

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

FEBRUARY 17TH, 2025 – 5:30 p.m.

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

1. **ATTENDANCE –**

Board Members:

President	Charles Coleman	Present
Vice President	Janet Nash	Present
Secretary	Kevin Mark Rooker	Present
Treasurer	Ruth Ann Knapp	Present
Trustee	Jasmine Calhoun	Present
Trustee	Joyce Seals	Present
Trustee	Mattie Thompson	Present- arrived at 5:35 p.m.

Administration:

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

2. **APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER 16TH, 2024 MINUTES**

President Coleman entertained a motion to approve the September 16th, 2024, minutes. Mr. Rooker moved the motion, which Mrs. Nash supported. The motion passed.

3. **SPRING COUNT ANALYSIS**

Tamara Johnson presented the unaudited spring count data for the 2024-2025 school year. She highlighted the significance of analyzing the net student enrollment figures and observed that very few departing students transferred to other local school districts.

Dr. Roberts mentioned that the data indicates no definitive withdrawal patterns, which suggests individual family decisions. He expressed a need to begin analyzing multi-year trend data to identify potential factors affecting enrollment, especially following recent school transitions. Dr. Roberts noted the statewide decline in student enrollment and stated that the loss of forty-four students from our district was not alarming but is still a district loss. In addition, Dr. Roberts said that while our loss is higher than the county average, it is lower than the state average and suggested comparing our district data to Michigan school districts with similar demographics.

Discussion ensued regarding the city's housing shortages, population decline, zoning meetings, and our school district's strategic planning alignment with the city's strategic planning.

4. **CAPITAL PROJECTS-INFORMATIONAL ONLY**

Mr. Furtaw presented a proposal from Johnson & Wood for the emergency replacement of a heating unit at Chester Miller, with a cost of \$17,631.68. The expenses will be paid with capital project funds from the general fund.

5. **DEMOLITION ESTIMATES**

Mr. Furtaw provided budget pricing estimates from Bierlein for demolishing three vacant buildings, totaling \$1,376,000. Based on the average cost of \$12.27 per square foot, he projected that demolishing thirteen vacant buildings would cost at least ten million dollars.

Dr. Roberts proposed making a concerted effort to address 1505 Ottawa based on the health department's recommendations, then developing a demolition plan and pursuing alternative funding to cover the costs. In addition, Dr. Roberts stressed inquiring with elected officials about available state and federal funding for demolitions or encouraging them to advocate for demolition funding in future budgets. Also, Dr. Roberts stated that demolition costs will come from general funds without alternative funding.

Discussion ensued regarding increasing the capital project budget, Middle Cities' involvement with lobbying, addressing the housing crisis, pursuing a sinking fund, and removing historical artifacts before demolitions.

The committee recommended that Dr. Roberts develop a short-term plan to address the concerns at 1505 Ottawa and Edith Baillie and a long-term plan for the additional eleven vacant buildings, along with approaching our legislatures, MASB and Middle Cities to explore lobbying opportunities.

6. **TRUANCY VEHICLE PURCHASES**

Mr. Furtaw presented a proposal from Todd Wenzel Buick GMC of Westland to purchase two 2024 GMC Yukon XLs for \$126,956. The expenses will be paid with a state reimbursement grant for transportation.

The proposal to purchase the truancy vehicles will be presented to the full Board and placed on Wednesday's consent agenda for approval.

7. **PUBLIC/UNION COMMENTS**

No comments.

8. **FINAL BOARD COMMENTS**

Mrs. Seals mentioned that the Ezekiel Project Prayer Breakfast will be this coming Saturday, and they are seeking the Board's participation and support.

Mrs. Nash is looking forward to the Great Lakes Bay Open House for Saginaw United on Thursday morning.

Mrs. Thompson thanked Dr. Roberts and staff for all their efforts.

Ms. Knapp informed everyone that they missed an exciting event with the outhouse race at 'Bringing Back the Ice' at Hoyt Park this past weekend. ESPN filmed the race, and it will air this summer. Maple Grill won the Chili Cook-Off at the Saginaw Spirit game.

Dr. Roberts stated that Saginaw United boys' and girls' basketball teams will begin district tournament play this week. Additionally, Saginaw United's Michael Baldwin is advancing to the state

wrestling competition, with a strong chance of winning a state title. Saginaw Arts and Sciences Academy (SASA) boys' and girls' basketball teams will soon begin tournaments. Board members' names will be on an entry list for all athletic tournament games they plan to attend.

President Coleman wanted to acknowledge the losses within our district and honor Veronica Horn's work in the community.

9. **ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEXT MEETING**

The next Buildings and Grounds/Finance Committee Meeting will be announced.

10. **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chirila Hamilton
Recorder