



SAGINAW PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT

STUDENT MEMBER OF THE BOARD

A Voice for Every Student. A Leader for Tomorrow.

Represent. Inspire. Lead



Student Member of the Board (SMOB) Application Form

Student Information

First Name: Tesha
Last Name: Little
Date of Birth: 06/18/2008
Cell Phone: 989-239-0246
Personal Email Address: littleiesha79@gmail.com
High School: SUHS
Grade Level for 2025-2026 School Year: Junior / Senior (circle one)
Current GPA (preceding quarter): _____ (Must be 3.0 or higher)

Parent/Guardian Information

Parent/Guardian Name(s): Felicia Little
Parent/Guardian Cell Phone: 989-572-2504
Parent/Guardian Email Address: little41@yahoo.com

Application Checklist (to submit as ONE PDF):

- ☐ Completed Application Form
- ☐ Essay Responses (2 essays, 250 words each)
- ☐ Resume (typed)
- ☐ Student Biography (maximum 300 words)
- ☐ Three Letters of Recommendation (Principal, Teacher, Community Leader)
- ☐ Signed Publicity Release Form (Back of Information Card)

Certification

I certify that the information provided in this application is accurate and complete to the best of my knowledge.

Student Signature: Nike Date: 5/29/25

Parent/Guardian Signature: [Signature] Date: 5/29/25

Submit Completed Application by Friday, May 17, 2025, to:

Dr. Mit Foley, Assistant Superintendent of Secondary Curriculum & Instruction

Email: mfoley@spsd.net



Essay Prompts

(Answer each in approximately 250 words.)

What is one significant issue facing students in our district today, and how should the Board address it?

See Attachment

What do you believe is the role of the Student Member of the Board, and how would you contribute meaningfully in this role?

Essay Prompts

A significant issue facing our students in the district today is the clear backpack rule. Many if not most students were not supportive of the new rule when it was first enforced and still are not. Some feel as though we do not get to express ourselves through our backpacks, and some feel as if it is an invasion of privacy. Most have even chosen not to wear a backpack at all. Young ladies of SUHS especially feel this way due to the fact that we have to have our sanitary products on display. The main issue is trust on the board's behalf. Members of the board are worried about students sneaking in illegal contraband or items that are not permitted on school grounds. Have SUHS students violated school rules before? Yes. Although, the students still feel as though they had no say. The board can address this issue in the following school year by having school staff hold an assembly or broadcast an announcement during school stating their reasons for the backpacks. They could also give the students a choice, and have security conduct more thorough bag checks upon students arrival. This way, the students will either have a full understanding of this rule, or be allowed the opportunity to compromise.

I believe the role of the Student Member of the Board is to simply represent our school. As top tier students, we have been handpicked by administration to inform board members on what goes on in our walls. We do this in a formal, respectful way. To be a Student Member of the Board is to lead by example and represent. You should be the student that rises above in and out of classrooms, in and out of school. You need people as well as educators to look at you and know you are a well represented, well spoken, well behaved product of your school and administrators. I think I could contribute to this role because I do all of these things. In and out of the classroom, I am well behaved, well spoken, and well respected. I have gone above and beyond for my school and will continue to do so until my time is up. My 4 years in high school have not been perfect, but I am proud to say I am an amazing product of Saginaw United High School. I honor the school grit and show it well in my daily performances. I stray away from things and activities most don't, I consider my school as well as my own personal image before completing any actions. I believe I am the right pick for a Student Member of the Board.

Saginaw Public School District

Student Member of the Board (SMOB) Recommendation Form

Applicant Name: Iesha Little

Recommender Name: Eric Gordon

Recommender Title/Position: Principal, Saginaw United High

School/Organization: Saginaw United

Email Address: egordon@spsd.net

Phone Number: (989) 399-6301

Applicant Qualities

Please rate the applicant in the following areas based on your knowledge of their skills and character.

Select one: Excellent, Good, Satisfactory, Needs Improvement, or Not Observed.

Characteristic	Excellent	Good	Satisfactory	Needs Improvement	Not Observed
Leadership skills	X				
Communication skills	X				
Ability to represent diverse student voices	X				
Maturity and professionalism		X			
Ability to work collaboratively	X				
Critical thinking and problem-solving skills		X			
Empathy and understanding of others	X				
Responsibility and dependability	X				

1. How long have you known the applicant? (Check one)

☐ 0–1 year

☒ 2–3 years

☐ 4–5 years

☐ More than 5 years

2. In what capacity have you known the applicant?

(e.g., teacher, coach, community mentor)

She has been an exceptional student here at Saginaw United High School.

3. What qualities does the applicant possess that would make them an effective Student Member of the Board?

Her dedication to advocating for both students and staff has been exemplary, and she has shown a remarkable ability to bridge communication gaps between administration and the student body.

4. Provide a brief example demonstrating the applicant's leadership, advocacy, or impact within the school or community.

Iesha has always been a student who will fill in anytime, for example, she performed last year for board members, singing in our retirement reception, and bringing the house down with her beautiful songbird voice.

5. Additional comments or observations that support the applicant's candidacy:

She is a team player who does all she can to make sure every voice is heard and everyone is treated equally.

Signature: *Eie Jordan*

Date: May 14th, 2025



Saginaw United High School

Home of the Phoenix
Eric Gordon, Principal
1903 N Niagara St Saginaw MI 48602
Phone # (989) 399-6300 Fax (989) 399-6305



May 14, 2025

Saginaw Public School District
550 Millard Street
Saginaw, MI 48607

Dear Members of the Selection Committee:

I am writing to provide my strongest recommendation for Ms. Iesha Little's application for the position of Student Member of the Board. As Principal of Saginaw United High School, I have had the privilege of observing Ms. Little's exceptional leadership qualities and unwavering commitment to academic excellence during her tenure as a student at our institution.

Throughout her time at Saginaw United High School, Ms. Little has consistently demonstrated the qualities essential for effective board membership. Her dedication to advocating for both students and staff has been exemplary, and she has shown remarkable ability to bridge communication gaps between administration and the student body. Ms. Little possesses a unique combination of empathy, strategic thinking, and collaborative leadership that enables her to address complex issues with both sensitivity and practicality.

What particularly distinguishes Ms. Little is her innovative approach to problem-solving and her genuine commitment to fostering positive relationships across all levels of our school community. She has consistently demonstrated mature judgment, professional communication skills, and an understanding of the broader educational landscape that extends well beyond her years. Her ability to represent diverse student perspectives while maintaining a constructive and solution-oriented approach makes her an ideal candidate for this important role.

I am confident that Ms. Little will bring valuable insights, fresh perspectives, and thoughtful leadership to the Board. Her proven track record of collaboration, integrity, and dedication to educational excellence positions her to make meaningful contributions to the district's mission and objectives.

I provide this recommendation without reservation. Should you require additional information regarding Ms. Little's qualifications or my assessment of her capabilities, please do not hesitate to contact me at (989) 399-6300.

Respectfully submitted,

Eric Gordon,
Principal, Saginaw United High School
1903 N. Niagara Street
Saginaw, MI 48602



Saginaw United High School

1903 N Niagara St Saginaw MI 48602
Phone # (989) 399-6300 Fax (989) 399-6305



May 28, 2025

Arshen Baldwin
MTSS Specialist
Arthur Hill High School
Saginaw, MI 48602
abaldwin@spsd.net
989-714-6111

I am pleased to write this letter of recommendation for Ilesha Little, who I have had the privilege of knowing for the past several years as both the MTSS Specialist and Volleyball Coach for Saginaw Public Schools. Throughout this time, I have observed her exceptional growth, resilience, and commitment to her academic and extracurricular pursuits.

As a member of the junior varsity volleyball team under my guidance, Ilesha demonstrated not only her athletic talent but also her leadership qualities. She consistently motivated her teammates, showing a remarkable ability to uplift those around her. Her dedication to the sport is evident in her tireless work ethic and her willingness to put in additional practice time to refine her skills. This same determination extends to her role as a varsity cheerleader at Saginaw United, where she brings enthusiasm and spirit to every event.

In addition to her athletic achievements, Ilesha is actively involved in the law club, where she competes in local and regional competitions. Her passion for law is evident, and her ability to articulate her thoughts clearly and persuasively makes her a formidable competitor. This commitment to excellence in the law club reflects her aspirations to study law and her goal of attending Wayne State for her undergraduate studies.

Ilesha is not just a hard-working student; she possesses a vibrant personality that allows her to connect with her peers and teachers alike. Her positive attitude and willingness to take on challenges make her an asset to any team or organization. She approaches every task with enthusiasm, and her ability to balance her academic responsibilities with her extracurricular engagements is truly commendable.

I have no doubt that Ilesha will bring the same level of dedication and passion to the Saginaw Board of Education Ambassador Program. She is eager to learn, grow, and make a meaningful impact in her community. I wholeheartedly recommend her for this opportunity, confident that she will excel and contribute positively to your program.

Thank you for considering Ilesha Little for the Saginaw Board of Education Ambassador Program. Please feel free to contact me if you need any further information.

Sincerely,

Arshen Baldwin
MTSS Specialist
Saginaw United High School