

DRAFT

School District of the City of Saginaw
MINUTES OF THE BOARD ACTION MEETING
550 Millard Street • Saginaw, Michigan 48607 • 989-399-6500
January 21, 2026

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 V. Harrison	Present
	Treasurer R. A. Knapp	Present
	Trustee J. Calhoun	Absent
	Trustee J. Seals	Present
	SMOB T. Pringle	Present
	SMOB D. Patel	Present

Central Administration Staff:

Superintendent R. Roberts	Present
Deputy Superintendent T. Johnson	Present

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

3. PRESENTATION

Student Ambassadors

Dr. Roberts called on each high school principal to introduce the Student Ambassadors. The students reported on school activities and those conducted in collaboration with other buildings. Saginaw United, SASA, and SCC all presented their monthly reports.

Great Lakes Bay Health Center

Dr. Roberts called on Great Lakes Bay Health Center to share information regarding their presentation. Mary Rivera shared information about SPSD's recent loss of Board members and expressed sincere gratitude for their years of service and dedication to students and families. She also wants to recognize School Board Appreciation Month and thank each Board member. Ms. Rivera provided a brief overview of the update regarding the school-based health center and students. She explains that SPSD's commitment is vital to ensuring students have access to the care and resources they need to thrive. Ms. Rivera shared that they are launching dental and vision screening, preventative care, and follow-up referrals as needed. She is asking for SPSD's ongoing support and collaboration with school staff.

35m Grant

Dr. Roberts called on Dr. Tran and Mrs. Nichols to share information regarding the 35m Grant, an additional funding component of the curriculum and instruction. Mrs. Nichols gave a summary of the 35M Grant Budget of the Fiscal Year 2025 State School Aid Act, which provides \$87 million to the Michigan Department of Education to create a Committee for Literacy Achievement and allocate funding based on a rankings list of materials. Section 35M grant funding is included in the Fiscal Year 2026 State School Aid Act. The Committee for Literacy

Achievement critically evaluated literacy series and materials, literacy professional development, and literacy tools or services. Mrs. Nichols answered questions from Board Members. Districts could apply for one literacy tool total, not one from each list. SPSD chose to apply for the Tier 1 funding with a base allocation of \$30,000 plus \$89.04 per pupil. The total allocation amount for SPSD is \$475,649, budgeted no later than April 20 for a May state aid payment. We intend to do that much earlier. All funds must be expended or returned by September 30. Section 35 M does not allow for carryover of funds for 2026. Funds may be used only for items needed for implementation for the district's approved curriculum. Consideration of the ranked literacy materials and series is currently under review. After selection, the Saginaw school district will submit a budget to MDE for approval. I also included in your packet that list of ranked curricula, and Dr. Tran will tell you more about that process. Dr. Tran shared the announcement of the 35M grant, and it was great to be recognized for our work. Looking at the Tier 1 program that we would be looking to purchase, we began by sending a survey to all teachers. A large majority of respondents supported moving to a new curriculum. Teachers are seeking clearer pacing, easier-to-use lessons, and stronger instruction in phonics and foundational skills. This item will be on the Consent Agenda for approval tonight.

4. PUBLIC/UNION COMMENTS

President Coleman called for Public comments and none were made.

He called for union comments:

Andrea Rethman – SEA President

She shared our deepest condolences to the family, friends, and colleagues of the Board member Kevin Rooker. His sudden passing is a tremendous loss to our community, and we share in the sorrow of those who knew and worked closely with him. Kevin was a tireless advocate for the students, educators, and families in our district. His dedication to the betterment of our schools and community, along with his unwavering commitment to making informed, thoughtful decisions, has made a lasting impact on this community.

Mrs. Rethman continued that Mr. Rooker was not only a knowledgeable and effective Board member, but also a valued partner in our collective efforts to improve education for all. His passion for public service, deep understanding of the issue, and kind, approachable demeanor will be greatly missed. We are grateful for his leadership, and we extend our heartfelt sympathy to all who were touched by his work and friendship. Please know that our thoughts are with you.

5. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

McKinney-Vento Update

Dr. Roberts shared that the Federal Act provides funding for our homeless, or displaced students. He said Mrs. Reid shared a quick summary on what we did with the funding this year, to support the homeless students. Mrs. Reid went into detail and thanked the public who assisted her team and Mrs. Nichols and staff.

6. CONSENT AGENDA

President Coleman asked board members if there were any exceptions to the Consent Agenda.

The following motion was made.

Motion

Moved by Mrs. Nash and supported Mrs. Seals that the Saginaw Board of Education make the exception of item G on the Consent Agenda as presented.

A voice vote was taken with the following results.

Ayes: 5 Nays: 0 – Motion Carried

- A. Approve the Minutes for the December 3, 2025, Briefing Session and December 10, 2025, Action Meeting.
- B. Approve the Adoption of the Regular Monthly Meeting Schedule for 2026, leaving room for needed changes.
- C. Approve the December 2025 Financials
- D. Approve the January 2025 Human Resources/Labor Relations Report
- E. Approve the First Student Contract as presented.
- F. Approve the SUHS Graduation at the DOW Event Center Arena on Tuesday, May 26, 2026, at 6 pm.
- ~~G. Approve to move \$10,000,000 of the General Fund fund balance to the Bond Reserve Fund to complete the Bond 2020 projects.~~
- H. Approve the First Student Contract Renewal presented at the January 14, 2026, Briefing Meeting. This contract will increase 3.5% annually each of the next 5 years and will be paid from the General Fund.

Motion

Moved by Ms. Knapp and supported Mrs. Seals that the Saginaw Board of Education exception of item G, Bond item, on the Consent Agenda as presented.

A voice vote was taken with the following results.

Ayes: 5 Nays: 0 – Motion Carried

G. Approve to move \$10,000,000 of the General Fund fund balance to the Bond Reserve Fund to complete the Bond 2020 projects.

8. NEW BUSINESS

1. Board Conferences 2025-26

MASB Winter Institute 2026

When: Feb. 06, 2026 - Feb. 07, 2026, 8:30 AM - 6:30 PM Eastern

Where: Virtual Event <https://www.masb.org/learning/upcoming-events/winter-institute>

- 2. NSBA CUBE Annual Conference 2026 – April 10-12, 2026 San Antonio, Texas

<https://nsba.org/events/2026-annual-conference>

MASB Spring INSTITUTE 2026

When: May 01, 2026 - May. 02, 2026

Where: In Person

- 3. **MASB Headquarters**, 1001 Centennial Way, Lansing, MI

<https://www.masb.org/learning/upcoming-events/spring-institute>

- 4. **MASB Summer Institute 2026**

Summer Institute

When: Aug. 7 – 9, 2026

Where: The Radisson Plaza Hotel, Kalamazoo.

[More will publish the schedule in early spring – Whitney Haughey.](#)

Michigan Association of School Boards

1001 Centennial Way, Suite 400 | Lansing, MI 48917

whaughey@masb.org P: 517.327.5926 | F: 517.327.0775

- 5. Annual Leadership Conference – October 14-17, 2026, Lansing, MI, at Lansing Center

<https://www.masb.org/learning/upcoming-events/annualleadershipconference>

- 6. CUBE 2026 Annual Conference October 1-3, 2026, Chicago, IL

<https://nsba.org/events/2026-cube-annual-conference>

More will add TBD

1/2026

Motion

Moved by Mrs. Seals and supported by Ms. Harrison, that the Saginaw Board of Education adopt the proposed scheduled board conferences for the 2026 school year and insert dates when they become available.

A voice vote was taken with the following results.

Ayes: 5 Nays: 0

A. Board Memberships

Downtown Saginaw Association
City, County, School Liaison Committee
Michigan Association of School Boards
National Alliance of Black School Educators
National Association of School Boards
Saginaw Chamber of Commerce
Saginaw County Business Education Partnership
Buena Vista Business Association
Kochville Downtown Development Authority
Council of Urban Boards of Education (CUBE)
Positive Results- Pride
Zilwaukee City – Membership

Motion

Moved by Mrs. Nash and supported by Ms. Knapp that the Saginaw Board of Education adopt the proposed memberships for the 2025/26 school year with the addition of NSBA/CUBE, Positive Results Saginaw, and Zilwaukee memberships.

A voice vote was taken with the following results.

Ayes: 5 Nays: 0

B. Board Committee Assignments

Mrs. Seals shared that the board committee assignments for 2026 are as follows:

FINANCE COMMITTEE

RUTH ANN KNAPP – CHAIR
JASMINE CALHOUN
JOYCE SEALS

POLICY & CURRICULUM COMMITTEE

JOYCE SEALS – CHAIR
VERA HARRISON
JANET NASH

HUMAN RESOURCE COMMITTEE

JANET NASH – CHAIR
JASMINE CALHOUN
VERA HARRISON

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS COMMITTEE

JANET NASH – CHAIR

CHARLES COLEMAN
JANAE BADY

CITY/COUNTY/SCHOOL LIAISON COMMITTEE

CHARLES COLEMAN – CHAIR
RUTH ANN KNAPP
JOYCE SEALS

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance

Ms. Knapp shared that the Finance report has been shared, and we are waiting for the midterm update and verification of enrollment, which is pending.

Policy & Curriculum

Mrs. Seals asked a question regarding priority schools for students with reading and receiving some additional help.

Buildings and Grounds

Mrs. Nash shared that the Buildings and Grounds Committee will be meeting on Monday, February 16, 2026, at 5 pm, here at the Board.

Human Resources

Mrs. Nash shared that there will be a Superintendent Self-Evaluation on April 8, 2026, and a Board Evaluation on May 20, 2026.

City/School/County Liaison

Mrs. Nash shared that the committee will meet here last week in the Board Room tomorrow, Thursday, January 16, 2026, at 5:30 p.m., and meet about Hot Times in the city, Water Treatment in the region, the Janet Nash Preserve redesign, county tutoring, and summer compilation.

9. FINAL BOARD COMMENTS

Mrs. Seals - said she is starting at Jessie Rouse Power hour and asked that helpers fill out the volunteer cards in advance.

Ms. Pringle – no comment.

Mrs. Nash - shared that she enjoyed the student ambassadors, who were phenomenal in their presentations.

Ms. Harrison - stated that she wanted to thank the student ambassadors, including the two who stayed for the entire meeting. Thank you. Ms. Harrison appreciates that 20% of our students are dual-enrolled in college. She was also glad that people are hearing about the Great Lakes Bay Center and its history within the Saginaw Public School District.

Ms. Patel - stated she would like to be part of the Policy and Curriculum Meeting, as she believes that would be beneficial.

Ms. Knapp – shared Vice President Janet and Dr. Nash will be honored with the Drum Major Award for Justice at the SVSU MLK Celebration. She shared the upcoming event at SCC Skill Competition, February 20, 2026 and the food is always fabulous. Ms. Knapp thanked the Buildings and Grounds, and Maintenance team for maintaining all our properties year round, in all weather.

Dr. Roberts – said congratulations to Mrs. Nash and Dr. Nash, a well-deserved recognition. Dr. Roberts shared that the district has completed the 1st semester. He shared that we should have some attendance data to share by February. Dr. Roberts would like to acknowledge some outstanding students and staff on Monday for the celebration of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. He shared that he attended the MLK/Walk and Alpha Luncheon, the vocal entertainment was SMOB-Iesha Little, and she did a fantastic job with the accompaniment of Mr. Jordan Edwards, our SUHS Band Teacher. As a superintendent, I am always proud of our district employees and students.

Dr. Coleman - shared that he appreciated the student ambassadors and the number of dual-enrolled students, as well as the number of students ready for full-time college/non-traditional college, and apprenticeships. He shared that 80% of the seniors have already been accepted to schools and programs for next year. Kudos to the students and the District staff who are working hard without and deserve recognition.

10. ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEXT MEETING(S)

There will be a Special Meeting for new Board Member Interviews on Monday, January 26, 2026, at 5:00 p.m. The meeting will be held in the Board Room of the Administration Building, 550 Millard Street.

11. ADJOURNMENT

Seeing no further business, the Action Meeting was adjourned at 7:22 p.m.

Recorded by: K. Henderson