

**SALINE AREA SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION**

MINUTES

**Tuesday, March 11, 2008
7:00 PM**

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of the Saline Area School District was held on Tuesday, March 11, 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: Scot Graden, Betty Rosen-Leacher, and Tom Wall

I. **CALL TO ORDER** of the Regular Meeting of March 11, 2008, at 6:58 PM by Board President Lisa Slawson.

II. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

III. **ITEMS OF INTEREST AND INQUIRY**

A. **Public**

No public comment at this time.

B. **Administration**

Board President Slawson began by congratulating Superintendent Scot Graden on being appointed Superintendent for Saline Area Schools.

Assistant Superintendent Wall reported that the State of Michigan is projecting a short fall in revenue estimates for public schools. There is an understanding however, that we are still on path to receive an increase in the projected amounts, possibly moving from \$108 to \$145. He will keep the Board informed of any further updates.

Assistant Superintendent Rosen-Leacher reported that the Michigan Merit Exams began today for all juniors beginning with the ACT portion. She reported that only four juniors were absent. However, there was a minor glitch with the testing as the State sent the incorrect audio version of the assessment for those students with accommodations. The correct test is being sent on March 12, 2008.

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Assistant Superintendent Rosen-Leacher reported that the District is investigating the possibility of no longer adopting the NCA Accreditation model, particularly for the K-6 and possibly K-8. The high school administration will look into the number and which high schools have dropped NCA at the 9-12 level. Initial conversation with surrounding districts is that K-8 has dropped NCA, but the high schools will continue due to some college admission requirements.

Assistant Superintendent Rosen-Leacher reported that the high school scheduling for 2008-2009 is going well. All senior and junior class schedules have been entered into PowerSchool and approximately one-half of the sophomores. The freshman schedules are due on March 12, 2008. The plan is to have all schedules in PowerSchool by end of this week or early next week to determine staffing models for the 2008-2009 school year.

Superintendent Graden thanked the Board for their support and said that he is getting a very positive reception from community regarding his new position. He understands that although there is a lot of work to do, he is prepared to lead the District forward.

Superintendent Graden reported that we will be facing a transition in the Special Education Department. He is currently looking at different models for leadership in Special Education. The district is currently contracting just one person, Neal Elyakin and it is too much work for one person.

Superintendent Graden reported that the MAMSE Conference is coming up on March 13 and 14, 2008, at the Saline Middle School. He indicated that there will be about 500 participants in attendance.

Superintendent Graden reported that the MS Mayhem event sponsored by the Saline Recreation Center and Saline Community Education which is being held for Middle School students that are not in session due to the conference has about 70 registrants per day. Middle School Mayhem is taking place at Liberty School March 13 and 14, 2008.

Superintendent Graden reported that the spring athletic schedule was distributed. He indicated that practices for spring sports started this week and that there are many opportunities to attend many athletic functions as well as other district events coming up noting that Bandorama is taking place Monday, March 17, 2008.

Superintendent Graden reported that in attendance at tonight's meeting was the Principal of Saline High School, Mr. Ben Williams, his wife Kym Williams and two of their three children Bailey and Riley. Superintendent Graden report that the Williams' home has been vandalized for the third time since Mr. Williams has been in his position which has only been six months. Superintendent Graden wanted to express his public apology to Mr. Williams and his family. Superintendent Graden indicated that this behavior is not condoned, and that the District will be investigating. He reiterated that this is not a harmless prank. He

reported that building administrators have 11 children in District, and that Board members also have children in the district. He stressed that this vandalism is not funny and it will not be tolerated. He requested the Board members and members of the audience including the students to report any information they may hear about this. He indicated that it is important for the District to get to the bottom of this issue.

C. Board of Education Members

Board President Slawson thanked Trustee Van Hoek for putting together the “Meal in a Basket” for the Saline Craft Show contest held on March 8, 2008. Trustee Van Hoek received a potted flower as token of appreciation for her efforts.

Board President Slawson welcomed two of the Saline Area School board candidates that were in attendance, Mr. Chuck Lesch and Mr. Mark Morsfield.

Board President Slawson congratulated Coach Plitzuweit and the Varsity Boys Basketball Team on winning their first ever Class A District Title and the first title of any kind in over 25 years in that sport.

Board President Slawson reported that members of the Saline High School Future Farmers of America traveled to the 80th Michigan FFA convention in East Lansing March 5-7, 2008 to collect their hard earned awards for the 2007 calendar year. Three FFA members were named “State Winners” in their individual proficiency award category which earned them each a \$250.00 cash award and to represent Michigan at the 18 state Eastern Regional competitions this summer. The following students were recognized.

Cord Trott – Turfgrass Management
Lauren Eisemann – Small Animal Care Entrepreneurship Proficiency
David Hammond – Poultry Production Entrepreneurship Proficiency
Mike Schwingel – Runner Up of the Equine Entrepreneurship Proficiency

Trustee Van Hoek reported that she was pleased to learn that the new University of Michigan head football coach as well as one of the assistants is a new resident of Saline. They enrolled in the district this week.

IV. REVISIONS/APPROVAL OF AGENDAS

Board President Lisa Slawson indicated the following changes to the agenda:

Section VI - Appeal of Superintendent’s Decision has been tabled until the Special Board Meeting to be held on Thursday, March 27, 2008.

Section XII Item A. Items Scheduled on Next Agenda, Superintendent Search Update has been removed.

Section V Item D. Scheduled Reports/Public Statements, Budget Committee Update has been removed.

MOTION by Kim Van Hoek, to approve the agenda as revised, seconded by Trudy Driscoll.

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 reported also receiving numerous calls from the public indicating that they liked integrity of process of the Superintendent search. She reported that the comments she received are that the Board made a good decision, and she has been receiving very positive feedback from the public in general.

Board President Slawson thanked Betty Rosen-Leacher, Tom Wall, and Patti Waltz. As President of the Board she wanted to publicly thank them for making this process run so smoothly. It would not have gone so well without them.

Board President Slawson reported that Dr. Emlaw will be conducting a retreat for the Board. The purpose of the retreat is to define what is important to the Board and to the Superintendent. The cost for this retreat is included in his contract with the District. The date for the retreat will be determined at the next Board meeting.

Board President Slawson reported that she received questions about why there weren't second round interviews for the Superintendent search. She indicated that each board member was given a score sheet to rate each candidate. The score was based on qualifications that were previously determined by the Board to have in a Superintendent. Each board member ranked each candidate on a 1-5 scale since there were five candidates, five being the highest ranking. She reported that after the first round interviews, each Board member ranked then Interim Superintendent Graden as a five so there was no need to pursue second rounds.

Board President Slawson reported that she has received a packet from Assistant Superintendent Wall which shows what superintendents are paid across the county. Board President Slawson will be meeting with Assistant Superintendent Wall on March 13, 2008, and meeting with Superintendent Graden next week to prepare a contract.

Trustee Van Hoek reported also receiving many comments from community members and employees. They indicated that it was an excellent choice. She also commented that she felt that the quality of the candidates was absolutely superior, they had wonderful people and that it was an excellent pool to compete in.

Board President Slawson reported that she asked Dr. Emlaw to convey the Board's thanks to the candidates, and that the Board believes it was an excellent process.

Trustee Driscoll expressed that she agrees with Board President Slawson and Trustee Van Hoek.

B. SWWC Update – Ms. Jody Gielinski, Ms. Liz Galimore and Mr. Tim Timoszyk

Ms. Gielinski presented an informational Powerpoint presentation about the South & West Washtenaw Consortium. The presentation included SWWC's, mission and goals. SWWC currently offers 14 different programs, Agricultural Sciences, Automotive Technology, Building Trades, Early Childhood Education, Cosmetology, Graph – X, Hospitality & Culinary Arts, Health Sciences, Industrial Electronics & Computer Servicing, Machine Tool-CAD/CAM, Marketing, Visual Imaging Technology, and Welding & Fabrication. Not all programs are held in Saline. The consortium covers five area districts, Chelsea, Dexter, Manchester, Milan and Saline.

Ms. Gielinski reported that there will be new programs for CTE; Cadet Teaching will become Careers in Education. Additionally, Video Production may become a CTE class. Other new classes include Drafting CAD and Fashion Design.

Ms. Galimore reported that the state just approved Fashion Design to be a consortium class by Fall 2009. She indicated that the money allocation for this program will be really nice.

Ms. Gielinski completed her presentation indicating that they focus on the three R's of Career and Technical Education programs, Relationships, Relevance, and Rigor.

Ms. Galimore noted that the current CTE programs are getting ready for state competition that for the first time, eight teachers are taking students to the state competition.

Superintendent Graden noted that he recently attended a welding competition. He and Ms. Gielinski also noted what a wonderful addition Mr. Samuel Musto from the Culinary Arts program has been to the CTE program.

Assistant Superintendent Rosen-Leacher questioned if we will be able to roll the Careers in Education program into the Connection Program which is for students with special needs. Ms. Gielinski is looking into it and will let Assistant Superintendent Rosen-Leacher know.

Superintendent Graden thanked Ms. Gielinski. He noted that our district has a great CTE program and the he doesn't know of another school that allows for the full breadth of the CTE programs.

Trustee Van Hoek commented that she worked closely with the Cadet Teaching program and that when she was Principal at Union and Houghton, teachers would

fight to have cadet teachers in their classroom. She added that it is a great program. The students were always well prepared.

C. Policy Committee Update – Chairperson Paul Hynek

Trustee Hynek reported that the Policy Committee met on February 28, 2008, and thanks to Assistant Superintendent Wall's input, they were able to make good progress through the policy manual changes. Their next meeting is scheduled for March 12, 2008, at 5:30 PM to continue updates.

VI. ACTION ITEMS

No new action items at this time.

VIII. DISCUSSION ITEMS

No discussion items at this time.

IX. CONSENT AGENDA

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

- A. Approval** of Board Meeting Minutes of February 26, 2008, March 3, 4, and 5, 2008.
- B. Approval of Payment** of the General Fund Accounts Payable of March 11, 2008, in the amount of \$337,540.44.
- C. 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. **Laura Johnson** to be placed on Step 1 of the Paraeducator Scale
- D. Receive and File** letter from Executive Director for Human Resources Callan offering Linda Ichesco the position of Teacher Consultant at the High School.
- E. Receive and File** letter from Executive Director for Human Resources Callan accepting the retirement of Mary Lou Rentschler from Saline Area Schools effective June 10, 2008.

Ayes – All Present – **MOTION CARRIED.**

X. PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Mark Morsfield expressed his congratulations to Superintendent Graden. He also expressed his sincere apology to Mr. Williams and his family for the vandalism to his house. He is very glad the Board is looking into it and taking it seriously.

Mr. Tim Heim reported that there are about 495 AP tests ordered this year and about 600 registered for AP classes next year. The students in Saline are excelling.

XI. ITEMS SCHEDULED ON NEXT AGENDAS

- A. Board Policy Committee Update** – Chairperson Paul Hynek
- B. Board Budget Committee Update** – Chairperson Bari Livsey
- C. Special Education Report** – Neal Elyakin
- D. CARES Action Item** – Superintendent Graden

XII. ADJOURNMENT

RECOMMENDED MOTION made by Trudy Driscoll, seconded by Paul Hynek to adjourn the Regular Board of Education Meeting of March 11, 2008, at 7:52 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Hynek, Secretary

By: Sharon Dunny
Recording Secretary