

**SALINE AREA SCHOOLS  
BOARD OF EDUCATION**

MINUTES

Liberty Media Center  
Tuesday, January 26, 2010  
6:30 PM

1. **CALL TO ORDER** of the Regular Meeting of January 26, 2010, by Board President Friese.

2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Members Present

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

Central Administrators Present

Superintendent Graden, Assistant Superintendent Laatsch, and Assistant Superintendent Wall

3. **ITEMS OF INTEREST AND INQUIRY**

- A. Public**

No public comment at this time.

- B. Administration**

At the High School tomorrow evening from 6:15 to 7:00 PM there will be a reception honoring those students who earned straight A's in the first trimester. 251 (13.6%) students achieved that mark.

Superintendent Graden will be meeting with Student Representative Hogikyan and members of the high school student body tomorrow to discuss the issues facing the district.

On Thursday, January 28<sup>th</sup>, parent/teacher conferences will be held at the High School.

Superintendent Graden reported that work is almost complete on the 2010-2011 school calendar and should be available to the Board at the next meeting.

Assistant Superintendent Laatsch spoke about all the wonderful things going on in our district. Most recently he was able to witness Heritage, Middle School, and High School staff collaborating on how to bring a parent component and develop more

awareness to this very successful teacher led initiative in which teachers are trying to embed more adolescent reading and literacy instruction within their content areas.

Ms. Nicola and Ms. Stout did a very good training on how to screen students in reading recently at Houghton.

Ms. Tressler has her students involved in a very neat interdisciplinary project where students are working in groups to decipher the meaning of the song lyrics in Billy Joel's "We Didn't Start the Fire" where they use RA strategies to assist them. There are a great many historical events mentioned in the song so it is used as a history lesson as well. The next step is for the students to focus on a significant historical event in their lifetime and create a history multimedia project with the help of Ms. Nazareth in the Media Center.

Ms. Hodgens had many of her 9<sup>th</sup> grade English students go to the Middle School and teach 7<sup>th</sup> graders in Mr. Ceo, Ms. Davis, and Ms. Mayer's classrooms a lesson on prepositions and the importance of using them correctly in writing. They involved music in a way that really engaged the students.

Assistant Superintendent Laatsch reported that the Building/Reconfiguration Committee met for the first time on Thursday. The first component involves determining what data to use in order to properly project future enrollment. Seven proposed reconfiguration plans came out of the meeting and they will begin to break down the validity of each plan at the next meeting.

Assistant Superintendent Wall directed everyone to visit the school website where the Grounds Crew was highlighted recently.

Assistant Superintendent Wall reported that there was power failure at the Middle School last night at 6:30 PM. A 250-amp breaker self-destructed. The issue has been corrected with no disruptions to the students.

Student Representative Hogikyan reported that the Activity Fee Committee's first meeting was held recently. The group is currently seeking input from community members and will report back at the next meeting.

**B. Board of Education Members**

Vice President Medley announced that the next Legislative Breakfast would be held on Monday, February 8<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 AM at the ISD. If anyone has any agenda items they would like discussed please let Vice President Medley know.

Trustee Cattell spoke about the recent Board of Education tour of Harvest and the High School. She stated that it was an amazing experience to see all the wonderful learning in the buildings. She thanked the students and staff and encouraged them to interact and let the Board know their thoughts.

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Trustee Cattell also spoke about the weighted grade system which was discussed in the Board Policy Meeting. She feels that this issue requires more community awareness and feedback before implementation. It needs to benefit the majority of our students.

Trustee Slawson stated that she has received a number of phone calls regarding the three community committees. She asked Superintendent Graden to clarify the process for the selection of the participants.

Superintendent Graden indicated that over 80 community members volunteered to participate. He held a meeting with Assistant Superintendent Laatsch, Athletic Director White, and High School Principal Williams to develop a cross section of participants. They tried to make sure that the sizes of the committees were appropriate to getting the work done. They also looked at getting individuals involved who had not previously been involved before to bring a fresh perspective. In the instances where, for example, two city officials had applied they chose one. Other individuals were recruited, i.e., Facilities Director Bacon for the Reconfiguration Committee. The building reconfiguration has a huge impact on Facilities Director Bacon's department, so it was vital that he be on the committee.

Assistant Superintendent Laatsch stated that the Reconfiguration Committee had over 70 applicants and 30 plus were chosen. He also indicated that he received one phone from an individual asking that in the future forms be revised to include more space for them to talk about their experience, gain a better understanding, and level of expertise.

Superintendent Graden indicated that letters were sent to those who were not chosen thanking them for volunteering and also to invite them to provide feedback prior to any decisions being made.

Trustee Slawson then indicated that she has received three phone calls from people requesting that the schools stop forming committees and make a decision. They felt that the district forms too many committees.

She also stated that she has received a large number of negative phone calls about SEA President Heim's comments at the last Board Meeting. Her constituents feel that the teachers need to make concessions. She added that the teachers are vital to the education of our students – they are not the villains. The economy is horrible and we all need to work together for the good of the students. She stated that she has written letters to our representatives urging them to please fund education.

Trustee Hoeft also thanked the staff and students for the wonderful tour last week. It was great to go into the buildings and see what the students are learning.

Congratulations to students Haley Breedveld, Grace Bowe, Arianna Wellings, Jaime Davis, and Kate Laramie who spearheaded the "Text for Haiti" event this past week at Saline High School. The campaign has raised over \$4,000 to date and counting. A thank you also goes out to Mr. Brian Lampman and Mr. Jason Gumenick for their support of this campaign.

Congratulations to Eric Diroff, Joseph Freeman, Patti Henes, and Jason Pickett on their recent graduation from the Saline Leadership Institute. This year-long commitment included leadership training and developing relationships with other community leaders.

Board President Friese also commended Mr. Bush on a job well done on the SHS Today video at the High School. Superintendent Graden indicated that it is also being shown on SCTN Channel 18.

4. **REVISIONS/APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

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

Ayes – All Present – **MOTION CARRIED**

5. **SCHEDULED REPORTS/PUBLIC STATEMENTS**

A. **Facility Use Update** – Community Education Director Puffer

Community Education Director Puffer and Facilities Specialist Freeman gave a presentation to the Board on the specific areas of revenue that Community Education receives for facility rental. Some of which include: Castle Rock Entertainment for the filming of the movie Flipped, Northridge Church, Pearson Testing, Travel Basketball Tournaments, Eastern Washtenaw Multicultural Academy, and Southeast Michigan Christian Youth Football League.

Upcoming events include: The Ann Arbor Model Train Show on February 21<sup>st</sup>, The University of Michigan Ballroom Dancing Competition on February 13<sup>th</sup>, and The Ann Arbor POWWOW on April 10-11<sup>th</sup>.

6. **ACTION ITEMS**

A. **MOTION** made by Trustee Slawson, seconded by Trustee Hynek to **adopt the Budget Amendment as submitted by Assistant Superintendent Wall.**

Assistant Superintendent Wall gave a presentation to the Board outlining the budget amendment for the 2009-2010 fiscal year.

Ayes – All Present – **MOTION CARRIED**

B. **MOTION** made by Vice President Medley, seconded by Secretary Lesch to **approve the meeting dates for the Board of Education Meetings for July – December 2010 as submitted by Superintendent Graden.**

Superintendent Graden stated that with the move of the election to November the meeting dates for July – December 2010 could be determined.

Ayes – All Present – **MOTION CARRIED**

- C. **MOTION** made by Trustee Slawson, seconded by Vice President Medley to **approve the changes to Policy 1030 (Membership), 1152 (Election of Officers and Length of Term), 1170 (Board Position Vacancies), 1300 (Meetings), 3400 (Depository of Funds), 3500 (Audits), 3550 (Authorized Signatures), and 9250 (Use of District Facilities) as recommended by the Board Policy Committee.**

Trustee Hynek stated that these policy changes were the direct result of the election date change from May to November.

Ayes – All Present – **MOTION CARRIED**

## 7. DISCUSSION ITEMS

### A. **Board Policy Meeting** – Trustee Hynek

Trustee Hynek gave an overview of the other policies talked about at the recent Policy Meeting.

#### Policy 9710 and 9730 – District Supported Organizations

A discussion was held and it was decided to merge these two policies. Assistant Superintendent Wall will incorporate these policies and prepare a draft for review at the next Policy Committee Meeting.

#### Policy 8230 – Tobacco Products

With the new smoking law we needed to make sure our policy reflected the 24/7 no smoking policy. Brad Banasik from MASB reviewed our currently policy and it was determined that the language in the current policy was sufficient.

#### Policy 7120 – Curriculum Alignment

The committee will be reviewing a template policy at the next Policy Meeting.

#### Policy 7560 – Grading System

Superintendent Graden will meet with Technology Director Lupu to determine what our current system is technologically capable of. He will also find out whether our system will allow us to produce a transcript with both a weighted and unweighted grade as well as remove class ranking.

Trustee Hynek stated the University of Michigan stated that Plymouth-Canton had 37 students ranked at the Number 1 position in the class last year. The Policy Committee will be breaking up into a subcommittee to review this further.

High School Parking Lot

It was determined that the Policy Committee needs to strengthen the language on the driving permit form and handbook as to what students can and cannot have in their vehicles.

**B. SEA Printer Grievance Committee – Board President Friese**

Board President Friese appointed Vice President Medley, Trustee Hoeft, and himself to serve on this grievance committee.

**C. Superintendent Evaluation Committee – Board President Friese**

Board President Friese appointed Trustee Hynek, Secretary Lesch, and Trustee Slawson to serve on the Superintendent Evaluation Committee.

**D. Budget Committee Update – Assistant Superintendent Wall**

Assistant Superintendent Wall indicated that this information was discussed in his presentation earlier in the meeting.

**8. CONSENT AGENDA**

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

- A. Approval** of the Regular Board of Education Minutes of January 12, 2010.
- B. Approval** of the Special Board of Education Meeting Minutes of January 5, 2010.
- C. Approval of Payment** of the General Fund Accounts Payable of January 26, 2010, in the amount of \$345,400.54.
- D. Receive and File** letter from Executive Director Callan accepting the resignation of Jason Towler as a Teacher in the Young Adult Program effective March 17, 2010.
- E. Receive and File** memorandum from Superintendent Graden approving the field trip request for Saline FFA and AG to attend the Michigan FFA Convention and Leadership Contests in East Lansing, Michigan from March 10-12, 2010.

Ayes – All Present – **MOTION CARRIED**

**9. PUBLIC COMMENT**

No public comment at this time.

**10. CLOSED SESSION**

**MOTION** made by Trustee Slawson, 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 8:30 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

**RE-ENTER OPEN SESSION** at 8:58 PM.

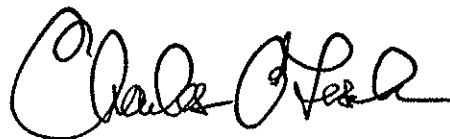
**11. ITEMS SCHEDULED ON NEXT AGENDA**

- A. Mid Year Staffing Adjustments – Superintendent Graden
- B. Superintendent Evaluation Committee – Board President Friese
- C. Grievance Committee Report – Board President Friese

**12. ADJOURNMENT**

Adjourn the Regular Board of Education Meeting of January 26, 2010, at 8:58 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Chuck Lesch, Secretary

By: Patti Waltz, Recording Secretary