

SALINE AREA SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION
RETREAT

MINUTES
Liberty Media Center
Thursday, December 10, 2009
6:00 PM

1. CALL TO ORDER of the Special Meeting of December 10, 2009, at 6:00 PM by Board President Friese.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment at this time.

4. DISCUSSION

Superintendent Graden passed around some correspondence he received stating the Governor Granholm has postponed the additional \$127 per pupil cut for the time being. She will decide after the January 11th revenue meeting whether to reinstate the \$127 cut.

Vice President Medley asked if she made any changes to the 20J plans and Superintendent Graden indicated that he had not heard of any reinstatement of 10J or 20J funding at this time.

Superintendent Graden stated that he has begun to talk with staff about the possible building/grade reconfiguration options that would save money in 2010-2011. There are few things that School Districts do that can be more controversial than closing a building. In talking with parents, community members, and staff we will:

- Have an open review process – involving parents, community, administration, staff, and Board Members.
- The reason for the move is being considered due to the financial situation (all current buildings are doing great things for their students)
- Early estimates are that a move could save over \$500,000 a year.
- We will likely have a recommendation from the committee to the Board by the end of March.

Superintendent Graden then led the Board in an exercise to brainstorm ideas of 1) statement of why we exist – the purpose of Saline Area Schools and 2) where we are headed, i.e., vision.

The results for why we exist were as follows: Prepare, Educate the Children Succeed, All Students, Innovative, Competitive, Engage, Successful Future, Community, Future Endeavors, Educational Service, and Children.

MINUTES
December 10, 2009

The results for our vision were as follows: 21st Century Learning, Different Education Model, Open Model, Project Based Learning, High Expectations, Literacy, Efficient, Academic Excellence, Back to the Future, Potential of Every Child.

It was determined that even with different backgrounds the Board all came up with very similar answers. They need to keep the focus as a group of why we are here. The current district mission states that: We, the Saline Area Schools, will equip all students with the knowledge, technological proficiency, and personal skills necessary to succeed in an increasingly complex society. We expect that our students, staff, and the Saline Community will share in these responsibilities. Our ultimate goal is to instill in our students a desire for lifelong learning.

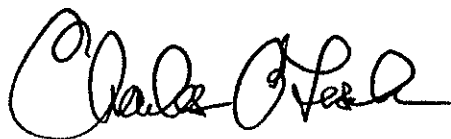
A discussion was held on 21st Century Learning and looking for new and innovative ways to teach our students. Trustee Cattell remarked about the show "Best Schools in Michigan" that was on the night before and how powerful it was. It was exciting to see different learning atmospheres. She felt it would be a great idea for the Board Members to go around to the schools and see first hand what is going on in our classrooms. Vice President Medley agreed and stated that they did this last year as well.

A discussion was then held about the Strategic Planning Process and developing a simpler, shorter document that is put together by a focus group and is brought to the whole Board for approval.

The Board then discussed the evaluation of the Superintendent. His contract states that the Board shall no later than March 31 consider an extension for a one-year period. Superintendent Graden will work with Board President Friese to come up with an effective evaluation tool.

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Chuck Lesch, Secretary

By: Patti Waltz, Recording Secretary