

**SALINE AREA SCHOOLS  
BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**MINUTES**

**Liberty Media Center  
Tuesday, November 24, 2009  
6:30 PM**

1. **CALL TO ORDER** of the Regular Meeting of November 24, 2009, at 6:30 PM by Board President Friese
2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
3. **ITEMS OF INTEREST AND INQUIRY**

**A. Public**

Laurie Dawson spoke on behalf of the District Parent Council which is comprised of PTA and PTO officers from Houghton, Harvest, Pleasant Ridge, Heritage, Middle School, and the High School. They, as parents, community members, and active volunteers in our schools are confident that our school district will prevail through this financial crisis.

Our community is experiencing extraordinarily difficult economic issues and our families are suffering in a profound way. There are families in Saline that have lost jobs, taken substantial pay cuts to keep a job, or are hoping against the odds that they will continue to have a job after the first of the year. The DPC, as a parent group, will continue to support these families, and all families, and their children in our buildings. We cannot forget that these children need our support.

For years, parents and educators have told our youth that education is a priority and the key to their futures. What message are we sending our youth if we are not doing everything in our power to secure adequate funding for them? The DPC wants to sincerely thank the unions that have stepped up and tried to help make a difference. We would hope that every other union would also realize that we are all here, administrators, teachers, parents, volunteers, etc. because we are in the business of educating children. They are the reason that we are all here tonight. We are encouraged when we hear that our Administrators have opened their contract. We hope that there will be shared sacrifice from everyone that works for Saline Area Schools.

The District Parent Council will continue to be a presence throughout this process and will continue to raise awareness about this situation.

Unfortunately status quo is no longer an option. We now need to tighten our belts, put personal issues aside, and come together as a whole community to work collectively to put our children first and come out the district with high integrity at the end.

**B. Administration**

Students will be dismissed after school tomorrow for the Thanksgiving Break. We come back on Monday, November 30<sup>th</sup>. Secondary exams and elementary conferences will take place on Monday and Tuesday. There is no school on Wednesday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>. The second trimester will begin on Thursday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Superintendent Graden reported that we are continuing to monitor our attendance rates with regard to the swine flu. Today we were at 5.5% absent – which is inside our typical range.

On Friday, December 4<sup>th</sup> Saline Community Education will host the 15<sup>th</sup> Annual December Craft Show at the Middle School. This year they have added a “dance” as a fundraiser for Ele’s Place. The Saline Dance Team has been working with several Saline Area School staff and two Board Members. Tickets are available through Community Education.

Eleven members of the Saline High School Band and Orchestras were selected to the Michigan All State Band and Orchestra. The students were selected by recorded audition from thousands of applicants around the state. They will perform in the All State Band/Orchestra at the Michigan Music Conference on Saturday, January 23, 2010, at DeVos Performing Arts Center in Grand Rapids. Saline High School is proud to be sending more students from one school to the All State Band/Orchestra than any other high school in the State of Michigan.

Superintendent Garden thanked Willard Girbach and David Raft who are in the process of removing 100 light bulbs and ballasts to reduce our electricity use at Saline Middle School.

We are in the process of evaluating opening options and plan to have the gate by the Middle School open with the exception of the morning drop times as early as December 1<sup>st</sup>.

There was a countywide meeting recently to discuss a request for proposal for transportation. The county will most likely issue a statement after Thanksgiving.

Assistant Superintendent Laatsch reported that although we are going through a very difficult financial time, it is very important to keep focus on the curriculum and doing what is best for kids.

A new program is currently being looked at for the Middle School called Project Lead the Way. This program could be funded through grants. It involves six hands-on units examining force, motion, chemistry; using laptop computer to do scientific simulations; and modules provide a hands-on building component that kids need.

Work is currently underway to explore the possibility of an International Baccalaureate school in Washtenaw County. There is a survey going out to determine the interest level. This would not take funds away from Saline.

Assistant Superintendent Laatsch recently visited the classrooms of Ms. Kolacki, Ms. Gordon, and Ms. Thomas and witnessed some outstanding work going on these classes.

Thank you to Technology Directors Lupo and Kellstrom for all their work on the Grades 1-4 new reporting system.

Assistant Superintendent Wall reported that the legislation did not act on the proration for school funding by the November 21<sup>st</sup> deadline and so the \$292.00 per pupil fund allowance loss will stand at this moment.

A group of researchers from the University of Michigan have done some preliminary predictions for the January 14-15 revenue consensus. There could potentially be an additional \$60 per pupil reduction from the State in January. They are also looking at a \$228 - \$300 reduction for next year.

**C. Board of Education Members**

Trustee Slawson commended Laurie Dawson for her public comment this evening. She has had numerous conversations with many community members and everyone has emphasized to her including those people who voted against the millage that they are not anti-teacher. People were unable to support the millage mainly because the unemployment rate in this state is at 15%. Michigan is ranked Number 2 in unemployment figures and is likely to remain that way through 2011. The taxpayers are overburdened.

During these trying times we must all pull together and share the sacrifice. To lose any person in this District would be a crime – they are in the profession because they love kids – it is a calling. The most important thing is our students. She is proud to say that she is from Saline. The world has changed the game and it must be a shared sacrifice among everyone.

Trustee Hynek echoed Trustee Slawson's sentiments. He was greatly disappointed to hear that the Washtenaw County Education Association chose not to reopen the contracts. He felt that if you don't have conversation then you couldn't come to a consensus or collaboration. Failure to reopen the contract speaks volumes.

Trustee Hynek also congratulated the Women's Field Hockey Team on their SEC Championship.

Student Representative Hogikyan congratulated the Women's Swim and Dive Team on their recent state championship.

Congratulations to Kevin Musson, Special Education Teacher, who was honored with the Everyday Hero Award at the annual "Night of Heroes" event. The prestigious award celebrates the lives of everyday people in the workplace who through extraordinary commitment, courage, compassion, and integrity are changing lives and inspiring others. Mr. Musson is truly an everyday hero.

Board President Friese, Vice President Medley, Assistant Superintendent Wall, and SEA President Heim recently travelled to Lansing to meet with our State Legislatures. The SOS (Save our Students/Schools) group is planning another trip to Lansing December 1-3 to talk to legislatures. Petitions are on the back table for anyone interested in signing. The real pressure needs to come from the voters. If anyone is interested in going to Lansing, please see Board President Friese.

Board President Friese also thanked the Young Adult Program for the wonderful Thanksgiving Luncheon today.

**4. REVISIONS/APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Board President Friese noted one change in the minutes from the November 10, 2009, meeting, they should have read "Christmas in the Barn". Correction was noted and changed.

**MOTION** made by Trustee Slawson, seconded by Trustee Hynek to approve the agenda as printed.

Ayes – All Present – **MOTION CARRIED**

**5. SCHEDULED REPORTS/PUBLIC STATEMENTS**

**A. Energy Management Update – Facilities Director Bacon**

Facilities Director Bacon spoke about the huge strides they are making at the High School with energy management. He thanked Rob Mills and Mike Tressler for the hard work they have put into reengineering the boilers and improving efficiency ratings as much as 7%. There are three boilers and some of them were running at between 40-60 psi this past year. Thanks to the hard work of Rob and Mike they are now running at 8 psi, which is right where they should be. Facilities Director Bacon feels that a significant savings will be realized because of this.

Trustee Slawson thanked Facilities Director Bacon for his hard work stating, "that ever since he has come on board, he has been saving the District money – he is a true hero."

**6. ACTION ITEMS**

**A. MOTION** made by Trustee Slawson, seconded by Secretary Lesch to **accept the proposed Rental Rate changes for the Baseball/Softball fields as proposed by Community Education Director Puffer.**

Community Education Director Puffer reported that over the last three years the demand for baseball/softball diamonds has skyrocketed due to the increase in independent teams. They have not been charged in the past because they are youth groups. He would like to charge a nominal fee to cover the cost of field maintenance.

Ayes – All Present – **MOTION CARRIED**

- B. MOTION** made Trustee Hynek, seconded by Vice President Medley to **accept the recommendation of the CARES Advisory Committee to award Phase I Discretionary Funds as follows: Aerobic Studio Window Coverings - \$950.00; Henne Field Redevelopment - \$40,000.00; Liberty School Sign - \$10,000.00; Older Adult Aquatics Program - \$5,000.00; Outdoor Entertainment System - \$20,000.00; Rec on the Go - \$2,198.00; Track Resurfacing at the Middle School - \$20,000.00; Women’s Lacrosse Start Up - \$11,500.00; and Youth Council Lock in - \$785.00 for a total of \$110,433.00).**

Trustee Slawson stated that she has been receiving phone calls about the difference between CARES funds and general fund money. Superintendent Graden indicated that it is against the law to use CARES funding for operational dollars. The CARES money can only go toward the areas outlined as Cultural Arts, Recreation, Enrichment, and Seniors. These dollars are critical to make sure that we can still accomplish projects that would otherwise take money away from the general fund.

Community Education Puffer thanked Secretary Lesch for attending the CARES meetings to provide the Board perspective. He also indicated that the CARES Advisory Council received 14 requests totaling \$254,000.00 this round. Given the new millage amount they only have \$167,000.00 to disperse for all three rounds.

Secretary Lesch complimented the Advisory Council on taking their responsibility very seriously. He spoke about how tightly they scrutinize every proposal they receive.

Ayes – All Present – **MOTION CARRIED**

## **7. DISCUSSION ITEMS**

### **A. Set Retreat Date – Board President Friese**

The Board Retreat has been set for Thursday, December 10<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM in the Union School Boardroom.

### **B. Board Policy Committee Update – Trustee Hynek**

The Board Policy Committee met recently and had a discussion about the interpretation of the wellness policy in which we were not allowing International Food Day or Taste of Spain day at the High School. A permission slip was created and sent home with students in order for them to bring food and participate in this great learning experience.

The Committee also discussed the Board Compensation Policy and will be preparing an administrative regulation to allow the Board to annually decide whether to take compensation for Board Meetings.

The Committee will also be looking at a new set of rules for various organizations that use the Saline Area Schools name such as the PTO, PTA's. The policy was sent to Brad Banasik at MASB who made a few changes, which will be looked at during the next meeting.

A small subcommittee with Trustee Hynek, Trustee Cattell, and Secretary Lesch has been organized to take a look into the issue of weighted grades.

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 19, 2010 at 5:00 PM in the Superintendent's Office.

**C. Union Facility Review Committee – Superintendent Graden**

The Union Facility Review Committee met on November 12<sup>th</sup> and Vice President Medley, Trustee Hynek, and Trustee Slawson were in attendance. Superintendent Graden passed out and reviewed a list of possible uses for Union School that the committee suggested. He asked that the Committee be engaged and ready to be called upon again in the future.

**D. Moving Board Elections – Superintendent Graden**

A discussion was held on the election consolidation issue – MASB continues to think we should leave our election in May so that school boards can be highlighted and not be lost in other election business. Holding the election in May costs the District approximately \$15,000.

Assistant Superintendent Wall stated that the Board must act on this prior to December 31 if they decide to make the switch to November. Superintendent Graden will provide more information at the next Board Meeting on this issue.

**8. CONSENT AGENDA**

**MOTION** made by Trustee Hynek, 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 November 10, 2009.
- B. **Approval of Payment** of the General Fund Accounts Payable of November 24, 2009, in the amount of \$377,405.20.
- C. **Receive and File** minutes of the Board Policy Meeting of October 20, 2009.
- D. **Receive and File** letter from Executive Director of Human Resources Callan to hire Ann Millsbaugh as a Food Service Assistant on Step 1 of the ESP Contract effective November 16, 2009.

- E. **Receive and File** letter from Executive Director of Human Resources Callan to hire Deborah Dawson as a Guidance Office Secretary at the High School on Step 1 of the ESP Contract effective August 24, 2009.
- F. **Receive and File** memorandum from Superintendent Graden approving the field trip request for Scott Marvin and the Saline Wrestling Team to attend a Wrestling Tournament (December 4-5, 2009).

Ayes – All Present – **MOTION CARRIED**

**9. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Tim Heim, SEA President, stated that the state legislature has decided not to increase taxes. The recent millage proposal was defeated. He stated that the current deficit projections would have potentially taxed each teacher \$6,500 - \$10,000. The system needs to be fixed without any new taxes.

Kym Williams currently has three students in the District. She would like to know as a parent where to go to obtain information and be proactive in trying to help before it is too late. She asked if someone could email her or point her in the right direction. Superintendent Graden stated he would be in contact with her.

**10. CLOSED SESSION**

**MOTION** made by Secretary Lesch, seconded by Trustee Hynek to enter Closed Session of the Board of Education at 7:40 PM, with the intent to re-enter Open Session at 8:40 PM, for the purpose of collective bargaining.

**ROLL CALL VOTE**

Trustee Cattell – Aye  
Board President Friese - Aye  
Trustee – Hoeft – Aye  
Trustee Hynek – Aye  
Secretary Lesch – Aye  
Vice President Medley – Aye  
Trustee Slawson - Aye

Ayes – All Present – **MOTION CARRIED**

**RE-ENTER OPEN SESSION** at 9:05 PM.

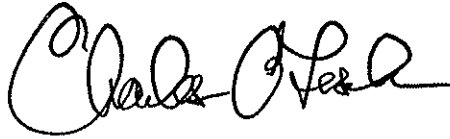
**11. ITEMS SCHEDULED ON NEXT AGENDA**

A.

**12. ADJOURNMENT**

Adjourn the Regular Board of Education Meeting of November 24, 2009, at 9:05 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chuck Lesch". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "C" and "L".

Chuck Lesch, Secretary

By: Patti Waltz, Recording Secretary