

**SALINE AREA SCHOOLS  
BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**BOARD POLICY MINUTES**

**Union School Boardroom**

**Tuesday, March 16, 2010**

**5:00 PM**

- 1. CALL TO ORDER** of the Board Policy Committee Meeting of March 16, 2010, at 5:00 PM by Chairperson Hynek.

Members Present

Trustee Cattell, Chairperson Hynek, Secretary Lesch, and Trustee Slawson

Central Administration Present

Superintendent Graden and Assistant Superintendent Wall

- 2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

- 3. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mr. David Zimmer, York Township understands that a discussion on the grading system is scheduled for today. He wanted to remind the committee of the correspondence he sent to the Board last week. Last June Saline was named one of the top High Schools in America. AP Testing in Saline continues to be on the rise – our students are challenging themselves and we are proud of their accomplishments.

He asked the committee to do a complete investigation and not to compromise or politicize the issue. Currently there are 40 students waitlisted at the University of Michigan because of unweighted grades. He urged the committee to look at the facts and separate their personal feelings and make a decision.

- 4. POLICY 1167 – COMPENSATION**

A discussion was held on whether the policy should be changed to reflect that the Board might choose not to accept payment for their service to the District. A consensus was reached that a Board member could currently donate their earnings back to the District on their own if they wanted to and no policy change was necessary.

- 5. POLICY 2250 – SUPERINTENDENT EVALUATION**

A discussion was held on whether to include the entire evaluation tool in the Policy Manual or just the timeline. It was determined that if you changed the tool you would need to revise the

policy. It was decided to add the timeline only as an administrative regulation. These changes will come to the Board for approval at the March 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting.

## 6. **POLICY 7642 – ONLINE LEARNING**

The Online Learning Policy was reviewed and approved by Brad Banasik of MASB. It was decided that online learning does have relevance and should be considered as it relates to quality education. The revisions to this policy will come to the Board for approval at the March 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting.

## 7. **POLICY 7560 – GRADING SYSTEM**

The Grading Policy Committee met to review a number of issues surrounding the current grading policy of Saline Area Schools. The members of the committee included: Assistant Superintendent Laatsch, Director of Secondary Education and Assessment Sean Enright, Trustee Cattell, Board Secretary Lesch, Parent/University of Michigan Admissions Officer Kim Bryant, Parent/HS PTO President Ann Dowling, High School Guidance Counselor Kathy Mussio, High School Social Studies Teacher Jason Gumenick, Middle School Math Teacher Heather Meloche, High School Principal Ben Williams, and Middle School Principal David Raft.

The committee made the following recommendation:

- Saline Area Schools will adopt a weighted grade system at Saline High School.
- Apply weighted grades only to AP classes, not Honors classes.
- The scale that will be used will be discussed by high school teachers that teach AP and non-AP classes. They will decide upon a 4.5 or 5.0 scale and submit that information back to the Policy Committee.
- Class rank will still be reported.
- Transcripts will reflect a weighted GPA, an unweighted GPA, and an unweighted class rank.
- The A+ would no longer be assigned a value of 4.33 on the transcript. In other words, a teacher could still technically assign an A+, but it would no longer carry a weighted value on the transcript.
- Internally, the unweighted GPA and the unweighted Class Rank will be used to determine National Honors Society, Highest Honors, Honor Roll Awards, Honors Assemblies, and so forth.

A discussion was held on the 4.5 or 5.0 scale and it was decided that the standard norm that is used across the country was 5.0 so it was recommended that we use that scale.

Assistant Superintendent Laatsch also commented that the committee does want to look at Honors courses. There are currently six honors courses and 17 AP courses at the high school. They felt it was important not to penalize the AP students by waiting until the Honors courses review was completed. Secretary Lesch concurred that scientific studies have shown that weighted grades are the way to go. The AP courses should be implemented and then we can look into the Honors courses.

A discussion began on the dual reporting of weighted and unweighted grades. Mr. Zimmer felt that you would be doing the students a disservice if you reported both ways. He felt that there would be bias among the admissions officers if the unweighted scale were also listed because that is what they are used to. Assistant Superintendent Laatsch respectfully disagreed stating that the Admissions Officer from the University of Michigan stated that they take the highest grade point average.

Chairperson Hynek will prepare a draft policy based on the committee's recommendation with the exception of reviewing whether to use a 4.5 or 5.0 scale. He will bring it to the April meeting for review.

**8. PUBLIC COMMENT**

David Zimmer thanked the Board for moving half way and weighting AP classes. He made some suggestions on how he felt the Honors classes could be incorporated into the process.

**9. NEXT MEETING**

The next Policy Committee Meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 20, 2010, at 5:00 PM in the Superintendent's Office.

**10. ADJOURNMENT**

The Board Policy Committee Meeting adjourned at 6:42 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chuck Lesch". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Chuck Lesch, Secretary

By: Patti Waltz, Recording Secretary