

**SALINE AREA SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION**

MINUTES

**Union School Boardroom
Tuesday, January 5, 2010
6:30 PM**

1. **CALL TO ORDER** of the Special Meeting of January 5, 2010, at 6:30 PM by Board President Friese.
2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
3. **ITEMS OF INTEREST AND INQUIRY**

A. Public

No public comment at this time.

4. **REVISIONS/APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

MOTION made by Secretary Lesch, seconded by Trustee Hynek to approve the agenda as printed.

Ayes – All Present – **MOTION CARRIED**

5. **ACTION ITEMS**

- A. MOTION** made by Trustee Slawson, seconded by Trustee Hynek to **authorize Superintendent Graden and Board President Friese to sign the memorandum of understanding and proposed resolution with regard to the Race to the Top funding.**

Superintendent Graden spoke about the information passed out to the Board which included an Initial Summary, Memorandum of Understanding, Information from Thrun regarding their recommendation, and a potential resolution with regard to the Race to the Top Funds.

He indicated that new information is still emerging daily, for example, today information came through that only the Board President and Superintendent's signatures will be required on the resolution.

Trustee Hoeft asked if an out clause had been incorporated into the resolution in case of problems in the future. Superintendent Graden read from Page 2 of the potential resolution which stated "Whereas, Superintendent Flanagan represented in his December 18th E-Blast, in pertinent part, as follows: The Michigan Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) provides that the parties may mutually agree to terminate the MOU. If an LEA (school district) determines that it wants to terminate the MOU, the

LEA should submit a letter to me requesting this termination, along with the reason for the termination. **I would not force an LEA to participate in the plan if it ultimately determines that is in not in its interest to do so.”**

Superintendent Graden also stated that he was attending a meeting tomorrow at the ISD to discuss this further. All of the school districts are struggling with this issue because we want to bring as many resources into our districts as possible to help out but we also don't want to get into something that may end up costing the district more money.

Board President Friese indicated that this is a concern that the district would have to spend dollars to participate in this program.

Trustee Slawson indicated that these reforms are long overdue. It is a good step in the right direction that will result in what's best for kids.

Board President Friese asked how much the district could potentially receive. Assistant Superintendent Wall indicated that it is based on Title I eligibility and it is estimated to be around \$24,500.

Trustee Cattell felt that the information about raising the drop out rate was very important. She felt that the accountability factor is very positive. We all need to be accountable. Hopefully it will provide the district with some financial benefit.

Trustee Slawson asked if there were any changes to the start date of the school and Superintendent Graden indicated that it was not in the plan. The first day of school is still the day after Labor Day.

Trustee Hoeft inquired as to whether the merit pay issue was part of the funding. Superintendent Graden indicated that it was part of the legislation but there has been no discussion as to what that means. It is a statement but there has been no information about it at this time.

Vice President Medley stated that his biggest concern is that it would cost the district a lot more money to implement than it would receive.

Trustee Hynek indicated that because it has been signed into state law we have to abide by it. Perhaps we can gain some income from it even if it isn't a large amount.

Board President Friese agreed this was a volunteer program but the districts must all abide by the state law.

Ayes – Trustee Cattell, Board President Friese, Trustee Hoeft, Trustee Hynek, Secretary Lesch, and Trustee Slawson

Nays – Vice President Medley

MOTION CARRIED

6. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. **Strategic Planning** – Superintendent Graden

Superintendent Graden reported that he and Assistant Superintendent Laatsch met over break and started the discussion on Strategic Plan, Goal Statements, and the direction for Saline Area Schools.

The following four draft goals were discussed:

- All students will acquire the essential skills and knowledge to meet or exceed standards in reading, writing, and mathematics by the end of Grade 3.
- All students will acquire the essential skills to be learners and leaders in an ever-changing 21st century global society.
- Strengthen family-school relationships and continue to expand civic, business, higher education, and community partnerships that support improved student achievement.
- Enhance a positive work environment that promotes employee well-being, satisfaction, and positive morale.

Trustee Slawson commended Superintendent Graden and Assistant Superintendent Laatsch on the very good start. In this economic crisis goals are critical.

Secretary Lesch inquired as to whether a committee has been established to provide input and Superintendent Graden indicated that was the next step.

Board President Friese indicated that these are long-term and aggressive goals that can be revisited annually. Trustee Hynek concurred and indicated it was a good start.

Student Representative Hogikyan stated that the goals were itemized and concise.

7. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment at this time.

8. ADJOURNMENT

Adjourn the Special Board of Education Meeting of January 5, 2010, at 6:52 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Chuck Lesch, Secretary

By: Patti Waltz, Recording Secretary