

DRAFT

School District of the City of Saginaw
MINUTES OF THE BOARD BRIEFING SESSION
550 Millard Street • Saginaw, Michigan 48607 • 989-399-6500
September 9, 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. Bady	Present – arrived at 5:35 p.m.
	Trustee J. Calhoun	Present – arrived at 5:47 p.m.
	Trustee J. Seals	Present
Central Administration Staff:	SMOB D. Ramakrishnan	Absent (Excused)
	Superintendent R. Roberts	Present
	Deputy Superintendent 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

Section 97N Grant

Dr. Roberts shared the school district received the 97N Grant Award in partnership with the community group HELP. He called on Mrs. Jennifer Nichols to go over the details of the grant. Mrs. Nichols shared the school district was approved for the award of \$2,147,450 from the Michigan Department of Education, Office of Health and Safety, for the Section 97N – Community Violence Intervention (CVI) Plans competitive grant. She stated the grant funds must be used to support the efforts of community violence intervention plans to reduce or prevent youth violence. The grant award will continue through September 20, 2028. Mr. Kareem Bowen, Executive Director of the HELP CVI program shared how they plan to support the school district and the City of Saginaw with the grant fund award. Board members shared concerns and questions. This item will be on the Consent Agenda at the September 16, 2026, Action meeting.

Dr. Bady joined the board table at 5:35 p.m.

21H Grant Budget

Dr. Roberts called on Mrs. Jennifer Nichols to share information on the 21H Grant Budget. Mrs. Nichols shared detailed information regarding the 21H Grant Budget. The school district has received a total of \$485,248.00 of Section 21H funds in FY 2026. Board members asked questions. This item will be on the Consent Agenda at the September 16, 2026, Action meeting.

Ms. Calhoun joined at the board table at 5:47 p.m.

4. NEW BUSINESS

Finance

August 2026 Financials

Ms. Knapp shared that Board Members have received the financials. Dr. Roberts called on Ms. Johnson who reviewed the summary of the August Financial Reports. Board Members will email questions to Ms. Johnson. These items will be on the Consent Agenda at the September 16, 2026, Action meeting.

Policy and Curriculum

Mrs. Seals asked Dr. Roberts when the test scores will be available to present. Dr. Roberts shared they have been released and will be presented at the Policy and Curriculum meeting on Monday.

Mrs. Seals shared information about the upcoming SCASB Fall Dinner meeting that will be held on Tuesday, September 29, 2026, at the Saginaw Career Complex.

Building and Grounds

Mrs. Nash stated she had nothing. Dr. Roberts, called Mr. Furtaw, who shared informational updates on the Capital Projects.

Capital Projects

Mr. Furtaw shared information pertaining to the Jessie Rouse Exterior Door Painting, Maintenance Van Comparables and the Merrill Park Boiler Repair. Board Members asked questions. Detailed information is in Board Book under Capital Projects.

Human Resources

Mrs. Nash stated at the last board meeting, board members decided to wave the Superintendent evaluation for this year.

City/County/School Liaison Committee

Dr. Coleman shared that the Liaison Committee has a meeting scheduled for next Thursday, September 17, 2026, but there is another event taking place in the City on that date that conflicts with meeting. He shared the meeting will most likely be rescheduled.

5. PUBLIC/UNION COMMENTS

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

6. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Human Resources/Labor Relations Report

Dr. Roberts gave an overview of the Human Resources/Labor Relations report. This item will be on the Consent Agenda at the September 16, 2026, Action Meeting.

Introduction of New Special Education Director

Dr. Roberts said Ms. Marcy Eisinger will be the new Special Education Director. He called on Mrs. Rachel Reid, Executive Director of Student Services, to introduce her. Mrs. Reid shared Ms. Eisinger's background in Special Education and welcomed her to the district. Ms. Eisinger thanked the district for the opportunity to work with Saginaw Public Schools.

7. FINAL BOARD COMMENTS

Mrs. Seals – said she is excited about a project the Health Advisory Council is working on called the BWell Saginaw project. This initiative encourages students not to engage in the use of marijuana, vape pens, etc. The BWell project is offering 10 - \$500 stipends to students who create a project encouraging students not to use marijuana or vape pens. It is called the RIPPLE effect. The deadline for students to participate is September 14, 2026. She said the deadline may need to be extended because she found out the schools did not have the information for the students to participate in the program. The money needs to be spent by September 30, 2026. Students can go to the BWell site and see the RIPPLE effect for more information.

Ms. Knapp asked Mrs. Seals to share information pertaining to the Power of a Promise. Mrs. Seals shared the information regarding the Power of a Promise upcoming event.

Mrs. Nash – asked questions to Mrs. Seals regarding the Power of a Promise scholarship. She said she is happy to see the school year off to a good start.

Ms. Calhoun – no comment.

Ms. Harrison – shared comments regarding the collaboration the school district will have with the community group HELP. She is very happy that our students will have the opportunity to work with HELP and their after-school program.

Dr. Bady – Ms. Harrison shared Dr. Bady's comments due to her having speaking issues. Dr. Bady said it was exciting to see the students returning to school on the first day. She hopes the excitement continues throughout the school year. She said the cellphone collection at the high school went very well.

Ms. Knapp – said the hardest part for her on the first day of school was maneuvering through the detours near the Saginaw Career Complex. She was happy to see the students. She asked if there could be a resolution in support of the upcoming CTE millage prepared for the next board meeting. Dr. Roberts said yes, he will have it prepared for the Action meeting.

Dr. Roberts – said we are off to a great 2026-27 school year. He thanked Mr. Furtaw and his department, custodians, maintenance and grounds crew. The buildings were in good condition for the start of school. He also acknowledged the hard work of the principals and administrative assistants in preparing for the school year. He said the student board members will be seated next week at the Action meeting. He welcomed back Ms. Williams who is with us for a brief time and he formerly introduced Ms. Rebekah Cox who will be assuming the position after she has completed training.

President Coleman – welcomed back Ms. Williams and thanked her for coming to assist in the superintendent's office. He said we are off to another exciting school year. He said the responsibility of the board members is great. He commended Dr. Roberts and his staff for a great Opening Session and first day of school. He is looking forward to a good year.

8. ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEXT MEETING(S)

There will be a Policy and Curriculum Meeting of the Whole on Monday, September 14, 2026, at 5:00 p.m. and an Action Meeting on Wednesday, September 16, 2026, at 5:30 p.m. The meetings will be held in the Board Room at the Administration Building, 550 Millard Street, Saginaw, MI, 48607.

9. ADJOURNMENT

Seeing no further business, the Briefing Session was adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

Recorded by: C. Williams