

**SALINE AREA SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION**

MINUTES

**Tuesday, January 8, 2008
7:00 PM**

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of the Saline Area School District was held on Tuesday, January 8, 2008, in the Board Room at Historic Union School.

Board Members Present: Trudy Driscoll, David Friese, Paul Hynek, Bari Livsey, David Medley, Lisa Slawson, and Kim Van Hoek

Central Administrators Present: Scot Graden, Betty Rosen-Leacher, and Tom Wall

I. **CALL TO ORDER** of the Regular Meeting of January 8, 2008 at 7:00 PM.

II. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

III. **ITEMS OF INTEREST AND INQUIRY:**

A. **Public:**

Mr. David Zimmer, 9359 Baron Way, Saline has a daughter attending Saline Middle School in the 7th grade and a son attending Saline High School in the 9th grade. He asked the Board for clarification of whether there would be school for the Middle School on March 13-14, 2008. He received a school calendar that was approved on October 4, 2006, which does not show it as a no school day. He questioned the process of how changes to the school calendar are made and whether the school year would be amended.

Board President Slawson indicated that changing of the school calendar to reflect the March 13-14, 2008, no school days for Middle School would be scheduled on the next board agenda.

B. **Administration**

Interim Superintendent Scot Graden stated that the no school days are to accommodate a MAMSE Conference which is being hosted at the Middle School. Dr. Nic Cooper and Dr. Geltner discussed this last spring and it was decided to extend the school day for Middle School by three minutes each day to allow for this conference. He indicated that a meeting has been scheduled for January 9th with Dr. Cooper to gain clarification on all the details. Interim

Superintendent Graden stated that more information would follow as it becomes available of not only in terms of potentially adjusting the school calendar but the costs, and covering teacher's salaries.

Interim Superintendent Graden announced that Tim Heim's mother passed away suddenly. The visitation will be held on Wednesday evening with the funeral on Thursday.

Interim Superintendent Graden also spoke about an upcoming article in the Ann Arbor News related to a potential crosswalk near Woodland Meadows and Heritage Schools. He indicated that Steve Laatsch and Doug Bacon were also involved with preliminary conversations with the City Engineers.

There is a potential need by the Saline Area Chamber of Commerce to occupy office space at Union School. The Marionette exhibit will be moving to the library so the City will no longer fund the Chamber's lease said Interim Superintendent Graden. He also indicated that the Library lease would likely be extended until the end of May.

Director of Facilities, Doug Bacon, and Assistant Superintendent, Tom Wall, are continuing discussions regarding the Middle School Parking Lot Area with work possibility beginning this summer.

Interim Superintendent Graden told the Board that there was a glitch with the GMS Payroll today. The direct deposits did not arrive today as scheduled and would be posted as of 12:01 AM tomorrow. GMS had a transition in staffing and they are putting procedures in place to ensure that this does not happen again.

Assistant Superintendent, Betty Rosen-Leacher, discussed a program that High School Principal, Ben Williams, has used in the past about helping students with the transition academically from 8th to 9th grade. Similar discussions are also being held with Heritage Principal, Steve Laatsch for the 6th to 7th grade academic transition.

Assistant Superintendent Wall stated that the group would be discussing a budget amendment at the Board Retreat and would have a formal adoption at the next board meeting. He indicated that a State Revenue Meeting was to be held on Friday, January 11 and that there may be a slight surplus. More information will be available after the January 11th meeting.

C. Board of Education Members

Board President Lisa Slawson congratulated Erica Peplinski, a Fifth Grade Teacher at Heritage, for receiving the Sierra Club Award for her Wetlands Research Project. This is a very prestigious award and everyone at Saline Schools is very proud of her accomplishment.

Director Facilities Bacon spoke about a 7th grade student, Joe Omichinski, who has taken on the project of revitalizing the greenhouse at the Middle School. The many articles written about this project in the Ann Arbor News and the Saline Reporter has generated a lot of interest in the project including in-kind services and monetary donations.

The Greenhouse Project in conjunction with the Saline Community Garden will now grow the seeds used in the Saline Community Garden. They were able to donate over 300 pounds of food last year to the needy in the community and hope to go beyond that goal this year.

Board President Slawson announced that the Board would be attending a CBA Weekend at MASB on January 25-26th. These classes teach them how to serve the public better as well becoming Certified Board Members.

Board Member Paul Hynek indicated that there will be two open seats on the Board for the next election. Any one interested must file in the County Clerk's office by February 13th. The election will be held on May 6, 2008.

AGENDA - BOARD

IV. REVISIONS/APPROVAL OF AGENDAS:

RECOMMENDED MOTION . . . by Trudy Driscoll, seconded by Paul Hynek to approve the agendas as printed/revised.

Ayes – All Present – MOTION CARRIED.

V. SCHEDULED REPORTS/PUBLIC STATEMENTS:

A. Superintendent Search Update – Assistant Superintendent Rosen-Leacher, Assistant Superintendent Wall, and President Lisa Slawson

Board President Slawson stated that the Board received in the mail the final posting prepared by MASB. This posting also went out on the Saline Area Schools Website, Candidate Mailing List, National Search Association, as well as the MASB Website.

Assistant Superintendent Rosen-Leacher informed the Board that Dr. Emlaw, MASB has met with a diverse group of staff, community members, and students and that there will be Community Forum for staff and faculty tomorrow at 3:00 and 4:00 PM. There is also another meeting scheduled for Thursday at 6:30 PM in the Union School Boardroom.

Board President Slawson announced that there will be a Special Meeting on Monday, January 14th at 6:00 PM in the Union School Board Room. She also announced that there will be a Board Retreat on January 15th at 5:30 PM as well as a Policy Committee Meeting on January 17th at 5:30 PM.

B. Winter Maintenance Update – Director of Facilities Doug Bacon

Director of Facilities Bacon gave a very enlightening presentation about the Winter Maintenance that is required at Saline Area Schools. He indicated that the High School parking lots are approximately 14 acres not including the Team Center and Softball parking lots which are currently seasonal. The total parking areas for all the buildings is 33 acres and there are four miles of entrance roads which equal another 15 acres. These 48 acres must be ready prior to the start of the school day.

He also spoke about the aging equipment issues which plague the District and the need for updating the equipment in the future. A copy of Mr. Bacon's presentation will be posted on the school website.

C. Topics for the January 15 Full Administrative Team Retreat – Interim Superintendent Graden

Interim Superintendent Graden passed out a draft agenda and went over an overview for the January 15th Retreat. Board Member Van Hoek commented that this is a wonderful opportunity to have time to interact with people that they don't generally get to see.

He indicated that this was a time for interactive discussions and a great opportunity to start to build trust between the Board and the Administration.

D. Critical Friends Group Activity – Assistant Superintendent Rosen-Leacher

Assistant Superintendent Rosen-Leacher passed out a questionnaire for the Board to fill out for the opening segment of the retreat next week. She also stated that the Administration and Board need the opportunity to spend some time together and develop a trusting relationship.

VI. ACTION ITEMS:

A. Local Development Finance Authority, City of Saline

RECOMMEND MOTION....made by Kim Van Hoek, seconded by Bari Livsey to accept the recommendation of Interim Superintendent, Scot Graden to appoint Ms. Terri Benz to the Local Development Finance Authority Board for one, four-year term.

Ayes – All Present – MOTION CARRIED.

VII. DISCUSSION ITEMS:

A. None at this time.

VIII. CONSENT AGENDA:

RECOMMENDED MOTION . . . made by Bari Livsey, seconded Trudy Driscoll to authorize the following items as part of the Consent Agenda:

A. **Approval of the Minutes** of the meetings of December 6, 11, and 17, 2007.

B. **Approval of Payment** of the General Fund Accounts Payable of January 8, 2008, in the amount of \$641,081.16.

C. **Receive and File** letter from Executive Director for Human Resources Callan confirming Christina DeFant has successfully completed her probationary period and will be tenured beginning December 10, 2007.

D. **Acceptance** of the recommendation of Executive Director of Human Resources Callan to hire (for school year 2007-2008) the following candidate for the position of Paraeducator within the Saline Area Schools, in accordance with the Support Collective Bargaining Agreement:

a. **Kristy Hughes**, to be placed on Step 1 of the Paraeducator Scale

E. **Acceptance** of the recommendation of Executive Director of Human Resources Callan to hire (for school year 2007-2008) the following candidate for the position of Resource Room Teacher at the Alternative High School within Saline Area Schools, in accordance with the Master Agreement between the SEA/WCEA and the Board of Education:

a. **Bradley Woehlke**, to be placed on Step 2 of the MA Salary Schedule

F. **Receive and File** letter from Executive Director for Human Resources Callan confirming Kara Gall has successfully completed her probationary period and will be tenured part time beginning January 28, 2008.

Ayes – All Present – MOTION CARRIED.

CLOSING

XI. PUBLIC COMMENT:

A. None at this time.

XII. ITEMS SCHEDULED ON NEXT AGENDAS:

- A. Superintendent Search Update
- B. Policy Committee Update
- C. Budget Amendment
- D. Update on MAMSE – Middle School Calendar Update
- E. Facility Use Regulation and Recommendations
- F. Henne Field Redevelopment
- G. High School Marquee Sign Recommendation
- H. Election Resolution

XIII. ADJOURNMENT:

RECOMMENDED MOTION . . . made by David Friese, seconded by David Medley to adjourn the Regular Board of Education Meeting of January 8, 2008, at 8:01 PM.

Ayes – All Present – MOTION CARRIED.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Hynek, Secretary

By: Patti Waltz, Recording Secretary