

February 9, 2021
Saline Board of Education Summary Report
Civility Action Committee (CAC)

Who is on this committee?

- Jerrod Hart, City of Saline Police Chief
- Lynde Daiek, Resident
- Marcello Arreguin, Resident
- Dean Girbach, City of Saline Mayor Pro-Tem
- Suzanne Atzinger, Resident
- Channon Washington, Resident
- Matt Harshberger, Pittsfield Township Director of Public Safety
- Mandy Grewal, Pittsfield Township Supervisor
- Sarah Giddings, Resident
- Craig Hoeft, City of Saline Fire Chief
- Steve Laatsch, Interim Superintendent

Purpose

DEVELOP A PROTOCOL TO PROMOTE A FAIR EXCHANGE OF IDEAS

Civility is defined as caring for one's identity, needs and beliefs without degrading someone else's in the process (Institute for Civility in Government). The greater Saline (MI) community and the Saline Area Schools recognize the value of civil discussion. Residents are encouraged to democratically participate in all community matters even when it may be uncomfortable. We live together and create together. To civilly compromise is to admirably evolve as a community.

The [Saline Bridge to Civility](#)

Inspired by the work, [Seeds of Civility](#), done in Ellington, CT, our protocol aims to promote 9 key norms and agreements that we must all follow in order to engage in civil discourse.

Proposed Next Steps

- February 9 - Interim Superintendent Laatsch presents the Saline Bridge to Civility concept

- City of Saline, Pittsfield Township residents and city officials begin to promote the Saline Bridge to Civility concept
- Working with BOE Student Representative, Noah Socha, a student group is formed to discuss the Saline Bridge to Civility concept. Meet on February 19.
- Coordinate a community Zoom meeting to [introduce the Saline Bridge to Civility](#) concept, background information, how we would like to use it and offer some small breakout rooms to discuss.
- Re-ignite our Listening Sessions# using trained facilitators (Diana Wong and [Sensei Change Associates](#)) and the Saline Bridge to Civility protocol to continue our discussions about “Equity within the school district and community”

After two very visible racist incidents occurred in Saline last year, we held 7 productive listening sessions where the community came together to participate in discussion about racism, equity and the issues that are impacting Saline (and society as a whole).