

DRAFT

School District of the City of Saginaw
MINUTES OF THE ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING/BOARD BRIEFING SESSION
550 Millard Street • Saginaw, Michigan 48607 • 989-399-6500
January 14, 2026

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

1. REAFFIRMATION OF OATH OF OFFICE

Ms. Henderson administered the Reaffirmation of Oath of Office to all Board members.

2. ATTENDANCE

Board of Education:	President C. Coleman	Present
	Vice President J. Nash	Present
	Secretary V. Harrison	Present
	Treasurer R. A. Knapp	Present
	Trustee J. Seals	Present
	Trustee J. Calhoun	Present
Central Administration Staff:		
	Superintendent, Dr. R. Roberts	Present
	Deputy Superintendent T. Johnson	Present

3. ELECTION OF TEMPORARY CHAIR

Motion

Moved by Dr. Coleman and supported by Mrs. Seals that the Saginaw Board of Education appoint Dr. Ramont Roberts as the Temporary Chair.

A voice vote was taken. The results were as follows:

AYES: 6 NAYS: 0 Motion carried.

4. APPOINTMENT OF TEMPORARY SECRETARY

Dr. Coleman appointed Ms. Kimberly Henderson as the Temporary Secretary.

5. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Dr. Roberts explained the process for the election of officers.

Mrs. Seals recommended the following officers for 2026, and the motion.

Motion

Moved by Mrs. Seals and supported by Mrs. Nash that the Saginaw Board of Education adopt the following slate of officers for the 2026 year.

President: Dr. Charles Coleman
Vice President: Mrs. Janet Nash
Treasurer: Ms. Ruth Ann Knapp

A roll call vote was taken. The results were as follows:

AYES: 6 NAYS: 0 Motion carried.

Mrs. Seals recommends Vera Harrison as the following officer for Secretary for 2026, and the motion.

Motion

Moved by Mrs. Seals and supported by Ms. Knapp that the Saginaw Board of Education adopt Vera Harrison as secretary for the following 2026 year.

Secretary: Ms. Vera Harrison

A voice vote was taken. The results were as follows:

AYES: 6 NAYS: 0 Motion carried.

Dr. Roberts turn the meeting over to President Coleman to preside over the remainder of the meeting.

6. ADOPTION OF THE REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING SCHEDULE FOR 2024

Board members were provided with a draft copy of the projected meeting dates for the 2026 calendar year.

Motion

Moved by Mrs. Nash and supported by Mrs. Seals to adopt the meeting schedule as presented, and allowing for future alterations if needed for 2026 year.

A voice vote was taken with the following results:

Ayes: 6 Nays: 0 – motion carried

7. CONFLICT OF INTEREST

All Board members received a copy of the Conflict of Interest Compliance Statement. Dr. Coleman asked Ms. Harrison to read the statement into the minutes. Dr. Coleman asked Board members to sign, date, and return the form to Ms. Henderson.

8. APPROVAL OF BRIEFING SESSION AGENDA

President Coleman asked Board members if there were any additions or subtractions to the agenda. None were made.

9. PRESENTATIONS

Tribute to Secretary Kevin Rooker

Dr. Roberts shared several items to present, including a Resolution honoring Mr. Kevin Rooker, the recently deceased spouse of Bill Ostash, who was present and accepted the recognition items.

Mr. Ostash was present and shared how much Mr. Rooker loved each individual and loved being on the Board. He thanked the district leaders for honoring him and stated that Kevin Rooker was an incredible man. He greeted each Board Member with personal thanks.

School Board Recognition Month

Dr. Roberts presented each Board Member with a Certificate of Appreciation and a gift. Dr. Coleman shared an additional gift as well.

Bond Budget Update

Dr. Roberts called on Tamara Johnson to report on the Bond Budget Updates. Dr. Roberts shared that we are working on closing out the Bond, there is some work that needs to be completed, and Ms. Johnson will assist us with the numbers. Ms. Johnson stated that, the figures for Board Members are attached in the Board Book. She provided an overview and detailed cost information for each different listed project.

Ms. Johnson noted that the December 2025 SUHS budget is \$4,551,256.25, exceeding the budget. She shared that the SASA project is over by \$5,082,050.05, and Saginaw Middle comes in under budget by \$547,272.62.

Ms. Johnson informed the Board that she recommends a \$10 million transfer from the general fund to finalize the bond budget projects, as discussed. Ms. Johnson shared additional information on budget updates and answered questions from the Board Members.

10. NEW BUSINESS

SMOB

Tierra Pringle shared that students have begun dual enrollment at Delta College, with classes starting on Monday at SUHS. She also shared that Delta College and the Saginaw Community Foundation are on the SUHS campus. She shared that the students met with the senior class several times to help them apply for scholarships and to provide information on college admissions and financing. Ms. Pringle also shared that SUHS offers opportunities, including the Student Council, SUN (Saginaw United News), the Creative Writing Club, and Yoga. They have a blood drive scheduled for February 3, 2026, aiming to collect 20 units of blood. Additionally, the Great Lakes Bay Regional MLK Scholarship Celebration will take place on January 22, 2026, recognizing Anielia Eichelberger, Amari'e Taver, and herself, (Tierra Pringle).

Riya Patel shared no new information.

Finance Committee

Ms. Knapp called on Ms. Johnson, who reviewed the Summary of the December Financial Reports. These items will be on the Consent Agenda at the Action Meeting. Please email Ms. Johnson with any questions.

First Student Contract

Ms. Johnson shared the transportation contract renewal, which includes a 3.5% annual increase each year over the next 5 years. She provided additional information in the Board Book shared with Board Members, as in previous years. These items will be on the Consent Agenda at the Action Meeting.

Policy and Curriculum

Mrs. Seals called on Dr. Roberts to share more information about this presentation on Board Vacancies. Dr. Roberts asked Dr. Coleman to share more details about the agenda item. Mrs. Seals asked to revise the Board Vacancy Questions to enhance clarity and relevance, while keeping the questions essentially unchanged. The board discussed the need to consolidate and modify the questions used in previous interviews, with Ms. Seals tasked with preparing a revised list. The board unanimously supported the motion to allow Ms. Seals to make these adjustments.

Motion

Moved by Mrs. Nash and supported by Ms. Seals to streamline our list of questions, make necessary adjustments, and make recommendations to our president.

A voice vote was taken. The results were as follows:

AYES: 6 NAYS: 0 Motion carried.

Buildings and Grounds

Mrs. Nash stated the next meeting is tentatively scheduled for February 16, 2026.

Human Resources

Mrs. Nash said the upcoming Board interviews are on Monday, January 26, 2026, at 5 pm.

City/County/School Liaison Committee

Dr. Coleman shared that the next meeting will be on Thursday, January 16, 2025, at 5:30 pm.

11. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Human Resources/Labor Relations Report

Dr. Roberts provided an overview of the Human Resources/Labor Relations report, which will be included on the Consent Agenda. Dr. Roberts also provided the Board members with a copy of the vacancy list in the Board Book.

31 aa Student Mental Health Funding

Dr. Roberts called on Jennifer Nichols to provide an update on the Section 31 aa student mental health funding, which SPSD previously opted into. She shared that the Saginaw City School District entered into the 31 AA funding agreement for 2025-2026 on December 4, 2025. We did have an opportunity to rescind our decision by no later than December 30, 2025. However, submitting the opt-out form would have prevented the district from receiving funds for the fiscal year 2026.

Any funds already sent in the December state aid payment to meet the legislated deadline for disbursement would have been recouped in a future state aid payment upon receipt of the opt-out form. The date to rescind is now past. We did not rescind, and we will receive 31 aa funding with the agreed certifications. A couple of points: based on feedback from our liability insurer and given that we would not lose governmental immunity in the event of a mass-casualty event (which is a low likelihood), we would still be protected under governmental immunity.

We would, and all of our employees, whoever it affected, would be covered by our liability insurance. Those were two really heavy factors. The other factor is the use of approximately \$700,000 by opting in. Right now, we are slated to get approximately \$700,000.

We expect that amount to increase because several districts across the state opted out, thereby increasing the pot for all districts that opted in. We are using that money to cover general fund expenses, specifically for social work services, including expanded social work services, that would otherwise be funded from the general fund. So it's relieving our general fund. Mrs. Nichols shared additional information on 31 aa and answered questions from the Board Members.

SUHS – Graduation Date

Dr. Roberts shared that they had to decide on the date of SUHS's graduation. He said the decision was based on the venue and that the original plan was to hold the commencement exercises in the stadium. Dr. Roberts added that the weather cannot be predicted for that day, requiring a backup site large enough to host the commencement activities and exercises. His recommendation is to hold it at the Dow Event Center Arena on Tuesday, May 26, 2026, at 6 pm. This will be an annual cost for the District.

12. PUBLIC/UNION COMMENTS

President Coleman called for Public and Union Comments, and none were made.

13. FINAL BOARD COMMENTS

Ms. Knapp - said the Saginaw County Mall Art Show at Fashion, April 20 through May 3, 2026. Ms. Knapp stated that the Awards will be on April 30, 2026, from 5 -7 pm in the center court of the Fashion Square Mall.

Ms. Patel – No Comments.

Ms. Calhoun - said she attended Mr. Rooker's viewing, and that many people loved him. Ms. Calhoun would like us to share those things with our family and coworkers while we have the opportunity.

Ms. Harrison - said she definitely supports what Ms. Calhoun said. Ms. Harrison shared that Mr. Rooker was loved; she loved him. She also thanked Ms. Johnson and her team, as well as Mr. Furtaw and his team. Ms. Harrison is excited about holding the graduation at the Dow Event Center, as we did years ago.

Mrs. Nash – said she would like to reiterate what Ms. Calhoun shared about the funeral services, Mr. Rooker was deeply loved. She shared that the community loved him and that he would be deeply missed. Mrs. Nash hopes that among the candidates, we have the right person to fill the spot. She also shared how she enjoys the newsletters that Mr. Bob Johnson puts out, a great way to highlight positive things in the District on our website. Mrs. Nash shared that she enjoyed attending several schools' holiday events in December 2025.

Ms. Pringle – no comment

Mrs. Seals - said she appreciated having Mr. Rooker on the Board; he was also a great history teacher. She notes that our Board agenda focuses on ensuring every child reaches his or her potential and that each future Board member should aspire to the same standard to succeed.

Dr. Roberts said it was a pleasure to work with Mr. Rooker and the staff and that he will miss him. Dr. Roberts said we are a close-knit family working together and asked everyone to take care of themselves. Thank you to the Board for all of your support, and I am looking forward to our continued work together.

President Coleman - said we are not just a team, we are a family. Dr. Coleman noted that Mr. Rooker raised questions about his role and how he should participate. He said Mr. Rooker always had a unique perspective, whenever it was important. Dr. Coleman shared how Mr. Rooker believed in quality education, students, processes, and supporting people. He was part of a team of 12 and will always be remembered as a member of our team as we move forward. Dr. Coleman stated that he congratulated Dr. Roberts and his team. He congratulated each Board Member on the recognition received this month.

14. ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEXT MEETING(S)

President Coleman announced there will be a City/County/School Liaison meeting on Thursday, January 16, 2026, at 5:30 p.m., an Action Meeting on Wednesday, January 21, 2026, at 5:30 p.m., and a Special Meeting of the Board Member - Interviews on Monday, January 26, 2026, at 5:00 p.m. The meetings will be held in the Board Room of the Administration Building at 550 Millard St.

15. ADJOURNMENT

Seeing no further business, the Briefing Session was adjourned at 6:17 p.m.

Recorded by: K. Henderson