

**SALINE AREA SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION**

MINUTES

Tuesday, February 12, 2008

7:00 PM

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of the Saline Area School District was held on Tuesday, February 12, 2008, in the Board Room at Historic Union School.

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

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

- I. **CALL TO ORDER** of the Regular Meeting of February 12, 2008, at 7:00 PM by Board President Lisa Slawson.

II. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

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

A. **Public:**

Mr. Jim Letcher, Vice President SEA Teachers Union, wanted to thank Doug Bacon, Mike Puckett, and Scott Mack for all the extra work at Harvest Elementary over the weekend due to the issue with the frozen pipes. The Facilities Staff is always willing to give more than 100% to ensure the safety and well being of not only the buildings but the students as well.

Ms. Susan Abraham, Saline came to advocate for better tracking of IEP goals in the school system. She has a son in the Middle School and felt very strongly about ensuring that the staff are following the IEPs and that there are consequences if they do not. She also requested that the Special Education Director job description be posted on the website along with telephone numbers of who to call in the event that they need assistance.

Ms. Mary Lirones, Saline recently read in the newspaper that a \$50,000 sign would be installed in front of the High School. She was concerned the installation was only the beginning of the costs and wondered how much it would be operate and maintain the sign. She felt that a better use of the

money would be to spend it on maintenance equipment to help with snow removal.

B. Administration

Interim Superintendent Graden announced that today was the funeral of Alternative High School student, Sable Martin, who died in an automobile accident last week. Sable's mother, Rose, is a Paraeducator at Heritage School. The Alternative High School closed at 10:30 today to allow students and staff to attend the funeral.

Interim Superintendent Graden said that Senior Citizens can obtain a free SEC Senior Pass to all SEC sporting events. Please contact the Athletic Office if any one is interested or would like more information.

We are currently in the process of recruiting individuals interested in substitute work as a Paraeducator, Maintenance Worker, or Bus Driver.

Interim Superintendent Graden announced that the Spring Craft Show will be held at the Middle School on Saturday, March 8th. Former teacher, Cheryl Hoeft in conjunction with Community Education is sponsoring a family support basket contest with the baskets going to benefit Saline and Milan Social Services. The Board decided to participate in this project and Kim Van Hoek will be in charge of purchasing the basket.

Assistant Superintendent Rosen-Leacher pointed out the results of the activity conducted at the recent retreat have been posted in the Board Room. She gave a special thanks to Laurie Dawson for all of her hard work.

Assistant Superintendent Rosen-Leacher also indicated that the 2008-2009 calendar negotiations are currently ongoing. Due to the numerous calls regarding holiday dates for next school year, a list of holiday dates has been posted on the website.

Interim Superintendent Graden thanked Tayna Brown and Gloria Tyler of the High School for their efforts and extra time spent in the ensuring correct grade point averages appeared on the report cards.

C. Board of Education Members

Board President Slawson introduced Mr. Chuck Lesch to the group as a candidate running for School Board in the next election. Brian Cox noted that currently two other candidates Mr. Mark Morsfield and Mr. Daniel Krus have also filed applications to run as well.

Board President Slawson also thanked Doug Bacon, his staff, and Michigan Power Rodding for their efforts this past weekend at Harvest Elementary School.

Harvest Principal, Les Sharon, was recently featured in the Ann Arbor News for being selected “Janitor of the Day”. This was a fundraiser for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society.

Recently seven Middle School students did extremely well in the annual Math Counts competition. The team is coached by Middle School Teachers, Kimberly Reik and Julie Myers.

A budget meeting was held on February 19th and they will be reporting at a future Board Meeting. Board Trustee Livsey is the Chairperson for this group.

IV. REVISIONS/APPROVAL OF AGENDAS:

RECOMMENDED MOTION made by Trudy Driscoll, seconded by Bari Livsey 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 indicated that the deadline for applicants was Friday and that 14 applicants were received. There will be a Special Board Meeting on Tuesday, February 19th beginning at 6:00 PM with Dr. Michael Emlaw and Dr. Carl Hartman from MASB to select the candidates to be interviewed.

Assistant Superintendent Wall reported that he met with Dr. Emlaw to work on a list of proposed questions for the candidates. Assistant Superintendent Rosen-Leacher will put the schedule of interviews on the website after the meeting.

B. Henne Field Redevelopment – Friends of Henne Field

The Friends of Henne Field Committee which consists of Doug Bacon, Paul Bunten, Craig Hoeft, David Rhoads, and Carla Scruggs spoke about the proposed Henne Field Redevelopment Project.

David Rhoads told the group that the Friends of Henne Field is a registered corporation with the State of Michigan and that the 501C3 status is in process. Carla Scruggs gave a brief history of Henne Field. It was deeded to the school by the Henne family for the sole purpose of being used as a playing field for the school district or community. If at such time this is no longer possible, the property would revert back to the Henne Family.

Paul Bunten spoke to the group about how the Henne Field Redevelopment would be completed in stages. They have received some funding from CARES and will be going out to the general public to obtain additional funding as well as in-kind services. This is a community project and will be a great asset to the downtown area.

C. Middle School Review – Dr. Ronald Williamson

Dr. Ronald Williamson, Professor of Educational Leadership at Eastern Michigan University was asked to do an external review of the Middle School Program. He delivered the report today to the Middle School staff which was overall received well.

Dr. Williamson gave the Board a presentation on his findings which focused on the program and not personnel. It reflected a district which is committed to continuous improvement as well as identified the strengths and how to build upon them.

He expanded on the finding that the Middle School is isolated from the rest of the district and that a more effective transition to and from the Middle School is needed. The staff also indicated that they would like a greater opportunity to work with the Heritage and High School staffs to better prepare the students.

Dr. Williamson offered the following recommendations:

- Develop a clear statement of mission and purpose.
- Provide additional curricular options for acceleration and academic enrichment.
- Identify and implement curricular and instructional strategies to support students needing academic support.
- Implement a comprehensive set of elective experiences that includes linkages with Saline High School.
- Plan to reduce the isolation of the Middle School from both the Elementary and High School level.

Board Trustee Van Hoek stated that we were very fortunate to have Ron as a member of our community. She felt it was very beneficial to use as a plan for

improving our schools. She felt that it was something we should look at for our other buildings as well.

D. Policy Committee Update – Trustee Hynek

Trustee Hynek reported that the Policy Committee has met three times and the 1000 series is almost completed. They are currently working on the 2000 series and some good discussions have been occurring. The group is proceeding well.

Assistant Superintendent Rosen-Leacher indicated that MASB has indicated that edits should be back tomorrow. The next Policy Committee Meeting will be held on Thursday, February 21st at 5:30 PM in the Superintendent's Office.

VI. ACTION ITEMS:

A. Election Resolution – Assistant Superintendent Tom Wall

Assistant Superintendent Wall submitted a resolution for the School Board Election vote to be on the May 6, 2008, ballot.

RECOMMENDED MOTION made by David Friese, seconded by Kim Van Hoek to adopt the Resolution calling for a Regular School Election vote on the May 6, 2008, ballot.

Ayes – All Present – MOTION CARRIED.

VII. DISCUSSION ITEMS:

A. Student Representative Policy – First Reading – Board President Slawson

Board President Slawson indicated that included in the 1000 series is a policy regarding having a student representative on the Board of Education. She asked the Board to please take a look at it and let her know of any questions or comments. The Policy Committee would like to move forward as soon as possible so that students can start the application process.

The selection process was discussed and it was noted that the High School Principal will review the applications of high school students and then submit a recommendation to the Board.

AGENDA - ADMINISTRATION (DISTRICT BUSINESS)

VIII. CONSENT AGENDA:

Trustee Hynek asked if the Paraeducator positions were replacements and Interim Superintendent Graden indicated that two are replacements and one is an additional position based on a defined need.

RECOMMENDED MOTION made by Trudy Driscoll, seconded by Paul Hynek to authorize the following items as part of the Consent Agenda:

- A. **Approval** of Board Meeting Minutes of January 22, 2008.
- B. **Approval of Payment** of the General Fund Accounts Payable of February 12, 2008, in the amount of \$730,067.51.
- C. **Acceptance** of the recommendation of Executive Director of Human Resources Callan to hire (for school year 2007-2008) the following candidates for the position of Paraeducator within the Saline Area Schools, in accordance with the Support Collective Bargaining Agreement:

William Massey to be placed on Step 7 of the Paraeducator Scale
Patricia Hill to be placed on Step 1 of the Paraeducator Scale
Arthur (Bill) Schenher to be placed on Step 1 of the Paraeducator Scale

Ayes – All Present – MOTION CARRIED.

CLOSING

IX. PUBLIC COMMENT:

None at this time.

X. ITEMS SCHEDULED ON NEXT AGENDAS:

- A. **Jump Start Report** - Nic Cooper, Steve Laatsch, and Ben Williams
- B. **Trimester Report** – Assistant Superintendent Rosen-Leacher and Executive Director of Assessment/Secondary Education Enright

- C. Superintendent Search Update** – Board President Slawson, Assistant Superintendent Rosen-Leacher, and Assistant Superintendent Wall

XII. CLOSED SESSION:

RECOMMENDED MOTION . . . move to enter Closed Session of the Board of Education at 8:35 PM, with the intent to re-enter Open Session at 9:15 PM., for the purpose of considering a confidential attorney-client communication pursuant to Section 8(h) of the Open Meeting Act and for the purpose of evaluating the Superintendent, pursuant to Section 8(a) of the Open Meetings Act.

Motion must pass by 2/3 roll call vote.

ROLL CALL VOTE

Trudy Driscoll – Aye

David Friese - Aye

Paul Hynek - Aye

Bari Livsey - Aye

David Medley – Aye

Lisa Slawson – Aye

Kim Van Hoek - Aye

RE-ENTER OPEN SESSION at 9:21 PM.

XIII. POST-CLOSED SESSION ACTIONS: (These actions, if necessary, shall be determined after the closed session discussions.)

Motion made by David Medley, seconded Bari Livsey to reject the counter offer from Pittsfield Investments for the purchase of school property.

Ayes – All Present – MOTION CARRIED.

XIV. ADJOURNMENT:

RECOMMENDED MOTION made by Trudy Driscoll, seconded by Kim Van Hoek to adjourn the Regular Board of Education Meeting of February 12, 2008, at 9:23 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Paul Hynek, Secretary

By: Patti Waltz, Recording Secretary

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