

**SALINE AREA SCHOOLS
Board of Education Meeting**

**MINUTES
October 23, 2007**

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of the Saline Area School District was held on Tuesday, October 23, 2007, in the Board Room at Historic Union School.

Board Members Present: Lisa Slawson, David Friese, Paul Hynek, Bari Livsey,
David Medley, and Kim VanHoek

Board Members Absent: Trudy Driscoll

Central Administrators Present: Scot Graden, Betty Rosen-Leacher (in part), and
Tom Wall

CALL TO ORDER of the Regular Meeting of October 23, 2007, by President Slawson at 6:30 pm.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ITEMS OF INTEREST AND INQUIRY

- A. Board President Slawson informed the students that any person at the table is eligible to sign the attendance sheets required for Government Class.

Public

Richard Isaacs, Saline resident, spoke about walking through the new high school and seeing the wonderful displays for athletic achievement but nothing for academic achievement. He said that he spoke with Dr. Geltner who had indicated that a group of students were looking into putting up a display honoring academics. He wondered if there had been any progress made in this area.

He was also concerned with visual governance and if it is currently inferior. He was concerned that if the Board moved to gain greater control that some people would see it as micromanaging. Concerned if you move to greater control some people could see as micromanagement.

Mr. Tim Heim, Guidance Counselor at Saline High School, addressed the issue of the academic showcase. He indicated that at the main entrance to the High School there is a showcase for academic excellence.

REVISIONS/APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Board President Slawson requested the following revisions to the agenda:

On Page 2 – Action Items – Section A should read fiscal year ending June 30 instead of June 20.

On Page 2 – Discussion Items – Remove Section A Budget Update and Section B Governance Model Review

Page 3 – Consent Agenda – Section A remove October 6 and 8.

Page 4 – Closed Session should read pursuant to Section 8H of the open meetings act to consider a confidential attorney client privileged communication.

MOTION by Kim VanHoek, seconded by Bari Livsey, to approve the agenda as revised.

MOTION CARRIED. Ayes – All present.

SCHEDULED REPORTS/SCHEDULED PUBLIC STATEMENTS

Larry Osterling gave a presentation to the Board about the Chamber of Commerce and what they do in the community. He indicated that they now have 475 members.

He spoke about the upcoming Business Enterprise Awards put on by the Chamber. The recipients of the awards this year are JAC Products and Bemis Farms Preschool.

Larry thanked the Board for all the time and energy that they put in to make this a great school district. He has contact with many community members who have indicated to him their appreciation of the hard work and effort put in by the Board members.

Art Trapp then gave an overview of plans for development of the downtown area which included an open air canopy to house the farmers market. He also discussed other potential uses for Historic Union School, i.e., senior citizen apartments, performing arts center, etc.

Administration

Interim Superintendent Scot Graden, reported that on October 17th the High School administered the PLAN, Explore, and PSAT tests to students in Grades 9-11. He would like to thank the High School Counselors, Sean Enright, Gloria Tyler, Carol Melcher, Kathy Forgiel and all the others who helped make this possible. There will be a meeting on November 12th to break down the information and brainstorm ways

to improve instruction at the High School.

Kim VanHoek questioned whether the 5th and 6th graders would need to retake the MEAP test. Interim Superintendent Graden indicated that the mandatory dates have been established by the State. Betty Rosen-Leacher and Steve Laatsch are currently in negotiations with the State to obtain an alternative date because many of our students will be at camp during this time.

Tom Wall reported that there is still a degree of uncertainty with proposals for increases in our foundation allowance.

Board of Education

Board President Slawson recognized Mary Dunham, Head Custodian Union School for the wonderful artwork which is now displayed at Historic Union School.

She also indicated that the clock which hung in the Board Room which was a gift to the first Superintendent of Saline Schools was donated to the Weber-Blaess School.

The 4th Annual Food Drive for Saline Social Services will be held at Woodland Meadows and Heritage Schools on Tuesday, October 30th. All donations will be given to Saline Social Services.

VI. ACTION ITEMS

A. Audit Report

Jeff Dolowy and Mary Schafer of Plante & Moran gave a presentation of the financial audit they recently conducted for the last fiscal year. Mary indicated that they found an unqualified or clean opinion and that there were no exceptions to the report filed.

Saline was able to add an additional \$1.3 million to the fund balance over the past year which brings the percentage up to 7%. The state average for a fund balance is roughly 13%.

MOTION made by David Medley, seconded by Kim VanHoek to receive and file the SAS Audit Report.

MOTION CARRIED. Ayes - All present.

B. American Education Week

Board President Slawson read the proclamation below:

American Education Week Proclamation

WHEREAS, public schools are the backbone of our democracy, providing young people with the tools they need to maintain our nation's precious values of freedom, civility and equality; and

WHEREAS, by equipping young Americans with both practical skills and broader intellectual abilities, schools give them hope for, and access to, a productive future; and
WHEREAS, education employees, be they substitute educators, custodians, teachers, bus drivers, or librarians, work tirelessly to serve our children and communities with care and professionalism; and

WHEREAS, schools are community linchpins, bringing together adults and children, educators and volunteers, business leaders, and elected officials in a common enterprise.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Lisa Slawson, serving as Board President of Saline Area Schools, do hereby proclaim November 11–17 as the 86th annual observance of American Education Week.

MOTION by David Friese, seconded by Bari Livsey to adopt November 11-17 as American Education Week for Saline Area Schools.

MOTION CARRIED. Ayes – All present.

VII. DISCUSSION ITEMS

Governance Model Review

More discussion to be held on this at the November 27th meeting.

B. Goal Review and Discussion

The following goals were discussed and will be brought back for adoption at the next board meeting:

1. Grow fund balance to provide for program security and development.
2. Enhance cohesiveness SAS community.
3. Review superintendent evaluation process.
4. Begin a major revision of policy manual.

5. Continuing education for Board of Education.

Interim Superintendent Graden indicated that the Board has an ambitious undertaking but that we are currently moving forward on Items 1 and 2. Academic success will be facilitated by these as well.

NEOLA & MASB will each receive 15 minutes at the November 27th meeting for making their presentations to the Board.

There is a MASB Conference being held on November 1-4. There will also be additional classes at the end of January.

C. BOARD PERFORMANCE APPRAISAL

If Board Members have not turned in their Board Performance Appraisal Form 4307 Board Reg, please do so as soon as possible to President Slawson. These will be discussed at the next board retreat tentatively scheduled for January.

VIII. CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION by Bari Livsey, seconded by Paul Hynek to approve the Consent Agenda as revised.

MOTION CARRIED. Ayes – All present.

IX. ACTION ITEMS – None at this time.

DISCUSSION ITEMS – None at this time.

XI. PUBLIC COMMENT – None at this time.

XII. ITEMS SCHEDULED ON NEXT AGENDA

Election Consolidation Update – November 27th

French Exchange Group from Middle School Update

Presentation by LEGACY. Group concerned with rates being charged to groups by Community Education.

Budget Update

XIII. CLOSED SESSION

MOTION by David Friese, seconded by Kim VanHoek to enter closed session at 7:58 pm with the intent to reenter open session at 9:30 pm for the purpose of discussion pursuant to section 8H of the open meetings act to consider a confidential attorney client privilege communication.

Motion must pass by a 2/3 roll call vote:

President Lisa Slawson – yes

David Friese – yes

Paul Hynek – yes

Bari Livsey – yes

David Medley – yes

Kim VanHoek - yes

MOTION CARRIED

RE-ENTER OPEN SESSION AT 9:36 p.m.

XIV. POST-CLOSED SESSION ACTION

Authorize attorney Mosier to pursue an investigation and discussions with Dr. Geltner's attorney.

MOTION by Bari Livsey, seconded by Kim VanHoek to approve above action item.

MOTION CARRIED. Ayes – All present.

XV. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Bari Livsey, seconded by Paul Hynek to adjourn the Regular Board of Education Meeting of October 23, 2007 at 9:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Hynek, Secretary

By: Patti Waltz, Recording Secretary