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School District of the City of Saginaw
MINUTES OF THE BOARD BRIEFING SESSION
550 Millard Street • Saginaw, Michigan 48607 • 989-399-6500
October 8, 2025

President Coleman called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM.

1. ATTENDANCE

Board of Education:	President C. Coleman	Present
	Vice President J. Nash	Present
	Secretary K. M. Rooker	Present
	Treasurer R. A. Knapp	Present
	Trustee J. Calhoun	Absent
	Trustee J. Seals	Present
	Trustee M. Thompson	Present
	President C. Coleman	Present

Student Member of the Board:

Iesha Little	Present
Diya Ramakrishnan	Present

Central Administration Staff:

Superintendent, Dr. R. Roberts	Present
Chief Financial Officer T. Johnson	Present

2. APPROVAL OF BRIEFING SESSION AGENDA

President Coleman asked board members if there were any additions or subtractions to the agenda. The agenda was approved as presented.

3. PRESENTATIONS

Refunding Bond 2016

Dr. Roberts shared information on the Bond Refunding. He shared that Bill Roche will share in detail of the refunding of our bonds. He said the bond is from 2008, and shared that 2016 is the year that we were funding. Dr. Roberts reminded the Board Members is not bond 2020, which is the prior bond. Bill Roche shared that his presentation will let the Board explain how we can save our taxpayers some additional money. He shared that there is no cost to be incurred by the District if the refunding does proceed. Mr. Roche projected to save taxpayers approximately \$1,280,000 over the bond's lifespan, translating to annual savings of about \$110,000. He estimated interest rate for the refinance bonds is approximately 3.25%, compared to 5% on the old bonds, which could lead to a reduction in the debt levy. Mr. Roche shared if approved, the process will move forward with a bond resolution in November. He answered questions of the Board Members. Dr. Roberts stated this item would be on the Consent Agenda for approval next week.

TMS PA System

Dr. Roberts shared information on the PA System Replacement at Thompson Middle School. Theo Dillingham shared that the PA system at Thompson Middle School is in need of a full replacement due to its outdated technology. Theo outlined a proposal costing \$168,625, which includes equipment from

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Graybar for \$104,250 and installation by Structured Technologies for \$64,375. He said the new system will be updated in 175 locations featuring network-based equipment, allowing for easier maintenance and accurate timekeeping by installing a clock or speaker at TMS. Mr. Dillingham shared the equipment is being purchased through Omnia purchasing co-op like REMC. He answered the Board Members' questions that were presented. Dr. Roberts shared that General Funds will be used and this item will be on the Consent Agenda for approval next week.

35J Grant Orders

Dr. Roberts shared that the 35J Grant is a specialized grant for Literacy in the Elementary Schools tied to a September 30th deadline. Dr. Roberts stated that Dr. Tran will share the items that were over threshold were purchased. Dr. Tran shared detailed information of the items that was purchased from the 35J grant that were received for literacy initiatives in elementary schools, stressing the urgency to utilize the remaining funds. She gave detailed orders made to maximize the grant, including purchases of Chromebooks from Yo & Yo and educational materials from Amazon \$49,997.12 and Barnes & Noble were purchased for \$100,957.04. Dr. Tran shared most items were for small group instruction, classroom books, cultural books, take-home books, family game night, family incentives, and other academic strategy items. There were no questions from the Board Members. This item will be on the Consent Agenda for approval next week.

Reinstatement Committee Decision – Reference#

Dr. Roberts called on Dr. Foley to share information regarding the petitions for reinstatement. Dr. Foley presented information for based on the committee's review of two students that are petitioning reinstatement into our District. He shared the information is in Board Book. The committee reviewed the two petitions for student reinstatement after expulsion from other school, which were unanimously denied due to the students' prior records of violence and behavioral issues.

Student Reference: RRCR-KC-09-2025

Dr. Foley shared student was expelled from Francis Rey, shared the committee's recommendation unanimously was to deny the reinstatement the petition.

Student Reference: RRCR-KM-09-2025

Dr. Foley shared student was expelled from Francis Rey as well. He shared the committee's recommendation was to deny the reinstatement the petition.

This item will be on the Consent Agenda for approval for next week.

4. NEW BUSINESS

Student Member of the Board

Ms. Iesha Little shared she is sitting in for Ms. Tierra Pringle. She stated there is a Google sheet being shared among the students at SUHS, results will be in soon. Ms. Little listed items of concern and needs of the senior students.

- SMOB Ms. Little is requesting permission for graduates to wear creative graduation caps at commencement. She shared graduation is May 28, 2026, suggestion ideas will be given to Mr. Gordon by Friday, May 1, 2026 for approval by Friday, May 8, 2026. Ms. Little said only qualified decorated caps will be approved.

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Reasons for the caps is to capture thoughts and express creativity. Students should have the rights to freely express themselves appropriately. She shared another reason would be “new school, new tradition”.

- SMOB Ms. Little is also requesting senior student’s parking spots to show creativity with washable paint for the assigned parking. She shared no cost for the District, students will buy their own washable paint. Ms. Little shared that all student parking spots must be respectful, no profanity. She stated this would be supervised by Mr. Gordon, Ms. Baldwin, and Ms. Nash at SUHS.

SMOB Ms. Diya Ramakrishnan shared that there was a Google form sent out to the students to fill out. She has attached the “SASA’s Board Notes” in Boardbook. She shared several questions asked on the form and she included items of appreciation at SASA. Ms. Ramakrishnan shared some items of concerns and needs of the students as well. She also had some of her own solutions for some of their concerns:

Ms. Ramakrishnan shared her opinion of the tutoring system and the need for an SAT preparation program. There online tutoring program by Khan Academy is called Schoolhouse World. She shared that it is a platform to tutor for volunteering hours and get tutored as well in multiple different subjects expanding from the sciences to languages to math to history and reading and writing. Ms. Ramakrishnan stated it was free and run by Khan Academy. She said these resources allow you to submit a portfolio of your tutoring hours, which you can then submit on your Common App to multiple colleges like MIT and UChicago. She said this is a solution that could be proposed for the tutoring system. She thanks you for your time and listening.

Finance

October Financials

Dr. Roberts called on Ms. Johnson to share the financial summary report. Ms. Johnson stated the report was shared in Board Book. She gave an overview of the financial summary of the unaudited June 2025 Financial Report and the September 2025 Financial Report. Ms. Johnson answered Board members’ questions. These items will be on the Consent Agenda for approval for next week.

Policy and Curriculum

Mrs. Seals shared that there is no meeting this month, but perhaps next month.

Buildings and Grounds

Mrs. Nash said that she would defer to Dr. Roberts to report. Dr. Roberts shared we will have a meeting Monday at 5 pm.

Human Resources

Mrs. Thompson said that there will a tentative date in December or January for the Dr. Roberts’ interim evaluation.

Liaison Committee

Dr. Coleman shared that the Liaison Committee will meet on next Thursday, October 17, 2024 at 5:30 p.m. The meeting will be held here in the Board Room.

5. SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

Human Resources/Labor Relations Report

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Dr. Roberts gave an overview of the Human Resources/Labor Relations report, which will be an item on the Consent Agenda for next week.

6. PUBLIC/UNION COMMENTS

President Coleman called for Public and Union comments and none were made.

7. FINAL BOARD COMMENTS

Ms. Knapp – said shared she would like to know if the District could offer employees who retired, veterans, and alumni athletic passes for people in the community to see our students. Ms. Knapp also mentioned she would like to attend a future SASA Swimming event.

Ms. Calhoun – said she appreciate Ms. Pruitt’s efforts put into retaining our teachers and staff.

Mrs. Thompson – thanked Dr. Roberts and the staff and said they’ve done a good job.

Mrs. Nash – said she believes our staff is highly desirable because of the amount of training and preparation we provide our staff. Mrs. Nash shared that she is looking forward to implementing the strategic plan and helping to decide where our future resources will be spent to get the best bang for the buck for our student achievement in the future. She would like to share how much the Board Members and everyone enjoyed the Open House at the Saginaw United High School. Mrs. Nash stated that it was a very proud moment, and she is thrilled that the students in our district have this building as their new home.

Mr. Rooker – said he would like to see everyone on Tuesday, October 22, 2024, at the Saginaw Promise Zones Annual Affair “The Power of a Promise”. She said they will have Dr. Phil Bowman, who is a former graduate

Mrs. Seals – said she would like to see everyone on Tuesday, October 22, 2024, at the Saginaw Promise Zones Annual Affair “The Power of a Promise”. She said they will have Dr. Phil Bowman, who is a former graduate of SHS who is a Professor Emeritus from the University of Michigan. Mrs. Seals stated he would come with his wife and three children, all doctors. SUHS will give tours if early, and Horizons will cater. She requests to have update on Restorative Justice at a future meeting

Dr. Roberts – said the Ribbon-Cutting ceremony at SUHS was a success. He said he believed the community was really impressed with the facility and excited about affirming their belief in us by voting for the bond and what it will do for our students and our community for years to come. Dr. Roberts stated he had only heard positive things about the event. He said we have two more ribbon-cutting events coming. Please be aware that not all buildings have been completed. Dr. Roberts shared that Deb Macon will be our facilitator for the next strategic plan from MASB, and he will communicate more information for the Initial Meeting to be scheduled with her to start the process. Dr. Roberts mentioned that he, Mrs. Nash, and Ms. Knapp were able to attend Handley’s celebration of being named a Blue Ribbon School again. He said they were one of twelve schools in the State of Michigan to receive that honor. Dr. Roberts stated that it is a National honor for this high-achieving school to be recognized among elementary schools in the country for its consistent achievement. He said he wanted to acknowledge the staff and congratulate the principal, all the teachers, all the students, and all the parents, and Dr. Tran, for the amazing work they continue to do at Handley.

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President Coleman – says thank you to Dr. Roberts and his staff and to the Board for making this the most exciting school district in the state of Michigan. We are already doing what other people are trying to achieve, and they want to know how we get it done. A lot of conversations have been about how we were able to merge two high schools. The difference between what we did and what other districts have not done is that we involved the students from the beginning. We must remember that the students are our customers. Their parents also are our customers, and they will only buy what they want to buy, you cannot sell them anything they do not want. The Open House was amazing. The community appreciated it. Thanks to Dr. Roberts, the staff put it together well. Dr. Coleman thanked our community for supporting us. He also thanked this Board for the work that they have done.

10. ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEXT MEETING(S)

There will be an Action Meeting on Wednesday, October 15, 2025, at 5:30 p.m., and a Liaison Meeting on Thursday, October 16, 2025, at 5:30 pm. The meetings will be held in the Board Room of the Administration Building, 550 Millard Street.

11. ADJOURNMENT

Seeing no further business, the Briefing Session was adjourned at 6:28 p.m.

Recorded by: K. Henderson