



Board Report

Board of Education

**Ruth Ann Knapp, Treasurer
Tamara D. McRae, Secretary
Herbert J. Herd, Trustee
Barbara S. Kopka, Trustee
Rudy Patterson, Trustee
Alexis S. Thomas, Trustee
Mattie L. Thompson, Trustee**

**Kelley A. Peatross, Ph. D.
Interim Superintendent**

BRIEFING SESSION

**May 13, 2015
7:00 P.M.**

ACTION MEETING

**May 20, 2015
7:00 P.M.**

School District of the City of Saginaw
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE BRIEFING SESSION
May 13, 2015
7:00 P.M.
Board Room – Administration Building

AGENDA

- I. CALL TO ORDER
- II. ROLL CALL
- III. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS
 - A. Saginaw Valley League Scholar Athletes
 - B. Saginaw Valley League Teachers of the Year
 - B. Saginaw Valley League Coach of the Year
 - C. Saginaw News Dream Team – SPSD Students
 - D. Arthur Hill High School’s Boys Basketball Team
- IV. OVERVIEW OF RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION MEETING
- V. ITEM(S) FOR DISCUSSION ONLY
 - A. SISD Board Election Candidate
 - B. Public Libraries Board Appointment
- VI. STANDING BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS (Optional)
 - A. Buildings and Grounds – Alexis Thomas
 - B. Community Relations – Rudy Patterson
 - C. Finance – Ruth Ann Knapp
 - D. Human Resources – Herbert Herd
 - E. Liaison – Tamara McRae
 - F. Policy and Curriculum – Mattie Thompson
- VII. COMMENTS AND STATEMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC (limited to 3 minutes)
- VIII. COMMENTS FROM THE UNION(S)
- IX. COMMENTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS
- X. ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEXT ACTION MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION:
(May 20, 2015 at 7:00 P.M.)
- XI. ADJOURNMENT

School District of the City of Saginaw
ACTION MEETING
May 20, 2015
7:00 P.M.
Board Room – Administration Building

AGENDA

- I. CALL TO ORDER
- II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
- III. ROLL CALL
- IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES of the April 8, 2015 Briefing Session; the April 15, 2015 Action Meeting; and the April 22, 2015 Special Meeting
- V. SPECIAL REPORTS/PRESENTATIONS (limited to 20 minutes)
 - A. Saginaw County Art Show Exhibit Winners
 - B. National Merit Scholarship Program Recognition
 - C. Scholastic Art and Writing Competition
 - D. Saginaw Career Complex – SoniCare Cane
 - E. Saginaw Career Complex –Washing Machine
- VI. COMMENTS AND STATEMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC (limited to 5 minutes)
- VII. COMMENTS FROM THE UNION(S)
- VIII. TREASURER’S REPORT
 - A. Financial Reports
 - B. Report of Claims
- IX. REPORTS FROM THE INTERIM SUPERINTENDENT
 - A. Information Items
 - School Recognitions
 - B. Administrative Recommendations
 - Interim Superintendent Report
- X. STANDING BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS
 - A. Buildings and Grounds – Alexis Thomas
 - B. Community Relations – Rudy Patterson
 - C. Finance – Ruth Ann Knapp
 - D. Human Resources – Herbert Herd
 - E. Liaison – Tamara McRae
 - F. Policy and Curriculum – Mattie Thompson
- XI. OLD BUSINESS
 - A. Legal Opinion/Presidency
 - B. SISD Board Election Candidate
 - C. Public Libraries Board Appointment
- XII. NEW BUSINESS
 - A. Authorization for Board Participation in Workshop / Conference
- XIII. COMMUNICATIONS/RESOLUTIONS
- XIV. COMMENTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS
- XV. ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEXT MEETING(S) OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION:
(Briefing Session - June 10, 2015 at 7:00 P.M.) (Action Meeting - June 17, 2015 at 7:00 P.M.)
- XVI. ADJOURNMENT

**BRIEFING SESSION
BOARD OF EDUCATION
SCHOOL DISTRICT OF THE CITY OF SAGINAW**

April 8, 2015

I. Roll Call

Briefing Session of the Board of Education, School District of the City of Saginaw, held Wednesday, April 8, 2015 in the Office of the Board, Administration Building. The purpose of the meeting was to brief the Board on the items coming before them at the April 15, 2015 Action Meeting.

Meeting was called to order at 7:04 p.m.

Vice President Thomas in the Chair.

Members Present: Ms. Knapp, Mrs. Kopka, Ms. McRae, Mr. Patterson, Mrs. Thompson, Vice President Thomas

Members Absent: Mr. Herd (**Note:** Mr. Herd was not present for Roll Call, but did arrive shortly thereafter at 7:09 p.m.)

II. Special Presentations

A. Saginaw Promise Zone

Ms. Deborah Sanchez, Director of Saginaw Promise, provided a PowerPoint presentation to the Board. Handouts included a copy of the PowerPoint presentation, Saginaw Promise Student and Parent Guide. Highlights of her presentation included:

- Saginaw Promise Zone Authority, Board of Directors for 2015
- Recognized Promise Programs - both in and out of Michigan
- Governing of Promise Zone
- Impact with regard to the State Education Tax
- Positive Economic Impact
- Economic Growth
- Higher Graduation Rates; Lower Drop-Out Rates
- Increase in college applications and acceptances
- The Saginaw Community Foundation is the fiduciary for Saginaw Promise and therefore, contributions are tax deductible.

Ms. Sanchez thanked Dr. Peatross for her willingness to be an active member and involved with the various committees in the partnership between Saginaw Promise and Saginaw Public Schools.

Ms. Sanchez provided an invitation to both Board members and Dr. Peatross to “The Power of the Promise” luncheon to be held on Tuesday, April 28, at the Saginaw Arts and Sciences Academy from 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. (**Note:** Ms. Sanchez did not have an invitation for Mr. Herd at today’s Briefing. She will drop off an invitation at the Board Office for him in the near future.)

Mr. Wallace Davis, a Saginaw Public School District Alumnus and entrepreneur, who found success in business, as both an owner and manager in the fields of Aerospace, Automotive, Agriculture and Water Well, Renewable Energy and general manufacturing will serve as keynote speaker. His education started in Saginaw at Potter Elementary, Arthur Eddy and Saginaw High School. Proceeds from this event will help fund scholarships for the class of 2015. Tickets are \$45 per person and can be purchased at saginawfoundation.thankyou4caring.org/promise.

III. Overview of Action Meeting Recommendations

A. Meeting Minutes (February 18, 2015 – Action Meeting)

These minutes were not approved at the March Action Meeting, therefore they will be brought forth at the April 15, 2015 Action Meeting.

On Page 20 in the third paragraph of the minutes, Mr. Patterson asked that the word “*game*” be added in the second to the last sentence (following the word basketball).

A question had been asked whether “answers to questions” would be considered part of the minutes. Dr. Peatross explained that since the answers to the questions posed at the regular Board meeting were answered following the meeting, they would not become a part of the minutes; they would not be included as part of the official record.

Correspondence from MASB regarding what is required in minutes that are taken was placed in Board members mailboxes. It was suggested that if the minutes that are taken are not acceptable to the Board as a group, then the Board may wish to consider including a Bylaw or policy indicating what they want, to avoid continuous dialogue at the table.

Mr. Patterson stated there were two or three words he had asked to be included in the minutes, one of which was the word, “attorneys,” the “Administration’s attorney, Mr. Humphreys.” He further stated that when the minutes have corrections from the Board, the language should be noted as *italicized* or in **red** text so they are readily identifiable. This had been past practice, but over time had ceased.

Dr. Peatross explained that if the request was stated in the minutes and recorded where it identifies Mr. Patterson making that request, then the

language would be confirmed and reflected in the minutes. Dr. Peatross will review the tape of the meeting in question.

Ms. Knapp stressed the importance of using the Board Operating Procedures manual that outlines how and when the Board acts on certain issues as they arise in the District. This manual provides a calendar of monthly due dates when the Board expects to receive specific information, such as Summer School, Financials, etc. This manual would benefit all Board members currently in place as well as anyone who may wish to apply for a position on the Board. She offered to help facilitate this process.

Mrs. Thompson asked that *Mr. Humprheys* name be added to the minutes, if it hasn't yet been added.

Mr. Patterson explained that there were at least three corrections the Board had asked to be changed in the minutes. The mentioned changes were not contained in one set of minutes, but in multiple sets of minutes.

Ms. Knapp made note that in the "blue book," she has not had a chance to read the information contained to determine if the requested changes have been made.

B. Recommendation for Expulsion (Ref. #1-2014-15)

Dr. Peatross informed the Board that at last night's Policy and Curriculum meeting, the Board had asked if Administration was in attendance at a recent student hearing. She explained that the student did not show up for the hearing. Administration asked Chief O'Neal for information on this hearing and Dr. Peatross included the information in her weekly report to the Board. Dr. Peatross offered to make printed copies of this information for the Board. This item will come before the Board at the next Action meeting. If the Board needs further information, they were asked to contact Dr. Peatross before the end of the week.

Ms. Knapp mentioned it would be helpful to the Board to indicate "the following information was provided to you in my weekly update (insert date).

Mr. Patterson stated the student suspension was sent back to the Policy and Curriculum Committee. He questioned why it wasn't discussed at the committee level (at last night's Policy and Curriculum meeting) for possible recommendation?

Dr. Peatross explained that there was discussion at the table at last night's Policy and Curriculum meeting. She further stated that if Board members have additional questions regarding a specific topic, it is imperative that Board members ask questions before it is being presented so we are better

prepared to answer their questions. In order for us to do our jobs, it is critical that individuals that sit at this table provide Administration with information in enough time to be able to present the information to all Board members for review so the Board can ask questions based on the information provided instead of at the last minute.

Mrs. Thompson said she would convene a special Policy and Curriculum meeting to discuss Student Expulsion (Ref. #1-2014-15).

Mr. Herd asked for clarification that if an item appears on the Briefing agenda, then does that indicate it would go before the Board for Action next week?

Dr. Peatross responded that if the Board indicates they would like this item to return to committee, then that is a decision that is made by the Board. Dr. Peatross was responding to the fact this item was not on last night's agenda. If the questions regarding this suspension have not been answered to date, then the Board should provide Administration with the questions they would like answers to, prior to the next committee meeting.

IV. Items(s) for Discussion

A. Playground Equipment

Dr. Peatross stated that Mrs. Boulware from Project Unify (previously called Unity), has been trying to secure playground equipment for the "Adopt a Park" initiative. Dr. Peatross was not aware another entity had inquired about available playground equipment until it was mentioned by Ms. Knapp. Both Mr. McClain and Mr. Alexander were asked to investigate this request as this item has appeared a number of times on the Building & Grounds agendas (copies of the agendas can be provided to the Board upon request) and the Board was provided with this information in Dr. Peatross' weekly update to the Board (4.3.15). If the Board has questions relative to the information that was provided, Board members should provide those questions to Dr. Peatross. Or if the Board wishes to send this item back to the Building and Grounds Committee, this committee will meet prior to the Action meeting on April 15, 2015.

Ms. Thomas requested that this item be presented at the April 15, 2015 Building & Grounds meeting to provide new Board members an opportunity to hear and discuss this item to determine whether a recommendation would go before the Board at the Action meeting that follows.

Mr. Patterson suggested that this item should be placed on the Liaison Committee's agenda for discussion with the City, even if it occurs after the Board takes action. The City should take ownership of their properties. While both entities work within tight budgets, the parks belong to the City.

Ms. Thomas informed the Board that the City is taking on the liability issue surrounding the purchase of the playground equipment.

Ms. Knapp mentioned that prior to the request from Project Unify, the Covenant from the Neighborhood Association approached the District for playground equipment for Bliss Park. She would like the District to make sure everyone is accommodated.

Mrs. Thompson encouraged everyone to adopt a park.

B. District Configuration

Dr. Peatross provided clarification on the District's grade configuration in terms of the policies (#7110 and #8005) that provide her with the authorization to identify the configuration of the District.

Board members were provided with Policy 7110 that outlines the configuration for the elementary, middle school and high schools. The elementary is configured either PK-6 or PK-9, middle school is established as grades 6-8, while the high school is configured as grades 9-12.

Policy 8005 speaks to Open Enrollment. If the Board is requesting something different, then they as a group, must either through committee or in a meeting, make changes to the policies.

The District is currently not in alignment with these policies as written. When the recommendation was brought before the Board a couple of years ago to consolidate to a 7th-12th grade configuration, it was rejected by the Board. On that same night, the Board asked the previous Superintendent along with his administrative staff to leave the meeting and come back with a new configuration. That was how the new configuration was created to an 8th-12th grade high school. If we look at what has happened over the last four years, we have moved staff and students continuously, which is not good practice. By not moving the eighth grade students to the high schools, the capacity at the high schools in regard to usage will go down. However, the numbers will be the same, regardless if the students remain in their current schools. If we do nothing, students will not move for the first time in four years. We are not looking at layoffs. The numbers in the fall will be reviewed and adjustments would be made at that time. With everything we've done this past year with the deficit and that our DEP indicated we would close a high school, which didn't happen, it makes sense to leave everything alone. The elementary students would remain in the elementary schools, our 6th and 7th graders stay put and become 7th and 8th graders, our seniors graduate, and our current 8th graders in the high school would remain at the high school setting and we would have a 9th-12th grade high school. This is the premise for not touching the grade levels.

It is important to note that this information was presented at a Public Hearing, to the Board at a Board Briefing meeting, and it was recommended by Dr. Peatross that the District remain status quo in terms of grade configurations for stability reasons.

Ms. McRae indicated that she had attended a number of meetings held by the previous administration and did not agree that 8th grade students should move to the high school setting. She agrees with the configuration presented by Dr. Peatross.

Mr. Herd agrees with 8th grade students not being in the high schools. Students feel alienated and lost.

Ms. Thomas stated that if done right, she doesn't have a problem with 8th grade students being in the high schools. She does find fault with teachers who cannot be utilized at the high school level, but are certified at the middle school level. This causes a problem that is draining our resources in terms of classroom coverage by substitutes.

Mrs. Thompson asked Dr. Peatross how remaining status quo in terms of grade configuration would affect Zilwaukee School?

Dr. Peatross explained that when we look at Zilwaukee School, they do not follow the middle school concept; they follow the elementary model. The students in 7th and 8th grade lose electives that our other middle school students receive. As we look at the number of students that attend Zilwaukee School, there are a number of students that live in the City, rather than in the Zilwaukee neighborhood. We are transporting a number of students to Zilwaukee when they could attend another City School. Another important item to look at is the number of Special Needs students (20%) that attend Zilwaukee School. It costs the District a lot of money to transport general education and special education students to Zilwaukee School.

Mrs. Thompson stated that she raised concern when Administration suggested moving eighth grade students to the high school. She raised additional concern with both Arthur Eddy and Thompson students being transported to school from other areas in the City.

Ms. Kopka understands that a special needs child, depending on what their IEP dictates, may need more one-on-one aide assistance. She said the only thing the District will save is possibly the gas. However, the District may experience a loss of students due to a lack of smaller class sizes and more one-on-one instruction. Also, the behavior issues are not as prevalent if the students are moved to Thompson Middle School.

Ms. McRae said the District may have made some mistakes in the past, but they are now making every attempt to correct these mistakes.

Mr. Herd said that some of the decisions made in the past are mistakes made by the Board. Shame on the Board! It's not Dr. Peatross or administration's fault, the fault lies with the Board. He asked Dr. Peatross if the special needs children at Zilwaukee would be moved to Thompson Middle School? Dr. Peatross indicated that there are a number of schools besides Thompson that may be an option for these students.

Mrs. Thompson does not agree with moving the special education students from Zilwaukee School. She said she would call the State if this happens. Mr. Herd agreed with Mrs. Thompson. He believes students are special needs for a reason

Dr. Peatross said in response to Mr. Herd that she would provide the Board with a plan of clarity. She explained that she wasn't suggesting to eliminate the special education classrooms at Zilwaukee School and move them elsewhere. She was supplying data that spoke to the number of students that are special needs. There are special education classrooms throughout the District. At the time Administration added ninth grade at Zilwaukee School, it was because we thought we would retain more students. The District realized that wasn't working. That's why Zilwaukee was reduced to a K-8 School.

Dr. Peatross has asked the administrator at Zilwaukee School to provide the number of Zilwaukee students that live in other areas within the City. If we have other classrooms in the City that are providing the same programming, but are not at capacity, why wouldn't we move some of the students to those classrooms in an effort to better utilize our resources? If staff would need to be moved, then we would move staff.

Mr. Herd requested that the Board meet to further discuss the movement of special needs students.

Ms. Thomas explained that the information presented by Dr. Peatross regarding policies 7110 and 8005 give her the authority to make the decision regarding the District configuration.

Mrs. Kopka stated that this information is not coming before the Board for a vote; it's a done deal.

Mrs. Thompson raised concern with the number of City students that are bused to SASA. Dr. Peatross explained that the parents of students attending SASA from out of District pay for transportation. That

information has previously been shared with the Board. Dr. Peatross said she could provide another copy of that information if it pleases the Board.

Ms. Knapp stated that she is uncomfortable with the Board when they decide which policies to follow. If the policy is wrong, change the policy and make the decision. We shouldn't make the decision and violate the policy.

Ms. McRae stated that the Board asked if Dr. Peatross has the authority to make these decisions/changes. Dr. Peatross is simply providing verification that she does possess this authority. She agreed with what Ms. Knapp stated. The Board is constantly trying to decide what to add or delete from policy. The Board must stay on course.

Another area of concern for Mrs. McRae is the way the Board treats Dr. Peatross. If Ms. McRae spoke to her employees the way that the Board speaks to Dr. Peatross, she would be fired for the disrespect and communication. There should be a way to agree to disagree with her. While she is the Board's employee, the Board must remain respectful. We do not have to like her, but we must remain respectful.

Mrs. Thompson brought up that she has received two letters from lawyers and no one showed her respect.

Mrs. Kopka indicated that the information provided indicates that the District has the authority to change the configuration of school. Who is the "District," the Board or Dr. Peatross? She pointed out a conflict at the middle school level with the grade configurations.

Dr. Peatross offered to acquire legal opinion whether she had the authority to change the District's grade configuration.

Mr. Herd stated that if Dr. Peatross provides documentation, then that should work.

Ms. Thomas stated that we have an Interim Superintendent that based on her educational expertise has made a determination based on District policy that gives her the autonomy to make those decisions, and has merit as it relates to what's the best educational means for our students. Why do we have a Superintendent, Dr. Peatross or otherwise, if the Board votes on items without the data to support, no matter how an individual board member feels?

Ms. Knapp, moved that the Board move forward in the agenda and go to Board Committees. Ms. Thomas made support.

Mr. Patterson asked who gave Dr. Peatross the authority to move the eighth grade without a discussion with the Board? It would have been more favorable and may have avoided much pressure from the Board. Another question arose regarding who gave Dr. Peatross the ability to call 7,000 households without Board knowledge. Mr. Patterson had previously asked Dr. Peatross who gave her the authority to change the configuration of the District?

He emphasized the lack of a Superintendent in our District. He stressed that the District has an Interim Superintendent. However, the Interim Superintendent was present during discussions held in the past.

Mr. Patterson indicated he had two or three other issues he decided not to bring forward at tonight's meeting. Legal opinion aside, he believes the Board governs this District. He then read, Article I, Section 3 of the Board Bylaws to emphasize the Board's responsibility/duties. Mr. Patterson made note that he ~~did not vote when it was decided~~ **voted against the decision** to move the 8th grade to the high schools.

Mrs. Thompson requested that the district check with our parents to see what their preference is regarding the District configuration.

Ms. McRae suggested contacting Karen Cross at MASB to acquire legal opinion. If MASB confirms whether or not the Superintendent has the autonomy to make certain decisions. Policy can be interpreted any way. The Board should be following MASB suggesting.

Mr. Patterson stated that MASB does not have the ability to provide legal opinion. MASB is not the say all/do all for this District. The issue at hand is that Dr. Peatross did not possess the authority to change the District configuration without the knowledge of the Board.

Dr. Peatross stated that she respectfully disagreed with Mr. Patterson. As the Interim Superintendent and the Chief Executive Officer, hired by the Board, with a 4:3 vote, she stated that she does have the authority to decide the District configuration.

Motion to move on to the remainder of the meeting carried unanimously (7:0).

V. Standing Board Committee Reports

- A. Building and Grounds Committee: Ms. Thomas indicated that the Building and Grounds Committee will meet on Wednesday, April 15, 2015 at 5:30 p.m. before the Action Meeting.
- B. Community Relations Committee: No report.

- C. Finance Committee: Ms. Knapp explained that with the recent Spring Break, she felt it would be too soon to present the Report of Claims and the Treasurer's Report and therefore would not appear on the Action Meeting agenda next week.

The following dates for future meetings and presentations were provided to the Board:

- April 22, 2015 – Regular April Finance Meeting to discuss the March Financial Reports. On this agenda, Ms. Knapp expects to have the March Financials Reports and the Report of Claims, as well as an update on the budget and an update on the Deficit Elimination Plan.
 - May 12, 2015 – Budget Presentation
 - May 19, 2015 – Regular May meeting to discuss the financial reports from April.
 - June 3 or 9, 2015 – Budget Hearing
 - June 17, 2015 – Budget Adoption for the 2015-16 School Year at the regularly scheduled Action Meeting.
- D. Human Resources Committee: Ms. Knapp stated that the next meeting to discuss the Superintendent's Evaluation for the 2015 calendar year is scheduled for May 13, 2015 at 5:30 p.m.
- E. Liaison Committee: Ms. McRae indicated the next meeting of the Liaison Committee is scheduled for April 16, 2015 at City Hall at 5:30 p.m.
- F. Policy and Curriculum Committee: Mrs. Thompson indicated that there would be a three recommendations coming from the Policy and Curriculum Committee to the Board at next week's Action Meeting. She indicated that she would be bringing forth additional policies for discussion, such as the FOIA policy. She said she would convene another Policy & Curriculum Committee – perhaps the week after next (date yet to be determined). She further cautioned the Board about discussing information pertaining to students and/or staff in an open meeting about expulsions and suspensions.

VI. Comments

Public

Ms. Lisa Gordon, Arthur Hill Parent: (Filled out a card; chose not to address the Board.)

Mr. William Bradley, provided the Board and Dr. Peatross with a document that outlined a proposal for a Saginaw Central High School on the Saginaw High Campus. He beseeched the Board and District to come together for the sake of our students, staff and parents.

Unions

No comment

Board

Alexis Thomas – Explained to the Board that while this is a Board Briefing Session and action isn't generally taken. She expressed her concern about not having a seated Board President.

Ms. Knapp suggested changing the Bylaw to reflect that officer's terms should change from calendar year to fiscal year. If the Board chooses to do that, while not having a President chosen, it would be an easier transition for the person in that chair. If the Board decides to go with a fiscal year calendar, there would be one meeting in July and one meeting in August.

She suggested that the Board:

- A. Change the Bylaw, and
- B. Board set the committee chairs through June 30, 2015.

Ms. Thompson – Nominated Mr. Rudy Patterson for president.

Ms. McRae – Nominated Ms. Alexis Thomas for president.

Ms. Knapp – Moved that nominations cease.

Mr. Patterson – Explained that while he does not believe in making motions/recommendations at the Briefing Session, he felt this item was important enough to make an exception. He said there should be a President in the Chair for the District.

A roll call vote was taken:

- Mr. Herd voted for Mr. Patterson
- Ms. Kopka voted for Ms. Thomas
- Ms. Knapp voted ~~nay~~ **no** for both.
- Ms. McRae voted for Ms. Thomas.
- Mr. Patterson voted for himself.
- Ms. Thomas voted for herself.
- Mrs. Thompson voted for Mr. Patterson

Vote taken was 3:3 with Ms. Knapp voting ~~nay~~ **no** to both nominations.

Board discussion ensued as to whether another vote would change the outcome. It was decided another vote would not change the outcome of this vote.

Mr. Patterson questioned whether Ms. Thomas, by voting for herself, gave up her position as Vice President on the Board? Can a Board member holding a current office, vote for herself/himself without giving up her/his current position? He said that Ms. Thomas didn't ask whether each nominee had

accepted the nomination. He said the Board has been delinquent in acting on filling this position.

Ms. Thomas stated that she was not aware whether Mr. Patterson's statement was true, but she has no problem with stepping down as Vice President.

Mr. Patterson contended that since Ms. Thomas has forfeited the position as Vice President, then the Treasurer would step into the position as Chair and should not have given up her right to vote.

Ms. Knapp stated that since there is a Vice President (acting President until a President is chosen), a Treasurer and a Secretary in place, why doesn't the Board keep the current officers and delay this vote until either next week or next month. She requested that the Board move forward with the business at hand and move to adjournment. She stated that she doesn't feel she could be both Treasurer and Vice President.

Mr. Herd – Stated that as a Board member, he has a responsibility to cast a vote. There should not be a situation where a Board member chooses not to vote.

Ms. Thomas – informed the Board that she is resigning her nomination as the Board President, as well as her position as the Vice President. She further explained that this Board is dysfunctional. She indicated she would remain a Board member.

Mrs. Thompson – suggested this meeting be adjourned and the Board attend a retreat.

VII. Announcement of Next Action Meeting

Wednesday, April 15, 2015, 7:00 p.m., Office of the Board, Administration Building.

VIII. Adjournment

On motion, meeting adjourned at 9:43 p.m.

**ACTION MEETING
BOARD OF EDUCATION
SCHOOL DISTRICT OF THE CITY OF SAGINAW**

April 15, 2015

I. Call to Order

Secretary Tamara McRae called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

III. Roll Call

Action Meeting of the Board of Education, School District of the City of Saginaw, was held on Wednesday, April 15, 2015, in the Office of the Board, Administration Building.

Secretary Tamara McRae in the Chair.

Members Present: Mr. Herd, Mrs. Kopka, Mr. Patterson, Ms. Thomas, Mrs. Thompson, and Ms. McRae

Members Absent: Ms. Knapp

IV. Approval of the Minutes of the February and March Meetings

Moved by Ms. Thomas and seconded by Mrs. Kopka, that the Board approve the minutes of the following meeting, and that the Secretary is instructed to sign same officially and affix thereto the seal of the Board:

- March 5, 2015 Special Meeting

Ayes: 5 Nays: 1 (Mr. Patterson)

Moved by Ms. Thomas and seconded by Mrs. Kopka, that the Board approve the minutes of the following meeting, and that the Secretary is instructed to sign same officially and affix thereto the seal of the Board:

- March 10, 2015 Special Meeting

Ayes: 4 Nays: 2 (Mr. Patterson, Mrs. Thompson)

Mr. Patterson asked that the meeting date on page 7, Section I be changed from February 10, 2015 to March 10, 2015.

Moved by Ms. Thomas and seconded by Mrs. Kopka, that the Board approve the minutes of the following meeting, and that the Secretary is instructed to sign same officially and affix thereto the seal of the Board:

- March 16, 2015 Special Meeting

Ayes: 5 Nays: 1 (Mr. Patterson)

Mr. Patterson asked that the meeting date on page 10, Section I be changed from February 23, 2015 to March 16, 2015.

Moved by Ms. Thomas and seconded by Mrs. Thompson, that the Board approve the minutes of the following meeting, and that the Secretary is instructed to sign same officially and affix thereto the seal of the Board:

- March 19, 2015 Action Meeting

Ayes: 5 Nays: 1 (Mr. Patterson)

Mrs. Kopka asked that the meeting date on page 14, Section I be changed from March 18, 2015 to March 19, 2015. Mr. Patterson asked that the vote on page 14, Section IV, under February 4, 2015 Special Meeting is changed from Ayes: 6 to Ayes: 4.

Moved by Ms. Thomas and seconded by Mrs. Kopka, that the Board approve the minutes of the following meeting with corrections, and that the Secretary is instructed to sign same officially and affix thereto the seal of the Board:

- February 18, 2015 Action Meeting

Ayes: 4 Nays: 2 (Mr. Patterson, Mrs. Thompson)

V. **Special Presentations**

The Board of Education and Dr. Peatross presented an Accent on Achievement award to the following individual.

- Hillwa Saleh, Saginaw Arts and Science Academy 6th grade student was recognized for winning the 2015 Light Up The City Emblem Contest. Hillwa was not present to receive the award.

VI. **Comments From the Public**

Darlean Carpenter shared concerns regarding the standardized test the students are currently taking. She stated the district went from the MEAP test to the M-Step test and that there is an opt-out option parents may not be aware of. She also shared concerns pertaining to Charter schools.

Kim Hamilton shared concerns regarding the dysfunction of the School Board. He also spoke about transparency in the District and the configuration of the School District for the 2015-16 school year.

Lisa Gordon spoke regarding the Board signing a waiver for her son to play Spring Sports at Arthur Hill High School.

Demetrius Braddock a demolition contractor shared he submitted a bid for the Webber Schools demolition but was not the low bidder. He would like the Board to consider his company for the project.

Michael Lewis II an Arthur Hill High School student and recipient of the Saginaw International Mahogany Scholarship (S.I.M.S.) invited Board Members to attend the S.I.M.S. event at the Horizon Center on Saturday, April 25, 2015.

Melinda Aimesbury-Dupuis a Carrollton High School student and recipient of the Saginaw International Mahogany Scholarship (S.I.M.S.) invited Board Members to attend the S.I.M.S. event at the Horizon Center on Saturday, April 25, 2015.

Brianna Coleman an Arthur Hill High School student and recipient of the Saginaw International Mahogany Scholarship (S.I.M.S.) invited Board Members to attend the S.I.M.S. event at the Horizon Center on Saturday, April 25, 2015.

Ivori Smith an Arthur Hill High School student and recipient of the Saginaw International Mahogany Scholarship (S.I.M.S.) invited Board Members to attend the S.I.M.S. event at the Horizon Center on Saturday, April 25, 2015.

Melba Baldwin shared concerns pertaining to the need for stability in the School District. She also spoke about the configuration of the School District for the next school year.

John Pugh asked Board Members to listen to the concerns presented by the public tonight. He also spoke regarding the Priority status of the schools.

VII. Union Comments

None

VIII. Treasurer's Report

Ms. McRae shared Ms. Knapp was not in attendance at the meeting and would bring forth the Treasurer's Report at the May Action Meeting.

IX. Reports From the Interim Superintendent

Interim Superintendent Dr. Peatross reviewed the monthly Board Report and the Human Resources/Labor Relations Report.

A. Human Resources / Labor Relations Report

Moved by Mr. Herd, and seconded by Ms. Thomas, that the Board approve the Human Resources/Labor Relations report.

the hiring of staff. Dr. Peatross shared there could be a delay in paperwork and information being shared with Ms. Brackett for the Board Packet. She will investigate this situation. Policy 5430 pertaining to the hiring of staff was further read stating *“the Board delegates to the Superintendent the authority to recruit, screen, select, and recommend the employment of all staff members to fill the positions approved in the budget, and to sign employment contracts on the Board’s behalf....”* It was suggested that Dr. Peatross inform the Board of staffing vacancies and when individuals are being hired and interviewed.

There was also extensive discussion regarding the configuration of the district for the 2015-16 school year and the 8th grade students returning to the middle school.

X. Standing Board Committee Recommendations

A. Buildings and Grounds

Ms. Thomas shared the following recommendations.

Jerome Elementary Parking Lot Expansion

Moved by Ms. Thomas and supported by Mrs. Thompson that the Board approve the expansion of the Jerome Elementary parking lot, located at 1515 Sweet Street, Saginaw, Michigan 48602. Saginaw Intermediate School District will be responsible for the project management and all costs associated with the project currently estimated at \$9,000 as presented.

Ayes: 5

Nays: 1 (Mr. Patterson)

Discussion ensued regarding the approval of the expansion to the parking lot before receiving the 3-year contract from the Saginaw Intermediate School District.

Playground Equipment

Moved by Ms. Thomas and supported by Mrs. Thompson that the Board approve the proposed agreement between the School District of the City of Saginaw located at 550 Millard Street, Saginaw, Michigan 48607 and the City of Saginaw located at 1315 S. Washington Avenue, Saginaw, Michigan 48601 in regards to playground equipment.

Discussion ensued regarding information that was missing from the contract. The contract referenced Attachment A but the attachment was missing. It was also suggested that the location of the playground equipment that the City would be receiving be listed in the contract and recommendation. Board Members decided to refer this recommendation back to the Buildings and Grounds Committee to make the necessary corrections to the contract and then bring the recommendation back to the Full Board.

Ms. Thomas withdrew the motion.

B. Community Relations

Mr. Patterson had no report.

C. Finance

Ms. Knapp was absent from the meeting.

D. Human Resources

Ms. Knapp was absent from the meeting.

E. Liaison

Ms. McRae stated that the committee will be meeting tomorrow at the City Hall at 5:30 p.m.

F. Policy and Curriculum

Mrs. Thompson shared the following recommendation and stated the next meeting date has not been determined.

Athletic Waiver for Mr. Lawrence Gordon

Moved by Mrs. Thompson and supported by Mrs. Kopka that the Board direct the Superintendent to have the Arthur Hill High School building administration sign and date, by Friday, April 17, 2015, the athletic waiver allowing Mr. Lawrence Gordon to play Spring sports.

Carried Unanimously (6-0)

Discussion ensued regarding the language in the original motion which stated “the Board orders the Arthur Hill High School administration sign the athletic waiver.” It was stated the Board directs the Superintendent. Dr. Peatross asked if Mrs. Roby could share the process which took place with this student. The Board decided against hearing from Mrs. Roby. It was suggested to vote on the waiver and pass this on to the State to make the final decision.

Motion

Moved by Mr. Patterson and supported by Mrs. Thompson to close debate.

Ayes: 4

Nays: 2 (Ms. Thomas, Ms. McRae)

XI. Old Business

Ms. Thomas stated last week the Board discussed voting on a chairperson and the process didn’t go well. She asked to open the nominations for a chairperson.

Ms. McRae opened nominations for the election of a president for the Saginaw Board of Education.

Ms. Thomas nominated Mr. Herbert Herd

Mrs. Thompson nominated Mr. Rudy Patterson

Mrs. Kopka asked Mr. Herd if he felt he knew the Policies and By-laws well enough to run the Board. Mr. Herd responded “there are seven members on the Board, do I know the School Policies well enough, I would say no.” He stated he feels Mrs. Thompson knows the policies better than anyone else on the Board. He said, “I will accept the nomination because I have said to the community we have to save this school district.” He shared he knows a lot about a lot of things and he would depend on the members of the Board to fill in the gaps so that we are successful. He said he would need to do some crash course learning so he can understand the policies.

Ms. McRae stated she feels Mr. Herd has the education and the experience in working with Boards and families to bring them together and he would be an impartial leader.

Mr. Patterson stated he appeals and that he rules the second election is out of order.

Mr. Herd asked if we don’t follow “Roberts Rules of Order” what procedure are we violating. He said he acknowledges that the election did not go well last time and he is not about creating chaos.

Mr. Patterson stated he appeals and demands the Board get a legal opinion, not from Mr. Humphreys, but from the Board attorney on the election that was faltered at the Briefing Session. He appeals that he should have the president’s seat right now. He stated there were two candidates for nominations, which ended in a 3:3 tie. He stated Ms. Knapp decided not to vote for either candidate but to speak the word “no.” She didn’t vote for either candidate. He said Mr. Herd asked for a second round of voting and was denied. He stated he also asked for a second round of voting and was also denied. At that time he said he asked Ms. Thomas since she did not open the floor up to accept the nomination prior to voting the whole process was flawed from the beginning. He said he asked Ms. Thomas if she had to step down from Vice President to run for President and that is when she started crying and moved away from the table and said she resigned and did not want the nomination for President and resigned as Vice President and said she wanted to sit as a Trustee. He stated she cannot resign if the election was not still in process and the election was still in process. He feels the moment she resigned there was only one candidate on the table with three votes, himself. He said he declares the election stands as it was and therefore he is the President.

Ms. McRae stated during this time Ms. Thomas was speaking about the Board being dysfunctional and that Mr. Patterson said he was going to allow Ms. Thomas to stand down. Ms. McRae then said there was a commotion in the

corner and people asking if we could adjourn because people were upset. She stated people were flustered and weren't thinking, so many things were going on that night. So many others things took the Board away from the election. She agreed yes the Board needs to get a legal opinion.

Mr. Patterson stated a resignation is not debatable and that Ms. McRae asked Ms. Thomas not to resign. He stated she withdrew from the election and the Vice President. He feels the election is illegal and unlawful and would like legal advice.

Ms. Thomas asked that the Board get legal advice.

Ms. McRae deferred to Dr. Peatross to contact legal counsel.

Mr. Patterson stated this is on the Board level and did not want Dr. Peatross to contact legal counsel.

Dr. Peatross informed the Board that Mr. Humphreys is the attorney who would handle this issue, but if they would like someone else please inform her. She said he is the Board's attorney.

Mrs. Thompson stated Mr. Humphreys is not the Board's attorney. He has sent her two letters and this is a form of bullying.

Mr. Herd stated Mr. Patterson and Ms. McRae are right. After Ms. Thomas resigned there was one candidate on the table. He said if the Board wants to get a legal opinion that is a yes or no question. He said either Mr. Humphreys is the Board's attorney or he is not. He stated if he has a contract stating he is the Board's attorney and Dr. Jenkins signed it and there has not been action to remove him, he has a legal contract as our attorney. We don't have to like him.

Mrs. Thompson said Mr. Humphreys is not the Board's attorney. She stated our attorney is out of Southfield, Michigan. She did not have the name of the attorney but would get the name. She said Dr. Jenkins is not authorized to obtain an attorney for the Board. She stated Mr. Humphreys has violated the Open Meetings Act by going into Closed Session for the Food Service Contract. We need someone that specializes in this.

Mr. Herd said he looked through the policies and it states we have to govern ourselves by our own policies. He asked why we are spending money on an attorney to tell us something when they have no power.

Ms. McRae said we can use MASB as a resource to assist the Board and guide us in what we need to do as a School Board. She stated we as a Board cannot agree upon anything.

Mr. Herd shared we were told MASB has no governance over the Board and neither does an attorney. If we pay them they make a recommendation. He stated we need to follow our own policies. If we are going to allow someone else to come in and make policy for us we are not in charge.

Ms. Thomas stated we are looking for an opinion of the interpretation of the policy.

Mr. Herd said the Board can vote against the interpretation because it is the Board's policy. He asked do we have another attorney under contract.

Dr. Peatross stated we have a number of attorneys and gave the names. She said Mr. Humphreys handles non-labor issues such as this. She shared she is not aware of the attorney firm Mrs. Thompson was recommending.

Mrs. Thompson stated the attorney is from Southfield, Michigan and he looked over both Dr. Jenkins and Dr. Barris' contracts. We have never used Humphreys in the past for Board level issues.

Mr. Patterson stated this is a formal verbal appeal and rules that the election tonight is out of order and the election results should stand from last week's Briefing Session. He stated this is railroading by what appears to be a majority of votes.

Ms. McRae stated the majority of the Board want a legal opinion and then move forward. We want to do what is right for the community and our children. She asked that the Board choose two attorneys to give us a legal opinion about the election that took place last week.

Motion

Moved by Ms. McRae and supported by Ms. Thomas that the Board seek a legal opinion about the election that took place last week in regards to the vote. The Board will choose two attorneys to provide the legal opinion.

Carried Unanimously (6-0)

Mrs. Thompson will submit the name of two attorneys who have worked for us in the Board in the past.

Dr. Peatross suggested Ms. Brackett compile a list of the attorneys the District has used and provide the list to the Board. The Board can choose two attorneys and we can then receive an opinion from each.

XII. New Business

A. DEP Plan

Mrs. Thompson asked that we look at the closed buildings that the District is still heating and a water meter is present. She also stated we have two principals at SCC and are paying a principal at Thompson Middle. She said SCC is not supporting itself. She stated we need to look at anything that can be a cost savings to the District so the teachers can get their prep-time back.

Dr. Peatross agreed with Mrs. Thompson and stated we do need to look at the DEP. She stated this will be discussed at the Finance committee meeting.

B. Grade Configuration for 2015-16 School Year

Mrs. Kopka shared there is an unresolved issue pertaining to the announcement the interim superintendent made about the moving of classes. She told the Board they cannot drag their feet on this issue due to Open Enrollment ending April 30. She said if the Board does not have a decision before the end of Open Enrollment on April 29 several parents will leave the District due to the Board not making a decision. She stated the Board must make a decision now.

Mrs. Kopka asked the following questions:

- Did Dr. Peatross have the right to do it?
- Can she do it?
- Are we going to allow her to do it?

If we are going to allow it, if we are going to allow her to do it, fine then we can vote and it is done. If she does it we must let the community know things are staying status quo next year and they don't have to pull their students.

Mr. Herd asked permission to rephrase Mrs. Kopka's statement. He stated he believes it has already been established that Dr. Peatross cannot make the decision. He stated he would like to ask if the Board is in agreement to go forward with Dr. Peatross' recommendation for the reconfiguration. He said that would make it the Board's decision.

Motion

Mr. Herd made the motion that the Board go with Dr. Peatross' recommendation regarding the grade reconfiguration. Ms. Thomas seconded the motion.

Mrs. Thompson stated Dr. Peatross did not present a recommendation.

Dr. Peatross made the following recommendation.

Recommendation – Grade Configuration for 2015-16 School Year

For the 2015-16 school year it is recommended that all students remain in their current buildings for the upcoming school year with the exception of Zilwaukee which would return to K-6 grade.

Mr. Herd made the motion to accept Dr. Peatross' recommendation and Ms. Thomas supported the motion.

Ayes: 3 Nays: 3 (Mrs. Kopka, Mr. Patterson, Mrs. Thompson)

Mrs. Thompson stated the Board should have had this information before now. She stated she asked Dr. Peatross to bring this to the Board for discussion and to the public so that we could get their input. She feels this is not the time, this is not fair and Zilwaukee's parents would wake up tomorrow to find out they don't have 7th and 8th grade at the school.

Mrs. Kopka shared with Mrs. Thompson that Zilwaukee's parents are already aware that there will not be 7th and 8th grade at the school next year. She stated we will be upheaving staff and students due to the 8th grade not being at the high school. She said she knows Dr. Peatross is doing this because of transportation and that we have bus stops where we pick up bus loads of students and if we are going door to door to pick up students then shame on us.

Mrs. Thompson asked if there could be a Special Meeting so that Dr. Peatross can share the reconfiguration on paper. She stated she is confused as to what Dr. Peatross shared about leaving everything in place and bring back Zilwaukee. She said she needs to see it on paper and that she is a visual person.

Dr. Peatross stated the reconfiguration has not changed since February when the recommendation was presented. It was given to Board Members on paper at that time. The reconfiguration would be as follows: PreK-6 for elementary with the exception of Handley which would be K-5. Zilwaukee would be PreK-6 like the other elementary and Thompson Middle would be 7th and 8th grade. The high schools would be 9-12 grades and the Career Center would be 10-12 grades.

Mr. Herd stated if the Board votes tonight they would be changing a previous Board's decision. He understands Mrs. Thompson wanting to see the information on paper and he has no problem with that. He said the Board keeps doing the same thing over and over again and expecting better results. He shared the Board keeps creating obstacles for themselves and stated if we get a legal opinion about everything then what is the point in having a Board. The key word is opinion, it is just an opinion.

Mrs. Thompson asked moving the 8th grade level back to the middle school would be overturning the previous Board's decision. Dr. Peatross stated yes it would be. Mrs. Thompson said she has no problem she would just like to see the recommendation. She stated she spoke with a lawyer and was told you need a two-thirds vote to overturn the decision.

Mr. Herd stated the Board corrects things that do not work out. He said he was not on the Board but that a five minute decision where the superintendent came in and spoke to one group and even building administrators told him it was not a good decision, but the Board voted to do it. We have a responsibility to change a bad idea.

Ms. Thomas stated as one of the five that voted to put the 8th graders in the building last year this community was in an uproar when it was thought that Saginaw High was going to close. The year prior it was talked about putting the 6th graders at the high schools. She stated personally she was never against putting the 6th, 7th or 8th graders in the high schools if that meant what was needed to sustain our high schools. We have community and some Board Members vehemently against 6th, 7th or 8th graders being in the high schools, because this Board was trying to save and maintain the high schools made a decision of consensus. The community did not want the 7th graders at the high schools, but they can live with the 8th graders so the Board made a decision in an effort to maintain two high schools. We have seen over the last year that this was not a good decision so as a Board we have the ability to make right the wrong.

Mr. Herd said this means we don't accept the superintendent's recommendation. He stated the Board will have to take responsibility for this decision. It will not be shame on the parents and the students it will be shame on the Board.

Mrs. Thompson asked that the parents receive a notice. She stated before the Board makes those kinds of decisions that the parents be notified so they can have input.

Ms. McRae shared the Board just made a decision that was not in the best interest of our children.

Mr. Patterson stated what is right for the District and right for the community is to not make motions that have not been investigated. He said this Board made a motion that could have passed with an Impact Study. He stated the Board had a shallow Impact Study a few months ago. We have to count the cost of building this District or tearing it down. He cautioned the Board regarding making motions that have not received an Impact Study. He stated he has a two year old and a four year old that have not stepped foot in Saginaw Public Schools. He said he is a parent in this District and his

children will not go to some of these schools under the current conditions and leadership. He said he cautioned the Board again regarding making motions that could pass, but we don't have enough information. He said he was outraged to receive the message from the superintendent making a sole decision about the reconfiguration without power or without Board authority.

Mr. Herd stated we need to correct previous mistakes. There was no Impact Study to place the 8th graders at the high school. He said he has not heard anyone say it was a good idea to have the 8th graders at the high schools. He stated to continue to perpetuate that is wrong.

Dr. Peatross stated the information shared on the Honeywell system was not new and is not something that had not been heard before. It was presented at the Public Hearing, Briefing Session and Action Meeting. Dr. Peatross asked for clarification pertaining to the vote that took place. She asked the Board to please let her know what the configuration will be so she can communicate it to parents.

Mr. Patterson stated the superintendent and secretary asked for clarification of the motion. He stated the chair is supposed to state the vote. Mr. Patterson stated the 3 to 3 vote stated the motion did not pass because a two-thirds vote was needed.

XIII. Communications/Resolutions

None

XIV. Board Comments

Mrs. Thompson thanked everyone for coming to the meeting.

Mr. Patterson spoke regarding being cut-off when speaking and the name calling toward him.

Mr. Herd thanked the public for coming out to the meetings. He stated he was not elected he was appointed but he does appreciate the public for coming because the Board does represent them. Unfortunately the Board has a lot of debate of how we will communicate to the public. Consequently he stated when people do come out they are receiving a lot of misinformation. He has the utmost confidence that we will right this District and we are in fact going to promote this District in a positive manner which will give people a reason to send their children to this District. He encouraged the audience to continue to come out and stated the Board, District and the Superintendent have the responsibility of responding to their concerns.

Mrs. Kopka thanked the audience for staying for the meeting.

Ms. McRae thanked everyone for coming and the opportunity to chair the meeting tonight. She stated it wasn't really comfortable today sitting in the chair because she is new to the Board, but whether she is new or not she is willing to learn. She asked the parents to continue to advocate for your children. She apologized and said when she ran for the Board this is not what she thought it was going to be. She apologized for the disrespect and the miscommunication and is hoping that whether she is a butterfly or not that we will start going in the right direction and we will be respectful of one another's opinions. We don't have to agree with each other, but at the end of the day we need to be thinking about what is best for our children. She stated she has to apologize for the decision made tonight for herself not the Board because she feels the Board made the wrong decision.

XV. Next Meeting

The next Board of Education Action Meeting will be held May 20, 2015 at 7:00 p.m., at the Board of Education.

XVI. Adjournment

On motion, the Action Meeting was adjourned at 10:45 p.m.

**SPECIAL MEETING
BOARD OF EDUCATION
SCHOOL DISTRICT OF THE CITY OF SAGINAW**

April 22, 2015

I. Call to Order

Acting President/Treasurer Knapp called the meeting to order at 8:13 p.m.

II. Roll Call

Special Meeting of the Board of Education, School District of the City of Saginaw, held Wednesday, April 22, 2015 in the Office of the Board, Administration Building.

Acting President/Treasurer Knapp in the Chair.

Members Present: Mr. Herd, Mrs. Kopka, Ms. McRae, Ms. Thomas, Mrs. Thompson, Mr. Patterson, Ms. Knapp

Members Absent: None

III. Approval of Agenda

Ms. Knapp asked Board Members if two additional items could be added to the agenda which were the approval of CBA 101 class for the newly appointed Board Members and the selection of a Board Retreat date in May. She asked if there were objections to the additional items.

Mr. Patterson stated he didn't necessarily object but asked what was posted. He said the information he received stated this was a one item agenda.

Ms. Knapp shared that is why this is under the approval of the agenda.

Mr. Patterson asked how the Special Meeting came about. Was it the chair's choice or the administration's recommendation?

Ms. Knapp stated this was the chair's choice. She stated she called the meeting. She stated the additional items would be added under number 5 as A and B. "A" would be the CBA 101 class for the newly appointed Board Members and "B" would be the Board Retreat date.

Ms. Knapp asked if there were objections to the additional agenda items.

Mr. Patterson stated he opposed the agenda and the Special Meeting.

Roll call was taken to approve the agenda with the adding of the two agenda items.

Ayes: 6

Nays: 1 (Mr. Patterson)

IV. Comments

Public

Melba Baldwin feels stability is not being displayed in the District. She stated she is not against or in favor of the grade configuration, but she does not like the process in which information is being shared with the public.

Kim Hamilton shared he does not like the way the community is receiving information. He asked who is in charge of the School District the Board or the Interim Superintendent.

John Pugh spoke regarding the process in which issues are being handled by the Board.

Joe Loperena stated he would like to ask the following questions.

- “What are you going to do with the 8th graders?”
- “Are we going to send a letter to the parents stating this is what we are going to do for the 2015-2016 school year and sorry for the inconvenience?”

He shared he is not a big fan of the 8th graders being in the high schools.

Karen Lawrence-Webster shared concerns regarding the posting of the Board meetings and the omission of a starting time. She also spoke about instability in the school district.

Pastor Charles Coleman shared he is representing a number of community people and stated they are disappointed in the lack of action and leadership at the table. He suggested the administration and the Board gather community people to help formulate the policies that will bring this community back to agree and will bring our school system to a point where everybody wants to be a graduate of the Saginaw Public School system.

Carolyn Guerin president of the PTO at Kempton Elementary shared she was in attendance at the last Board meeting and was embarrassed how the Board treated each other and Dr. Peatross. She also stated she has a petition to put 6th graders back into the elementary school.

Union

Edward Sprague, SEA President shared he understands we are on a tough road and there are fingers being pointed everywhere. He is hoping we can find a way to

move things forward. He stated it has been very easy for the SEA to work with the administration and the district and that they have a mutual understanding.

V. **Grade Configuration for the 2015-16 School Year**

Ms. Knapp shared an overview of the agenda topic and a few instructions with Board Members. She asked that Board Members wait to be recognized before speaking.

Ms. Knapp explained the two configurations that were listed on the back of the agenda. She shared the 2014-15 current configuration that was approved on March 4, 2014 and the 2015-16 proposed configuration. She stated the motion for the 2014-15 configuration only spoke to that school year and did not necessarily extend to the 2015-16 school year. So in the chair's opinion and ruling the Board does not need to move to reconsider anything because the proposal originally only mentions the 2014-15 school year. She stated she believes it was written that way because the District was still in the Deficit Elimination Plan and were uncertain of what would happen in 2015-16. She also stated any vote taken this evening can happen with a majority vote and the Board does not need to reconsider anything.

Mr. Patterson asked what document Ms. Knapp was referring to.

Ms. Knapp stated she was reading the minutes from the March 4, 2014 Special meeting minutes. She read the motion which states the following:

Motion

Moved by Mrs. Richardson-Vaughn and seconded by Mrs. Spates-Allen that the Board of Education accept and approve the Saginaw Public Schools Redesign Plan as presented effective for the 2014-15 school year.

Ayes: 4

Nays: 3 (Ms. Knapp, Mr. Patterson, Mrs. Thompson)

Mr. Patterson stated the verbiage is typical of Saginaw Public School Board and that it states when it will start not when it ends. It will continue until the Board takes further action to stop it, not the interim superintendent. He feels the meeting is out of order. Even though we don't use *Roberts Rule of Order* we must use some form of documentation for ruling to perform meeting activities. He stated Ms. Knapp was not at the meeting and the vote took place in her absence. He said there was a 3:3 tie and the motion failed because four votes were needed to pass.

Mr. Herd stated this is not a Dr. Peatross decision it is a Board decision. He shared whether you agree with how the minutes are kept or not it is a matter of record who voted for or against the motion. So if the public wanted to know who voted a certain way it is a matter of public record. He then stated in regards to last week's motion it did not pass nor fail there was a 3:3 split and he shared the Board needs to make a decision. He stated there does need to be a process in place for decision making and a decision does need to be made. He said his involvement within the

various schools and in meetings with the Board there has not been one person who has not stated the 8th grade should remain at Saginaw High or Arthur Hill. He shared in regards to the superintendent, have you ever seen a successful school district without a strong superintendent. So he can agree with the fact that the interim needs to be removed. We have appointed her interim for two years unless we want to renegotiate her contract. We need a strong Board and a strong superintendent and both to cooperate together.

Ms. Thomas shared with the Board how the 8th graders being moved to the high school was not a good idea and how the vote originally came about. She stated the decision to move the 8th graders into the high school was a decision made by four Board members listening to the community in an effort to keep a high school open that the community did not want closed. She admits at that time she did not want to see Saginaw High close and she did want to see Saginaw High close this year for a different reason. She asked is it fair since we know it was not a good decision to begin with to continue in this manner and that the Board needs to rectify the wrong. This was a consensus decision made in five minutes by four Board Members who said this is what we can live with so a high school does not have to close. She explained the configuration for 2015-16 and shared there would be no movement. All students would remain where they are. She also explained a high school cannot close unless the Board votes to make that decision. She shared she is in support of the 8th graders being moved back to the middle school.

Ms. McRae stated she was not on the Board when the decision was made to place the 8th graders in the high schools, but she was a parent who was against moving the 8th grade to the high school. She said correct her if she is wrong but the Board two weeks ago was in semi agreement that we made a mistake and that we need to rectify this mistake. She stated our 8th graders should not be in the high schools. We also talked about the Board stating they don't have procedures to follow but in the By-laws it says, "The Board shall be governed by rules of procedure as adopted by the Board. In no event shall *Robert's Rules of Order* be adopted by the Board. The purpose of this parliamentary procedure is to ensure the minority has rights that cannot be changed by the majority. The President or presiding officer may, however, use Robert's Rules of Order as a guideline for the conduct of meetings at his/her discretion." She stated she believes this is why we do not use *Robert's Rules of Order*.

Mrs. Kopka stated we can debate all day long about our thoughts but she would like to hear from Dr. Peatross. She would like to hear her plan the reasoning behind the configuration. She stated she cannot support a plan unless the details are laid out and as a parent she has heard the Board make lots of decisions without knowing the reasoning behind them.

Dr. Peatross explained to the Board and the audience the configuration was presented at the Public Hearing, the Briefing Session and the Board Action meeting. So to say this is the first time hearing this information is not accurate. She shared in the Deficit Elimination Plan this information was presented minus

the consolidation of the high schools. She said at no time was she proposing a configuration to be approved. She stated if you look at the history since she has been with the District there have been changes in grade level configuration that have been approved by the Board and not approved by the Board. She is willing to work with the Board but if the Board continues to move what it is she is expected to do and not do, it makes it difficult for her to work with the Board. So if the decision is made that she as the interim superintendent and chief executive officer who was hired by the Board to govern this District cannot identify what the configuration of the District will look like without bringing it to the Board for recommendation she would ask that they please identify this information in policies and she will comply. She stated she has not seen based on her experience in the District what she can or cannot do relative to the configuration so she stands behind the ability to do this. She was not hiding this information and was transparent with the configuration and the building which was recommended to close. The only change is the configuration of Zilwaukee which was listed in the recommendation as a PreK-5 and she heard from the Board indicating that parents had not chosen where they were going to send their children who would be in the 6th grade and they had siblings who would be impacted by our budget potentially. To accommodate what she heard from the Board because Zilwaukee was a PreK-9 which was changed to a PreK-8 and it didn't come before the Board to be PreK-8, she has no problem with Zilwaukee remaining a PreK-8 school. The one thing that is known about Zilwaukee is there aren't children that live in Zilwaukee that attend Zilwaukee and their enrollment continues to decline. So we did an analysis of the students that attend Zilwaukee and 60% of the students live in the City. So the District is bussing the students to Zilwaukee. She shared Mrs. Kopka stated if we were bussing students then we needed to stop but if we do that it will be a Board decision and we need to look at Board policy pertaining to transportation. She also stated there were comments about Middle School housing grades 6-8, but Thompson Middle cannot accommodate grades 6-8 the population is too large and that is why we can only house two grade levels in the building. She explained to the Board the configuration would not cause any movement. She stated her struggle is when the Board asks her to do things that others have never been held accountable to do. She shared the PowerPoint presented at the Public Hearing with this information is on the website and there is data on the PowerPoint. She explained how the 2014-15 configuration came about under the old administration. She stated there was no Impact Study to support that configuration. Students will not move under the new configuration and there will be minimum staff movement.

Mrs. Kopka stated she gave Dr. Peatross a list of questions and things she would need to see in order to vote yes to this configuration. She stated she does not have those answers and she has lots of questions.

Dr. Peatross stated it's not that we will not provide the answers to the questions but she has other responsibilities as the interim superintendent. The one thing we did not do with the 8-12 configuration was hold true to what we said we would do for the 8th graders. We did not provide a separate entrance and the 8th graders were not

included in any of the activities at the secondary level. She has heard from administration, parents and students in the buildings and the 8th graders did not feel included in anything. We are providing a disservice to our kids. She does not support the current configuration.

Mrs. Thompson shared concerns regarding the meeting. She stated the Policy states you need two-thirds vote to overturn a Board decision. The motion stated “effective” that means that is when it begins and it doesn’t end until the Board brings it back this is a Policy. She asked why parents who were being affected were not invited to the meeting. She feels the 6th and 8th grade parents should have been invited. We need to do our homework before decisions are made. She shared concerns regarding the Success Academy at SCC and Plato. She said the DEP stated the Success Academy would be removed. She says the recommendations have not been brought to the Board in a timely fashion. She spoke about the closing of Webber and the loss of students. She stated Board Members are not getting the information to make sound decisions.

Ms. Knapp stated she believes this Board is more transparent because discussion happens here. She stated with the old Boards there was no questioning and no discussion and most of the votes were 7-0. She stated this may be messy but the public is getting more information and hearing the thought process of each of the seven Board Members as to what helps “Teachers Teach and Children Learn.” She spoke about Board Organization and the calendar of events. She shared we are in the last year of the 5-year Strategic Plan and this is why one of the agenda topic is scheduling a Board Retreat. She stated she has already ruled the 2014-15 current configuration according to our meeting was presented for the 2014-15 school year and stated if anyone would like to overrule the chair a vote can take place. She shared with the new configuration none of the students would move and for the teachers to now they will be teaching in an area for which they are certified it can do wonders for students and test scores. She said the Board has made a number of decisions that needed to be done in the past but caused a lot of consternation and a lot of insecurity in our students. If we can keep the students in the same place and move adults and books she is comfortable with that. She believes the Board needs to make a decision tonight because the School of Choice and the Open Enrollment materials have advertised the new configuration and she doesn’t feel it is a bad idea. She feels there was a flawed process in coming to this but it can be fixed.

Mr. Patterson stated the superintendent said this is not new information but it doesn’t mean we were going to act on it. He asked Dr. Peatross what is the date of the Briefing Session where you presented this information and said we are going to act on this next week at the Action Meeting. He said everyone has stated for the last few weeks that the superintendent did not include the Board and he asked why not. He read Article I, Section 3 of the Board By-laws “Functions of the Board” ... *“The business of the school District shall be governed by the Board which has both direct and oversight responsibilities for the operations of the schools and the education of students. The Board's responsibilities shall include, among other things, duties in the*

areas of policy making, educational planning and appraisal, employee staffing and evaluation, fiscal management and planning, school operations and functions, public communications and judicial.” He stated at no time did the Board give authorization for a public communication to go out and say to 7000 families that your child would be moved. This was done without Board discussion and without allowing the public to come and talk and say yes or no to the configuration. He stated he has heard Board Members say it was a mistake to put the 8th graders at the high school and he asked what is your proof. He shared he voted against putting them there and told them it was a bad idea. He said the same argument he used to say don’t do it they are using to say why they should be put back. He asked to see the data that supports the superintendent’s recommendation that the 8th graders should be placed back in the middle school. He stated *“if an 8th grade child fails he or she would physically have to move to Thompson Middle School.”* He says the superintendent and some of the Board Members said this is not a move, he feels this is clearly a move. He feels the recommendation by the superintendent and the motion by Mr. Herd last week failed and he rules any action taken tonight illegal and out of order.

Mrs. Kopka stated she does not feel the grade configuration is bad because it looks good on paper, but she has seen the Board in the past pass a proposal but does not hold administration responsible when they don’t do what they say will happen. She said Dr. Peatross stated tonight that the 8th grade did not work because the administration did not do what they promised. She stated Dr. Peatross came in halfway through the school year and saw the issues and has done nothing to correct them yet. She stated she needs to see plans and how they will be implemented before she is comfortable making a decision. She shared if she is forced to make a vote tonight it will be a “no” due to not having the plan.

Mrs. Thompson shared she has concerns regarding 8th grade sports being cancelled due to academic reasons. She asked how many children have we identified that had problems and what have we put in place to ensure the students will be able to move to the next grade. She shared concerns about Thompson Middle School not having a principal. She asked why we didn’t put our energy into Thompson Middle School to make sure it is ready for the next year. She spoke about the suspension of 6th and 7th grade males at Thompson Middle School. She wants to know what we are doing to make sure these children succeed especially the African American males.

Mr. Herd stated we have heard a lot of discussion and we will never satisfy everyone. He hopes we are keeping track of the people who want to help. He stated the 8th grade students at both schools are feeling disenfranchised. He shared all of the information has been presented tonight regarding the grade configuration. He says the Board needs to make a decision, this is a Board decision.

Mr. Patterson made the following motion.

Motion

Moved by Mr. Patterson and supported by Mrs. Thompson that the Board seek legal counsel on the outcome of the Board vote last week before we proceed.

Ayes: 3

Nays: 4 (Mr. Herd, Ms. McRae, Ms. Thomas, Ms. Knapp)

Ms. McRae stated she is respecting Board Member's opinion but she believes we are forgetting what we are here for is the children. We are forgetting the most important asset that we have is the children. She stated no one on the Board will be 100% in favor of any motion but she truly believes we need to put the children first and we are not putting them first.

Mrs. Kopka asked if the Board votes to go with the legal advice can she still email Dr. Peatross her questions on the grade configuration.

Dr. Peatross said yes.

Mr. Herd made the following motion.

Motion

Moved by Mr. Herd and supported by Ms. Thomas that the Board support and adopt the motion proposed by the Interim Superintendent regarding the grade configuration for the 2015-16 school year.

Ayes: 4

Nays: 3 (Mrs. Kopka, Mr. Patterson, Mrs. Thompson)

2015-16 ConfigurationHigh School

Arthur Hill High School	Grades 9-12
Saginaw High School	Grades 9-12
Saginaw Arts and Sciences Academy	Grades 6-12
Saginaw Career Complex (Success Academy 9 th)	Grades 9-12

Middle School

Thompson Middle School	Grades 7-8
Zilwaukee School	Grades PreK-8

Elementary

Handley Elementary	K-5
Arthur Eddy	PreK-6
Chester Miller	PreK-6
Herig	PreK-6
Jessie Rouse	PreK-6
Kempton	PreK-6

Loomis	PreK-6
Merrill Park	PreK-6
Stone	PreK-6

Mrs. Thompson asked Dr. Peatross to provide her the suspension information for Thompson Middle School.

Mr. Patterson stated Thompson Middle School is a mess. *We don't have a full-time principal at Thompson Middle School.* He asked for the cost to clean the building from the food fight. He shared concerns pertaining to the Saginaw Career Complex having two administrators.

VI. Authorization for Board Participation in Workshop/Conference

Moved by Ms. Thomas, and seconded by Mrs. Thompson, in accord with Section 165.B. of the State School Aid Act, which requires prior Board authorization for reimbursement of Board Members incurring expenses while on official duty business of the Board of Education, the following is recommended for approval:

For up to 2 Board Members to attend:

- The MASB CBA 101, Saturday, May 16, 2015, in Lansing, MI -- estimated costs: class registration \$190.00; and mileage \$80.50 for an estimated total expenditure per board member of \$270.50.

Carried unanimously (7-0)

VII. Board Retreat Date

Ms. Knapp asked Board Members to look at their calendars and discussion ensued regarding the dates, times, time limits on subjects and possible facilitators for the Board Retreat.

Ms. Knapp suggested June 6th as a possible Board Retreat date. She will get back with Board Members regarding possible facilitators and asked Board Members to email her their suggestions.

VIII. Board Comments

Mr. Herd shared he hopes that every time we have a personal disagreement the Board does not want to get a legal opinion. That is very costly and unnecessary and he stated if we have to get an attorney about everything we disagree on we do not need a Board. He stated in the end we still have to make a decision.

Mrs. Thompson stated we get a legal attorney to keep us out of court. She feels there is nothing wrong with getting a legal opinion.

Ms. Knapp stated she would get the legal opinion on the motion.

Mr. Herd asked what we are getting a legal opinion on.

Ms. Knapp stated that is correct we do not need a legal opinion because the motion failed.

Ms. Knapp thanked everyone for listening to each other this evening and she thanked the audience for staying for the meeting.

IX. Adjournment

On motion, the Special Meeting was adjourned at 10:25 p.m.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

A. **Information Regarding Administrative Recommendations**

B. **Grant Awards**

C. **Other Information and Recognition**

1. **Elementary Division**

Kempton Elementary

Kempton 1st graders enjoyed their visit to Butman Fish Library. The children enjoyed listening to stories, a puppet show and learning about getting a library card. Students were able to read books of choice with the adult chaperones and the teachers before enjoying refreshments with the Friends of the Library group!

IX. REPORTS FROM THE INTERIM SUPERINTENDENT

A. Human Resources / Labor Relations

The Interim Superintendent of Schools submits the following professional appointments for your approval:

- Elementary Teachers – None
- Secondary Teachers – None
- Administrators – None
- Educational Support Group (ESG)
 - Lobby, Kelly A. effective March 16, 2015
Thompson Middle School/Truancy Officer
 - Merrill, Cheryl effective March 16, 2015
Elementary Schools/Truancy Officer

We are further sharing the following items with members of the Board of Education:

- Teacher Resignations – None
- Teacher Retirements
 - Drain, Shirley effective April 30, 2015
Leave of Absence
- Administrative Resignations – None
- Administrative Retirements – None
- Educational Support Group (ESG) Resignations – None
- Educational Support Group (ESG) Retirements – None

Moved by _____ Seconded by _____

XI. OLD BUSINESS

A. SISD Board Election

Recommendation to Adopt and Approve the Resolution

The members of the Board designates **Board Member** as its representative to serve on the 2015 electoral body responsible for electing members to the Saginaw Intermediate School District Board of Education and **Board Member** as alternate representative in the event the designated representative is unable to attend.

The members of the Board supports candidate **Richard Burmeister** for a position on the Saginaw Intermediate School District Board of Education for a term of **six years**.

The Board directs its representative **Board Member** to vote for candidate **Richard Burmeister** at least on the first ballot taken at the June 1, 2015 election.

Moved by _____ Seconded by _____

B. Saginaw Library Board Member Re-appointment

The Saginaw Board of Education recommends that Saginaw Library Board member Ms. Pamela Clark, whose term expires on June 30, 2015, is re-appointed for an additional four-year term, which will expire on June 30, 2019.

Moved by _____ Second by _____

XII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Authorization for Board Participation in Workshop / Conference

In accord with Section 165.B. of the State School Aid Act, which requires prior Board authorization for reimbursement of Board Members incurring expenses while on official duty business of the Board of Education, the following is recommended for approval:

For up to 3 Board Members to attend:

- The MASB CBA 104 and/or CBA 214 Saturday, June 6, 2015, in Lansing, MI -- estimated costs: class registration \$90.00 each; and mileage \$80.50 for an estimated total expenditure per board member of \$260.50.

Moved by _____ Seconded by _____



Strategic Plan for School Improvement 2014-2015

Priority Goal #1: The District will deliver rigorous, relevant and flexible academic programs that are globally competitive and cultivate a culture of college bound or post-secondary learners.

Priority Goal #2: The District will operate in a fiscally responsible and transparent manner.

Priority Goal #3: The District along with its Partners In Education (PIE), will provide quality customer service, safety, and student success.