

**SALINE AREA SCHOOLS  
BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**MINUTES**

**Tuesday, May 13, 2008**

**7:00 PM**

1. **CALL TO ORDER** of the Regular Meeting of May 13, 2008, at 7:00 PM by Acting President Trudy Driscoll

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

**Members Absent:** Lisa Slawson

2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

3. **ITEMS OF INTEREST AND INQUIRY**

**A. Public**

None at this time.

**B. Administration**

Superintendent Graden introduced Ms. Cherie Vannatter who will fill the position of Director, Elementary Special Education beginning July 1<sup>st</sup>. Cherie previously worked for Saline Schools and we are very excited to have her back.

Superintendent Graden passed out the first edition of the STAR Newsletter published by the Leadership Class in the Alternative High School. The students put a great deal of time and effort into the newsletter and it was very well received.

Superintendent Graden said that the 2008 Graduation would be held at the High School Football Field on June 1<sup>st</sup>. He reminded the students and staff about the importance of making good choices during these last few weeks.

**C. Board of Education Members**

Acting President Driscoll thanked all the candidates who ran for the recent School Board election. Congratulations to Lisa Slawson who is absent tonight because she is chaperoning the 8<sup>th</sup> Grade trip to Washington, DC and Chuck Lesch who is in the audience tonight, on their victories.

Congratulations to our K-12 Art Staff – Cyndi Koppleman, Cindy Larsen, Steve Kerr, Janet Hughes, Janice Martin, Christine Marsh, Kevin McGown, Laura Laatsch, Ashley Moran, and Charles Cousanon on a very successful Spring Arts Festival last weekend. The event was well attended and a wonderful showcase of the talents of their students.

Congratulations to Saline High School's Lightweight Four as they became the Champions of Midwest Scholastic Rowing. There were 18 boats entered in the event. There were heats Saturday. They won their heat handily with fastest time overall. On Sunday, they became the Midwest Champions with an impressive five-second victory, which is an "open water" victory, hard to attain in any one of these Championship races on this day. This victory qualifies them for the American Scholastic Championship (the national championship) in Oak Ridge, Tennessee the weekend of May 24<sup>th</sup>.

Paul Hynek and David Medley recently chaperoned the 6<sup>th</sup> grade Toronto trip. The children were very well behaved and all had a good time.

Bari Livsey reported that she has noticed that there is a great deal of trash blowing through the vacant lot on Michigan Avenue and Industrial Drive. She wasn't sure if there was time before graduation, but it would be a great class project for someone to clean that area up.

#### **4. REVISIONS/APPROVAL OF AGENDAS**

**MOTION** made by Kim Van Hoek, seconded by Paul Hynek to approve the agendas as printed.

#### **5. SCHEDULED REPORTS/PUBLIC STATEMENTS**

##### **A. French Exchange Program**

Jamie Aumend, Linda Duvall, and Marilyn Geiger gave a presentation about the French Exchange Program, which is run through the Middle School. The program is open to any 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> grader who attends Saline Middle School. It provides students with an opportunity to discover the French culture and language, open the student to the world, learn the importance of cooperation with others, promote excellence within Saline Area Schools, and students experience greater self confidence.

Marilyn Geiger spoke about the wonderful experience that her two children have experienced in this program. She thanked Ms. Aumend and Ms. Duvall for the great deal of time and energy they spend to make this program such a success. Not only are the children learning French and applying it they are also learning about being ambassadors.

**B. Board Policy Committee Update – Chairperson Paul Hynek**

The Policy Committee met last Saturday morning from 8:00 AM until 12:00 PM. They have almost completed the 4000 series. More meetings will be scheduled at a future date in order to complete the revisions. David Friese indicated that they have gone over more material than is currently in our current policy manual.

**C. Pleasant Ridge Site Improvement – Assistant Superintendent Wall**

Bids were due for this project on May 2<sup>nd</sup>. Ten bids were received and tabulated and the recommendation will be presented to the Board. A meeting was held with the neighbors in the area of Pleasant Ridge on May 5<sup>th</sup> and it went very well. Laurie Dawson has set up a blog on the school website to provide ongoing information regarding this project.

**D. 2008-2009 Budget Update Presentation – Assistant Superintendent Wall**

Assistant Superintendent Wall gave a presentation on the 2008-2009 Budget Update. He thanked the Board Budget Committee for their help in the process this year. They will be bringing the budget to the June 10<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting for approval.

**E. School of Choice – Superintendent Graden**

Superintendent Graden spoke about the review that was done regarding School of Choice. Last year a limited number of School of Choice students – approximately 17 were allowed. A survey was done of the families and Administrators of the building these students attended. All of the families indicated that they are planning to continue with Saline Area Schools next year. It was Superintendent Graden's recommendation that we offer a similar School of Choice Program as last year. Most of the students are anticipated to be entering Kindergarten with a minimum of one opening in second, third, and fourth grades. Also included will be junior and senior students in the Alternative High School Program. We will begin accepting applications on May 15<sup>th</sup>. The deadline for receiving applications is June 6<sup>th</sup>. There will then be a lottery system to allocate the open slots on June 11<sup>th</sup>.

**F. WISD Budget – Superintendent Graden**

Discussion on this topic was tabled until Action Item D.

**6. ACTION ITEMS**

**A. Reduction in Certified Staff – Superintendent Graden**

Superintendent Graden spoke about what a difficult decision this was. It is a very hard thing to recommend reducing staff. However, with the reductions the remaining staff will be in front of students a longer period of their day. It will make the operation more efficient and will still provide a quality education to students. He

indicated that the affected staff members have already been spoken to but will be receiving a formal letter tomorrow. It is his hope that many staff members could be recalled depending upon positions opening up over the summer.

David Friese indicated that he has seen this happening many times while he was a teacher and it is never a happy scenario.

**MOTION** made by Kim Van Hoek, seconded Bari Livsey to approve the resolution in reduction of certified staff. The following teachers have been placed on layoff status:

- Brienna Allen
- Natalie Corte
- Christina DeFant
- Kristin Girbach
- Courtney Huffman
- Laura Mayers
- Kevin McCown
- Maranda Moore
- Ashley Moran
- Dianne Newberry
- Michele O'Neil
- Jason Priebe
- Linda Schrieber
- Christine Synowiec
- Ako Toma-Bennett

Ayes – All Present – **MOTION CARRIED**

**B. Pleasant Ridge Site Improvement** – Assistant Superintendent Wall

**MOTION** made by Bari Livsey, seconded by Paul Hynek to approve the contract for the Pleasant Ridge Elementary Site Improvement Project in the amount of \$743,534.50 to Anglin Civil Constructors, Incorporated for which funding from the 2000 Bond Funds is authorized.

Ayes – All Present – **MOTION CARRIED**

**C. Henne Field Redevelopment** – Assistant Superintendent Wall

**MOTION** made by David Friese, seconded by Kim Van Hoek to approve the architect contract for the Henne Field Project in the amount of \$46,500.00 plus reimbursables to Beckett & Raeder Incorporated for which funding from the CARES Fund is authorized.

Ayes – All Present – **MOTION CARRIED**

**D. WISD General Appropriations Budget for 2008-2009**

**MOTION** made by Bari Livsey, seconded by David Medley to adopt the WISD General Education Budget for 2008-2009.

Ayes – All Present – **MOTION CARRIED**

**7. DISCUSSION ITEMS**

**A.** None at this time.

**8. CONSENT AGENDA**

**MOTION** made by Bari Livsey, seconded Kim Van Hoek to authorize the following items as part of the Consent Agenda:

**A. Approval** of Board Meeting Minutes of April 15, 2008, April 22, 2008, and April 29, 2008.

**B. Approval of Payment** of the General Fund Accounts Payable of May 13, 2008, in the amount of \$555,880.34.

**C. Receive and File** letter from Executive Director of Human Resources Callan accepting the resignation of Cathleen Krammer, Food Service Assistant at the Middle School, effective April 10, 2008.

**D. Receive and File** letter from Executive Director of Human Resources Callan accepting the personal leave of absence for the 2008-2009 school year of Cheryl Whitfield.

Ayes – All Present – **MOTION CARRIED**

**9. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Tim Heim, SEA President, stated that the 15 names of the teachers that were read are very good teachers. They have shared many good moments with them over the years and it is hard to see them go. The SEA is willing to work with the Superintendent and the Board to make this as easy as possible because education is important to the children of this district. They will all pull together to get the job done and provide a quality education to the students of Saline.

**10. ITEMS SCHEDULED ON NEXT AGENDAS**

- A. Board Policy Committee Update** – Chairperson Paul Hynek
- B. Board Appraisal Results** – Board President Slawson

**11. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION** made by Bari Livsey, seconded by Paul Hynek to adjourn the Regular Board of Education Meeting of May 13, 2008, at 8:05 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Hynek, Secretary

By: Patti Waltz, Recording Secretary