

**SALINE AREA SCHOOLS  
BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**MINUTES**

**Union School Boardroom  
Tuesday, October 27, 2009  
6:30 PM**

1. **CALL TO ORDER** of the Regular Meeting of October 27, 2009, at 6:30 PM by Board President Friese.

2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Board Members Present

Trustee Cattell, Board President Friese, Trustee Hoeft, Student Representative Hogikyan, Trustee Hynek, Secretary Lesch, and Vice President Medley

Board Members Absent

Trustee Slawson

Central Administration Present

Superintendent Graden, Assistant Superintendent Laatsch, and Assistant Superintendent Wall

3. **ITEMS OF INTEREST AND INQUIRY**

- A. Public**

None

- B. Administration**

Superintendent Graden stated that a public forum was held last night regarding the Countywide Millage. There were about 40 community members in attendance. The presentation was filmed by SCTN and is now on Channel 18. It is also available to be viewed in the budget blog on the Saline Area Schools website.

Saline High School will be the site of a visit from Dr. Peter Fonash, the National Director of Cyber Security for the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, on Thursday, October 29<sup>th</sup>.

We are continuing to monitor our attendance rates – today we were at 7.1% absent – which is inside our typical range. Karan Hervey and Ken Romans are doing an excellent job of working with staff and community members to stay on top of this issue.

We are working with Manchester Community Schools to allow them to use our athletic complex for their opening round playoff football game. Their field was badly damaged during their final home game due to rain.

You can now follow Assistant Superintendent Laatsch on Twitter@EducateSaline. He will be providing curriculum updates as well as informing every one of the great things going on in our District.

Assistant Superintendent Laatsch began a differentiation book study with the principals recently. The principals are the educational leaders of our District and we must reinforce the importance of individual learning for all of our students.

The Foundations for Saline Area Schools will be meeting this Thursday, October 29<sup>th</sup> to begin the grant approval process.

Assistant Superintendent Wall reported that there is a new school aid law, which has cut bus inspections by the State Police. Currently the State Police is the only authorized bus inspection company used. However, there is also a law that requires that buses must be inspected. Our bus inspections are good until February 2010.

Assistant Superintendent Wall referred everyone to his budget blog to find the latest information on school funding.

Assistant Superintendent Wall stated that he was required by law to inform the Board if a budget amendment is necessary. He said that he was officially informing the Board that this amendment would be necessary.

He also passed out the September Financial Report to the Board.

**C. Board of Education Members**

Board President Friese announced that Trustee Slawson was ill and would not be in attendance at the meeting.

Trustee Cattell recently attended the MASB Fall Conference in Lansing and found it very impressive and empowering to see all the different school systems there. They passed out some information on the nine building blocks of high performing schools. She stated that Saline should be very proud because they possess all nine of those characteristics.

Secretary Lesch congratulated the Girls Cross Country Team for winning the SEC for the 14<sup>th</sup> year in a row. They will be competing at the Regional Meet this Saturday.

Vice President Medley congratulated the Boys Cross Country Team on their second place finish this season.

Congratulations to the Varsity Girls Golf Team on their Runner Up finish in the State Tournament! They were SEC Red Co-Champs and Regional Champions as well. The

team is led by Head Coach Betsy French and Assistant Coach Debbie Williams-Hoak. The Varsity golfers are Emily Hysong, Megan Geiger, Erika Shima, Kristen Areddy, Karla Gross, Shannon Fraser, and Morgen Horan.

Michigan Marketing Educators Association (MME) has announced that Saline High School's own Marketing teacher, Ms. Christy McGee is the recipient of this year's Dr. Louis R. Graziano Outstanding Marketing Educator Award. The award annually recognizes an educator who manages an outstanding marketing education program, and was awarded on October 22, at the annual MME Fall Conference. Award recipients are to have made significant contributions toward quality programs, which improve and promote marketing education in their communities and through professional association activities and leadership.

Congratulations to the Marching Band on receiving highest honors at Marching Band Festival.

Board President Friese also announced that he had received thank you notes from Mr. Corona and Mr. Crabtree for the October 1<sup>st</sup> dedication of the Middle School facilities in their honor.

Board President Friese also spoke about the MASB Conference held recently in Lansing. In one of the sessions the Oxford School Superintendent spoke about the outstanding programs in his district. Board President Friese felt that we also have a sound educational footing in our District.

**4. REVISIONS/APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Board President Friese stated that Item D in the Consent Agenda be removed because the individual declined the position.

**MOTION** made by Vice President Medley, seconded by Secretary Lesch to approve the agenda as revised.

Ayes – All Present – **MOTION CARRIED**

**5. SCHEDULED REPORTS/PUBLIC STATEMENTS**

**A. MASB Excellence in Education Award for the Young Adult Program – Superintendent Graden**

Ms. Gwenn McAuliffe, Account Executive from SET SEG presented the MASB Excellence in Education Road Sign to Carol Melcher and Kevin Musson on behalf of the Young Adult Program. She congratulated them on job well done.

**B. Breakfast Challenge Honor Roll – Superintendent Graden**

Superintendent Graden presented Assistant Superintendent Wall and Food Services Director Harsh with the Breakfast Challenge Honor Roll Award from the State of

Michigan. Food Services Director Harsh emphasized that their goal is to get students ready to learn by providing them a nutritious breakfast.

6. ACTION ITEMS

A. **AUDIT PRESENTATION** – Plante & Moran Partner Jeff Dolowy

Mr. Jeff Dolowy of Plante & Moran spoke about the recent funding cuts announced in Lansing. Between the \$165 per pupil reduction and then five days later the additional \$127 per pupil cut, this means a loss of \$1.6 million for Saline Area Schools this year. He indicated that 82% of our District's funding comes from the Foundation allowance.

Saline currently has a \$3.7 million fund balance. Fortunately, our District was able to add \$1.7 million to the fund balance over the last three years or these cuts would be even more detrimental to the District. The \$1.6 million represents 43% of the fund balance.

On a positive note, the District received an unqualified opinion on our financial statements as well as an unqualified opinion on the federal program audit. This is the highest level of assurance that they can offer.

**MOTION** made by Trustee Hynek, seconded by Vice President Medley to **receive and file the Saline Area Schools Audit Report.**

Ayes – All Present – **MOTION CARRIED**

B. **POLICY COMMITTEE UPDATE** – Trustee Hynek

Trustee Hynek outlined the changes to the policies being recommended for approval.

**MOTION** made by Secretary Lesch, seconded by Trustee Hoeft to **approve the changes to Policy 1370 (Public Participation); Policy 7650 (Testing Out); Policy 8920 (Foreign Exchange Students); and Policy 7490 (Field Trips and Excursions) as recommended by the Board Policy Committee.**

Ayes – All Present – **MOTION CARRIED**

7. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. **Enhancement Millage Update** – Superintendent Graden

Superintendent Graden spoke about the Community Forum held last night regarding the Countywide Millage. He stated that there is a slideshow presentation from the WISD on the front page of our website. He encouraged everyone to view to get a good understanding of the millage proposal. There will be an informational sheet that will be going home with the students this week as well as an AlertNow message on Monday reminding everyone to vote. It is important to get the word out and make sure the public is informed.

Trustee Lesch indicated that at the MASB Conference all of the other Districts were very interested to see the outcome of this election.

**B. Union Facility Review Committee Update – Superintendent Graden**

Board President Friese announced that Trustee Slawson has resigned from the Union Facility Review Committee. Vice President Medley will join the committee to fill the vacancy.

Superintendent Graden stated that the committee would be meeting November 12<sup>th</sup> as scheduled, however, there will be a conversation with them that it may be a long-term plan because it may be determined that it is not in the best interest of the District to move to Liberty at this time.

**8. CONSENT AGENDA**

**MOTION** made by Secretary Lesch, seconded by Trustee Hoeft to authorize the following items as part of the Consent Agenda:

- A. Approval** of the Regular Board of Education Minutes of October 13, 2009.
- B. Approval of Payment** of the General Fund Accounts Payable of October 27, 2009, in the amount of \$802,090.66.
- C. Receive and File** letter from Executive Director of Human Resources Callan to hire Danielle Hardecki as a Paraeducator on Step 1 of the ESP Contract effective October 12, 2009.
- D. Receive and File** letter from Executive Director of Human Resources Callan to hire Jennifer Werner as a Paraeducator on Step 1 of the ESP Contract effective October 8, 2009.
- E. Receive and File** memorandums from Superintendent Graden approving field trip requests for:
  - Business Professionals of America (March 18-21, 2010)
- F. Receive and File** memorandum from Assistant Superintendent Wall regarding the Board approval of Blanket Purchase Orders.

Ayes – All Present - **MOTION CARRIED**

**9. PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

Trustee Hynek spoke about the last Policy Committee Meeting in which 18 parents attended to support weighted grades. He indicated that a good discussion was held and they took the information and will consider their concerns.

Superintendent Graden stated that they would be looking at what the impact would be and work toward the best interest of all students. We must be thoughtful in our consideration of this issue.

Board President Friese indicated that weighted grades are only limited to certain classes and for example, the Consortium students put in a lot of extra time and receive nothing.

Superintendent Graden stated at the present time Saline Area Schools does not weight grades. They will be gathering more information on the subject and what it means for Saline Area Schools and whether it has any impact on our students.

Trustee Hynek said that there is a lot of information on both sides and we need to look in depth at the issue to see how it affects our students and whether it is worth it.

Superintendent Graden said that one of the main reasons to weight grades is to promote and grow a rigorous program. Our students are already taking a rigorous course load already.

Trustee Hoeft stated that after hearing the audit report, now more than ever is the time for the Board to come together, have good discussions, stick together, and come out as one. We will get through this trying time.

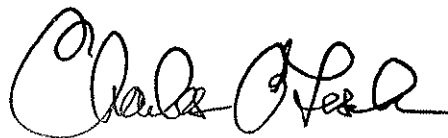
**10. ITEMS SCHEDULED ON NEXT AGENDA**

- A. Enhancement Millage Update** – Superintendent Graden
- B. Closed Session – Collective Negotiations** – Superintendent Graden
- C. Google Report** – Technology Director Lupo

**11. ADJOURNMENT**

Adjourn the Regular Board of Education Meeting of October 27, 2009, at 7:28 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Chuck Lesch, Secretary

By: Patti Waltz, Recording Secretary