
- EDOK & Alternative Education
- French Group
- PTO's/District Parenting Council (DPC)
- Marketing Committee
- Reproductive Health Advisory Committee

Board President Slawson said she would meet with Executive Assistant Cindy Serling to set up the dates. She also noted that the reports are usually given on the 2nd meeting of the month.

D. Bullying, Harassment, and Hazing Administrative Regulation

Superintendent Geltner led the discussion. She shared the previous administrative regulation and compared it to the updated one. She noted that she took the revisions from the State policy.

- Board members thought there should be consistency with the wording in the administrative regulation. Students vs. Individuals.
- Dr. Geltner said that she will revise and represent to the Board.
- Secretary Hynek pointed out that all our handbooks are not consistent with the administrative regulations and that they need to be updated. He said that we should be consistent with all our policies and administrative regulations.
- Dr. Geltner said that we do not have a district, "Code of Conduct," and perhaps we need to explore that option.

VIII. CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION by Trudy Driscoll, seconded by Paul Hynek, authorized the following items as part of the Consent Agenda:

- Approval of the Minutes** of the Regular Meeting of August 14, 2007, and the Special Meeting (Board Retreat) of August 21, 2007.
- Approval of Payment** of the General Fund Accounts Payable of September 11, 2007, in the amount of \$337,959.00.
- Receive and File** the 2007-08 Student/Parent Handbooks from Saline High School, Saline Middle School, Heritage School, Harvest Elementary School, Houghton Elementary School, Pleasant Ridge Elementary School, and Woodland Meadows Elementary School.

- D. Receive and File** the letters from Executive Director of Human Resources Callan for the resignation of Meredith Concannon, Physical Education teacher, effective August 13, 2007; Melissa Conti, Quest Teacher, effective June 30, 2007, and Jason Riggs, Assistant principal, effective August 19, 2007.
- E.** Receive and File the letters from Executive Director of Human Resources Callan for the retirement of Titus King, Elementary Teacher, effective June 30, 2007, and Claudia Whitsitt, Teacher Consultant, effective July 24, 2007.
- F. Acceptance** of the recommendation of Executive Director of Human Resources Callan to hire (for school year 2007-08) the following candidates for teaching positions within Saline Area Schools, in accordance with the Master Agreement between the SEAWCEA and the Board of Education:
- **Brienna Allen**, to be placed on Step 1 of the BA salary schedule;
 - **Meredith Franzel**, to be placed on Step 2 of the MA salary schedule;
 - **Jodi Laurent-Templeton**, to be placed on Step 1 of the BA salary schedule;
 - **Ashley Moran**, to be placed on Step 1 of the BA salary schedule;
 - **Samuel Musto**, to be placed on Step 7 of the BA salary schedule.
 - **Diane Newberry**, to be placed on Step 2 of the BA salary schedule;
 - **Jason Priebe**, to be placed on Step 1 of the BA salary schedule;
 - **David Reeves**, to be placed on Step 1 of the BA salary schedule;
 - **Bridget Templin**, to be placed on Step 2 of the BA salary schedule;
 - **Ako Toma-Bennett**, to be placed on Step 1 of the MA salary schedule;
 - **Claudia Whitsitt**, to be placed on Step 2 of the MA salary schedule (part-time rehire);
 - **Greg Williams**, to be placed on Step 2 of the BA salary schedule.
- G. Acceptance** of the recommendation of Executive Director of Human Resources Callan to hire (for school year 2007-08) Michelle Lynn Szczechowicz, Assistant Principal of Saline Middle School at Step 1 in accordance with the Master Agreement between the SASSA and the Board of Education.
- H. Acceptance** of reorganization without replacing Deputy Superintendent position.
- I. Acceptance** of Assistant Superintendent of Instructional Services agreement made between the Saline Area Schools and Betty Rosen-Leacher for services from 2007-2010.
- J. Acceptance** of Assistant Superintendent of Administrative Services agreement made between the Saline Area Schools and Thomas S. Wall for services from 2007-2010.

MOTION CARRIED. Ayes – all present.

IX. ACTION ITEMS – None

X. DISCUSSION ITEMS - None

XI. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

XII. ITEMS SCHEDULED ON NEXT AGENDA

- **Governance Model**
- **Board Goals**
- **Calendar**

XIII. CLOSED SESSION

MOTION by David Medley, seconded by Kimberly Van Hoek to enter Closed Session of the Board of Education at 10:15 p.m., with the intent to re-enter Open Session at 11:00 p.m., for the purpose of discussion related to legal & personnel matters. **MOTION CARRIED.** Ayes – all present.

RE-ENTER Open Session at 11:56 p.m.

XIV. POST-CLOSED SESSION ACTIONS - None

XV. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by David Medley seconded by Kimberly Van Hoek, to adjourn the Regular Board of Education Meeting of September 11, 2007, at 11:57 p.m. **MOTION CARRIED.** Ayes – all present.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Hynek, Secretary

By: Cindy J. Serling, Recording Secretary