

**SALINE AREA SCHOOLS  
BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**MINUTES**

**Liberty Media Center  
Tuesday, February 23, 2010  
6:30 PM**

1. **CALL TO ORDER** of the Regular Meeting of February 23, 2010, at 6:30 PM by Board President Friese.
2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
3. **ITEMS OF INTEREST AND INQUIRY**

**A. Public**

Alexis Cohen and Michelle Angelos spoke to the Board about the recent layoff notice for Mr. Ceo. They stated that they respect the Board's right to make the decision but felt that the timing was incorrect. The students have developed a good relationship with Mr. Ceo and they wish this decision could have been postponed until after the school year was over.

Mark Ouimet updated the Board on the Success by Six group. He spoke last month about the idea of moving the relationship closer between School Boards and Chamber of Commerce. He has had discussions with Dr. Bill Miller at the WISD and he would like them to expand their scope to K-12. They will be having a planning meeting on March 3<sup>rd</sup> and he will keep the Board informed.

**B. Administration**

Superintendent Graden reported that the Saline Salutes event at the High School would be held on Friday, April 16<sup>th</sup>. They are currently look for nominations – check out the Chamber of Commerce website for the nomination application. They will also be honoring the Saline Youth Council “Youth of the Year”.

Meetings are currently underway to put a dollar amount on a list of approximately 30 cost saving ideas for the 2010-2011 school year. These ideas were generated in the fall by staff and community members. In late March and early April we will be holding community budget forums to get feedback on these ideas as we address the projected \$3.6 million shortfall in the 2010-2011 budget.

The evening of Monday, March 1<sup>st</sup> Superintendent Graden will have the opportunity to travel to Lansing to watch our Quiz Bowl team in their semi-final match on the statewide QuizBusters challenge.

Assistant Superintendent Laatsch reported that a few staff members recently visited Lake Fenton Middle School. They are engaged in Project Lead the Way, which is a

STEM technology program that integrates science, technology, engineering, and math. The experienced 8<sup>th</sup> graders constructing dragsters in a unit on mechanics of motion, 7<sup>th</sup> graders involved in a unit involving simulations with gears and robotics, and 6<sup>th</sup> graders designing a unit creating models. He indicated that they are very interested in bringing this type of programming to Saline Middle School. Our science teachers have expressed interest in this type of teaching and learning. Currently, they are seeking grant funding as a possible way to financially support this program.

There was a very nice turnout last night at the Community Forum to discuss the building grade reconfiguration. There were a great deal of good questions and parent input. The main concerns were: taking away Harvest as a neighborhood school, moving 6<sup>th</sup> grade to the Middle School, finding a way to keep Early Childhood configuration together, and the effect that the configuration might have on the Music program.

An email was sent out to parents this morning asking for their input on all of the plans. There has been a big response and the data will be compiled and discussed at the next Reconfiguration Meeting. The committee will submit a recommendation to the Superintendent and the Board of Education at the next Board Meeting.

Assistant Superintendent Wall reported that the next Budget Committee Meeting would be held on Monday, March 1<sup>st</sup> in the Superintendent's Office at 7:30 AM.

**C. Board of Education Members**

Trustee Slawson recently attended the monthly meeting for the Foundation for Saline Area Schools. They will be adding new members and electing new officers at the March meeting. They are looking at their focus to expand to include raising more money for the District. They are also looking at planning a formal fundraiser such as a silent auction possibly in May.

Trustee Slawson thanked the students for speaking on behalf of Mr. Ceo tonight. She stated that it took a lot courage to come here tonight and speak about something you feel passionate about. The way we fund public education is wrong and it is broken and we must find a way to do better for the students.

Trustee Cattell and Trustee Hynek accompanied Mr. Lampman's Sociology Class on a field trip to the University of Michigan today. They observed a college class about gender and sociology. Mr. Lampman had the opportunity to teach the last portion of the class. Trustee Cattell remarked that it was a really proud moment for the students and Mr. Lampman is a shining example of the many wonderful teachers we have.

Congratulations to the students at Heritage School. They advertised using posters and made video clips to play on the morning announcements to rally up support for the coin drive for Haiti. From January 25-29, students collected spare change to donate to the American Red Cross International Relief Fund. A total of \$2,934.15 was collected.

Congratulations to Kristin Glatz, Ann O'Harris, Scott Cannell, and Rebecca Groeb-Driskill on an outstanding High School Drama Club performance of "Once Upon a Mattress" last weekend. We would also like to thank Justin Humphries and Jase Wholehan for their work behind the scenes.

**4. REVISIONS/APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

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

Ayes – All Present – **MOTION CARRIED**

**5. SCHEDULED REPORTS/PUBLIC STATEMENTS**

**A. Heritage Laptop Program – Assistant Superintendent Laatsch**

Under the leadership of Heather Kellstrom and Ken Lupo, and the financial support of the Foundation for Saline Area Schools, the Heritage Laptop Program is being successfully implemented throughout the school. Teachers have applied to use the laptops with their classrooms for one of the three trimesters in the school year. Our IT department and Heritage Principal Rosen-Leacher have reviewed these applications. They have chosen teaching teams that have an extremely viable plan of integrating technology into their daily routine of teaching.

Mrs. Updegraff and Ms. Sickler have a set of the laptops for the 2<sup>nd</sup> trimester and are here tonight to share the success they have had with this project. Mrs. Updegraff said it has not only motivated students but has also caused her to reevaluate the way she teaches. They have been a wonderful addition to the classroom. It has also opened the door for discussion on proper Internet etiquette. The students are very responsible and this has been a great opportunity.

Ms. Sickler also commented that it has been a great tool for teaching students with different skill levels in math. She can send them an email with a link for math assignments that are tailored to each student's level.

**B. SAS Community Forum Presentation – Matt Needham and Michelle Rupp**

Matt Needham and Michelle Rupp are current seniors at Saline who came up with an idea to create a coalition of students, teachers, parents, and other community members in an attempt to solve the District's most pressing problems.

They have formed the Saline Area Schools Community Forum ([salineforum.com](http://salineforum.com)) whose mission is to:

- To solve the District's most pressing problems.
- To further communication between students, parents, school staff, community members, and representative officials.

- To create a forum of collaboration that continues past the current crisis, based upon the necessity of continued community involvement in Saline Area Schools.
- To heighten awareness and concern for the issues facing our school district.

They stressed that the site is completely independent from the District itself. They encourage cooperation and participation by school officials; the news posted by them will be completely unbiased. They want to provide site members opportunities to learn about the District and the issues so that conversation can be productive and informed.

**6. ACTION ITEMS**

No action items at this time.

**7. DISCUSSION ITEMS**

**A. Policy Committee Report – Trustee Hynek**

The Policy Committee met last Tuesday and several items were discussed.

Policy 2250 – Superintendent Evaluation

The timeline was changed to coincide with the new calendar year and board elections.

Policy 9710 and 9730 – District Supported Organizations

These two policies were combined together. Assistant Superintendent Wall will have the lawyers review before bringing it to the Board.

Policy 7650 – Grading Policy

A brief discussion was held on the subject of weighted grades. This also includes a variety of other issues as well such as: transcript reporting, class rank, A+ grades, High School credit for Middle School classes, etc. It was decided to form a small committee chaired by Assistant Superintendent Laatsch and Board Members Cattell and Lesch to review. They will be meeting next Tuesday and hope to have something in place for the 2010-2011 school year.

A discussion was held on an online learning policy, which is yet to be numbered.

Changes were made to the High School handbook about weapons in vehicles as well as student and parental signatures on the parking permit application.

**B. Evaluation Committee Report – Trustee Slawson**

The Evaluation Committee met and decided that the Superintendent Evaluation tool used last year wasn't adequate and did not lend itself to the kind of discussion that the Board wanted to have with the Superintendent and each other. Trustee Slawson went over the draft evaluation form and new timeline the committee created. She would like feedback from other Board members. It was determined that they will use the same goals as were established last year with the exception of implementing the new online policy manual which has been completed. Superintendent Graden, Trustee Hynek, Secretary Lesch, and Trustee Slawson serve on this committee.

**C. Sinking Fund Review – Assistant Superintendent Wall**

Assistant Superintendent Wall passed out the quarterly sinking fund reports and showed the Board where these reports are located on the school website. The Sinking Fund Millage passed in May 2009, which equates to 0.35 mills for the next 10 years. Assistant Superintendent Wall went over a list of projects that have been completed as well as what projects qualify for using sinking dollar funds.

**8. CONSENT AGENDA**

**MOTION** made by Trustee Hynek, seconded by Vice President Medley to authorize the following items as part of the Consent Agenda:

- A. Approval** of the Regular Board of Education Meeting Minutes of February 9, 2010.
- B. Approval** of the Board Policy Meeting Minutes of January 19, 2010.
- C. Approval of Payment** of the General Fund Accounts Payable of February 23, 2010, in the amount of \$446,913.13.
- D. Receive and File** letter from Superintendent Graden accepting the retirement of Jerome Caviani as a Teacher at Heritage School effective June 30, 2010.
- E. Receive and File** letter from Superintendent Graden accepting the retirement of Leslie Osborn as a Paraeducator effective June 30, 2010.
- F. Receive and File** letter from Superintendent Graden accepting the resignation of Terry Curley as a Paraeducator effective February 4, 2010.
- G. Acceptance** of the recommendation of Community Education Director Puffer to re-appoint Amy McGovern to the CARES Advisory Board to replace Jill Cooper whose term expires June 2011.

Ayes – All Present – **MOTION CARRIED**

9. PUBLIC COMMENT

None at this time.

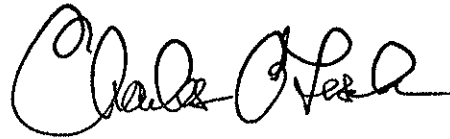
10. ITEMS SCHEDULED ON NEXT AGENDA

- A. National Merit Finalists
- B. Activity Fee Committee Presentation
- C. Pay to Participate Committee Presentation

11. ADJOURNMENT

Adjourn the Regular Board of Education Meeting of February 23, 2010, at 7:38 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Chuck Lesch, Secretary

By: Patti Waltz, Recording Secretary