

**SCHOOL DISTRICT OF THE CITY OF SAGINAW
BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS / FINANCE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
550 MILLARD STREET**

FEBRUARY 16TH, 2025 – 5:00 p.m.

President Coleman called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

1. **ATTENDANCE –**

DRAFT

Board Members:

President	Charles Coleman	Present
Vice President	Janet Nash	Present
Secretary	Vera Harrison	Present
Treasurer	Ruth Ann Knapp	Present
Trustee	Jasmine Calhoun	Absent
Trustee	Joyce Seals	Present
Trustee	Janae Bady	Absent

Administration:

Superintendent	Ramont Roberts	Present
Deputy Superintendent	Tamara Johnson	Present
Director of Facilities	Tim Furtaw	Present

2. **APPROVAL OF OCTOBER 13TH 2026 MINUTES**

President Coleman entertained a motion to approve the October 13TH 2025, minutes. Mrs. Seals made the motion, Ms. Harrison supported. The motion passed.

3. **LONGFELLOW PURCHASE PROPOSAL- JEVON JELKS**

Dr. Roberts introduced Mr. Jelks to the podium to present the proposal to purchase the vacant Longfellow elementary. Mr. Jelks stated that he is the founder of Veterans Light Corporation, which is a non-profit that he put together in 2016. Mr. Jelks states that he served in the Marines serving time in Japan and Virginia Beach. He stated that the transfer back over to civilian side encourage him to create Veterans Lights because he saw so many homeless veterans. Mr. Jelks stated that that his company, Veterans Light, is Michigan based and its mission is to prevent homelessness, crisis and instability amongst veterans and their families. States that Longfellow has been vacant for many years and the organization sees an opportunity to return the property to productive use through mission-driven community focused approach by turning it into a Veteran Outreach Center. Mr. Jelks stated that the organization completed a walk through of the building and created a phase rehabilitation approach, which each phase will start once funding is approve for that phase. Veterans light had purchase offer price of \$1, accepting the property as is so that resource can be direct towards redevelopment and service rather than acquisitions costs. Mr. Jelks stated that this project has the potential to reduce veteran’s homelessness, stabilize families and improve neighborhoods.

Mrs. Seals asked questions to clarify the renovation amount and inquired about how Mr. Jelks plan on sustaining the project long term does. Mr. Jelks spoke about the different projects that the organization had with other business within the community, and how they have been a huge help.

Mrs. Knapp stated that the intent is wonderful, and inquire about his financial track record on how to get grants. She stated that she also would want to make sure that once it up and running it successful.

Ms. Nash ask if Veterans Light have any similar facilities, or any models that he can replicate. She inform him that heating those building are also expensive and stated that we can show records of how much it cost to heat the building.

JANET NASH PRESERVE PRESENTATION- TIM FURTAW

Mr. Furtaw introduced Tonya Moore from Spicer Engineering to walk us through 3D still image visual presentation. Mrs. Moore stated that they started with three (3) concepts and narrowed it down to one (1) possible master plan for the budget. The presentation showed a walk-through of the Janet Nash Preserve, and she included some videos for a better visual understanding. Dr. Roberts stated that since we are starting from scratch, it is up to the board to choose what type of native flowers and plants to have in the preserve. Mr. Furtaw also stated that since we are starting with a clean slate, they would work with architect and landscaping companies to ensure they can maintain the location properly for longevity. The board spoke about putting up signage, relocating trees that are near wires and displaying student's artwork in the preserve.

Motion

Move by Ms. Nash and supported by Mrs. Knapp, to wait until we get some more information from the students at Saginaw United High School and get their input.

A voice vote was taken with the following results.

Ayes: 4 Nays: 0- Motion Carried

5. **2025-26 BUDGET REVISION- TAMARA JOHNSON**

Dr. Roberts introduce Ms. Johnson to present the 25-26 Budget Revision. Ms. Johnson stated that the state revenue decline since the last fiscal year, although state aid membership has increased. Ms. Johnson presented a PowerPoint that showed the key factors of the different items that affected the budget. The PowerPoint also included a state aid comparison of the 24-25 to the 25-26 state aid. She did stated that the budget had vacancies budgeted into it, so it is a possibility that the year can end better.

6. **PUBLIC/UNION COMMENTS**

No comment.

7. **FINAL BOARD COMMENTS**

Mrs. Knapp stated do not lose sleep over what we hear tonight, but to stay alert. No one said that education was going to be easy or that it would have all the money it needed to do what it needed to do. Keep informing the public that you meet up with, the legislators who will make some of those decisions. Keep building coalitions that support our students and their future.

Ms. Nash stated she said plenty already.

Mrs. Seals stated she said plenty already, also.

Dr. Robert had no comment.

President Coleman stated we are making difficult decision here at the table, necessary decision. Part of the mission, with transparency, is to keep making those hard decisions and sharing with the community when we make them.

8. **ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEXT MEETING**

Wednesday February 18 at 5:30pm there will be an Action meeting held in the boardroom. The next Buildings and Grounds/Finance Committee Meeting will be Monday April 13, 2026.

9. **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 6:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

LillieAnnie Parham-Morris
Recorder