



Board Report

Board of Education

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

Nathaniel B. McClain
Superintendent

BOARD WORKSHOP

April 13, 2016
6:00 PM

ACTION MEETING

April 20, 2016
7:00 PM

School District of the City of Saginaw
SAGINAW Board OF EDUCATION WORKSHOP
April 13, 2016 * 6:00 PM**
Board Room – Administration Building
550 Millard Street, Saginaw, Michigan 48607 * 989-399-6500**

AGENDA

- Public Comment
- MASB Board Facilitated Workshop
- Other

School District of the City of Saginaw
BOARD OF EDUCATION ACTION MEETING
April 20, 2016 * 7:00 PM**

Board of Education, 550 Millard Street, Saginaw, MI 48607 * 989-399-6500**

AGENDA

President's Call to Order

Pledge of Allegiance

1. ATTENDANCE
2. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS
 - A. Student Ambassador Reports
3. PUBLIC COMMENT
4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
 - A. March 16, 2016 Special Meeting
 - B. March 16, 2016 Action Meeting
 - C. March 29, 2016 Special Meeting
5. TREASURER'S REPORTS
 - A. March Financial Reports
 - B. March Report of Claims
6. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT
 - A. Human Resources
7. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS
8. OLD BUSINESS
9. NEW BUSINESS
10. COMMUNICATIONS/RESOLUTIONS
11. FINAL BOARD COMMENTS
12. NEXT MEETING
 - Action Meeting – May 18, 2016 at 7:00 PM
13. OTHER
14. ADJOURNMENT

School District of the City of Saginaw
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
550 Millard Street, Saginaw, MI 48607
March 16, 2016

President Thomas called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

The Pledge of Allegiance was taken.

1. ATTENDANCE

Board of Education:	President Thomas	Present
	Vice President Thompson	Present
	Secretary McRae	Present
	Treasurer Knapp	Present
	Trustee Herd	Present
	Trustee Kopka	Present
	Trustee Patterson	Present

Central Administration Staff:

Superintendent McClain	Present
Assistant Superintendent Roberts	Present
Chief Financial Officer Johnson	Present

2. Mrs. Mary Kerwin, MASB

Prior to the call, Mrs. Kerwin provided some biographical information about State Superintendent Whiston. He was a long-serving Board of Education member and also a superintendent of a large district and well understands the challenges the leadership team faces. She also re-capped the series of training workshops which began with a six-hour Roles and Responsibilities workshop in early November followed by best practices training in subsequent workshops. She shared a concern that the training does not seem to translate into changes in Board governance. The up-to-six month training was designed for a quick turnaround.

M. Thompson – said the Board must do their part, but also do their research as well.

President Thomas - stated that she hopes the board can demonstrate great governance and can continue to control their own destiny.

3. Conference Call With State Superintendent, Brian Whiston

The conference call with State Superintendent Whiston was received at 6:40 PM by President Thomas. Mr. Whiston introduced himself and stated that he appreciated having this opportunity to speak to board members. He stated that the primary goal of the school district's superintendent is to raise student achievement. The primary goal of the board is to adopt policy. The board then steps back and allows the Superintendent to run the district. This is how a high functioning district runs itself and is successful. You raise student achievement and protect yourself from lawsuits.

He further explained that in the State of Michigan, there are two models. One is the SRO Model, which is to appoint a CEO to run the district. The CEO will have authority over the board and Superintendent. The second model is one that Superintendent Whiston would like to see

happen, which is a partnership with the MASB Director on board, along with MASA, MAISA, with the lead coming from Mr. McClain, which will allow him to be successful and move the district forward.

In terms of the partnership model, Mr. Whiston is hoping that this model is the one selected by Saginaw Public Schools. If the board does not work within a policy based format, setting goals and raising student achievement and it becomes evident this model does not work in Saginaw, he will have no choice but to contact Governor Snyder. Mr. Whiston would like to see this avoided at all cost. He stated that he has spoken with Superintendent McClain, Board President Thomas and the partners. It is important that the board knows what their role entails, and allows Superintendent McClain to run the district and move it forward.

R. A. Knapp – said it appears from what Superintendent Whiston is stating is that the board has been given a directive. The school district to the immediate east of us was given a directive and chose not to follow it. We now have part of their property and part of their schools, along with some of their students. She said she understands the severity and the seriousness of this situation. She agreed with Mr. Whiston that the district must update the policies. The policies haven't been updated since 2006. As board members, we do not have the time, nor are there sufficient employees in the district who could research and take care of the policies. She believes that hiring a company to do that would be a plus for the district.

T. McRae – informed Mr. Whiston that NEOLA, Inc., has been invited to present at a committee meeting on April 6, at which time the board will be discussing contracting with this company in terms of updating the district's policies.

In terms of operations, Mr. Whiston asked the board if they are operating in a way where the Superintendent is bringing the board recommendations, along with providing reports to the board on how Administration is doing in terms of achieving the goals set forth between the board and the superintendent. Is that happening?

A. Thomas - confirmed that was how the board and Superintendent were operating.

M. Thompson – explained that she had a problem with NEOLA when she believed someone contacted NEOLA without board approval. The contract expired on December 31, 2015. She wouldn't approve a contract that was expired. She indicated that the board had only one opportunity to meet with NEOLA and she said her concern was – “buyer beware.”

In closing, Mr. Whiston stated that he would be checking in with M. Kerwin, the Board President, and Superintendent McClain to see which way this goes.

A. Thomas – thanked Superintendent Whiston for taking time to conference in with the board, and the call was ended at 7:01 PM.

H. Herd – stated that when he hears the word “partnership,” to him it meant that there are two parties that agree to work together. Somehow, if one of the parties is making a lot of dictations, a lot of edicts, and a lot of “you will do...,” he said in his mind, that ceases to be a partnership. He also asked questions about the six month time frame, demonstrated change, and the assessments.

4. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Two members of the public offered comment: Mr. Pugh and Mr. Loperena.

5. **OTHER**

No business.

This meeting adjourned at 7:15 PM.

President Thomas announced that the Action Meeting would take place at 7:20 PM.

School District of the City of Saginaw
ACTION MEETING MINUTES
550 Millard Street, Saginaw, MI 48607
March 16, 2016

President Thomas called the meeting to order at 7:20 PM

The Pledge of Allegiance was taken.

1. ATTENDANCE

Board of Education:	President Thomas	Present
	Vice President Thompson	Present
	Secretary McRae	Present
	Treasurer Knapp	Present
	Trustee Herd	Absent
	Trustee Kopka	Present
	Trustee Patterson	Present

Central Administration Staff:

Superintendent McClain	Present
Assistant Superintendent Roberts	Present
Chief Financial Officer Johnson	Present

Trustee Herd entered the meeting at 7:22 PM.

2. CHANGES TO THE BOARD AGENDA - None

3. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

A. Celebrating Saginaw's Cultures Art Show award winners were recognized.

- Miss Sophia Zaragoza, Gr. 5, Handley, Best of School and Best of Elementary - 3D Functional
- Miss Christina Palomo, Gr. 7, Thompson Middle School – Non-Functional
- Miss Lindsay Nicol, Gr. 8, Best of Middle School – SASA - Drawing
- Mr. Cruz Garcia, Gr. 12, Best of High School – SASA - Painting
- Ms. Jasmine Maurer, Gr. 10, Arthur Hill, Best of High School - Drawing

B. Student Ambassadors presented their information.

- Mr. Michael Breedlove and Mr. Christian Garrett, Arthur Hill High School
 - ✓ Dr. Desmond Daniels hosted a workshop on Wednesday, March 9, regarding Parent Engagement with their Children.
 - ✓ AHHS's Robotics Team competition will occur on March 17-19, and in Lansing on March 25-26, 2016. Please come and support their teams!
 - ✓ The AHHS students that were competing in the NOBCHHe Science Competitions at SVSU on March 12 all placed.
 - ✓ "Foundation to Finish" seminar will be held for all incoming ninth grade students at TMS.
 - ✓ Mr. Breedlove and Mr. Garrett have been collaborating with SVSU and students at SHS and SASA on a community event that will be recognized at SVSU's Spring Fling event. This will be a summer event. Additional

information will follow. Each high school will be tasked with creating a project that will be selected by SVSU. The schools must show how they produced the most community involvement.

- ✓ AHHS donated \$867 to the American Cancer Society last October. This event will be conducted again next week by hosting a Talent Show on March 24th. Tickets are \$2. All proceeds will be donated to the American Cancer Society for cancer research. Mr. Breedlove and Mr. Garrett encouraged everyone to attend and support this effort.
- Keyvin Reyes and Joedel Lowe, Saginaw High School
 - ✓ Congratulated the SHS Boys Basketball team for winning the Districts.
 - ✓ Real Talk Youth Symposium 2016, sponsored by Health Delivery, Inc., will be held on March 31, 2016 from 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM.
 - ✓ 5K Walk, "Jumping High for Health," is being sponsored by the National Honor Society along with their School Council. There is a tentative date of April 30, 2016.
 - ✓ SHS Health/Career Information Fair will tentatively be held on April 29, 2016.
 - ✓ The SHS National Honor Society Induction Ceremony will be held on May 6, 2016.
 - ✓ SAT/PSAT Prep will be occurring every Monday and Wednesday from 3:00-4:00 PM each week until the testing date.
 - ✓ Thompson Middle School's eighth grade students visited SHS on March 24, from 8:00-11:00 AM, showcasing the best of SHS. The SHS Student Council members provided the students with a school tour and lunch.
 - ✓ Senior Projects "Wrap-Up" will occur on May 1, 2016.
- Lauren Kaylor, SASA:
 - ✓ February 27: Middle school Math/Science concentration students competed in the annual Science Fair. Forty-five of the 137 participating students have been invited to the next level of competition at the Flint Science Fair. Winning students at that fair will have an opportunity to qualify to participate at the international level at ISEF that takes place in May 2016.
 - ✓ In early March, middle and high school Global Studies students competed in Michigan History Day at the building level. The winning high school students have an opportunity to move on to the next level of competition. The Michigan History Day Regional Competition will be held at the Delta Planetarium on March 12. A total of 11 high school students will compete in the group division.
 - ✓ March 10: the SASA Middle School Spelling Bee team competed at SVSU.
 - ✓ March 11: high school students competed at the Band Festival Competition in Frankenmuth, Michigan.
 - ✓ On March 19, high school students will compete in the High School Solo Ensemble Competition in Lapeer, Michigan.
 - ✓ Also on March 19, Mr. Aide will take a group of students to Delta College for a middle school math competition.
 - ✓ On March 23 and 24, the high school Language Arts concentrations will go to the annual Higgins Lake Writing Retreat. At this retreat, students share

and learn new and creative writing strategies, and hear and learn from published authors.

- Te'arijia Thomas, SCC Student Ambassador
 - ✓ The Saginaw Career Complex participates in a variety of academic competitions called Career and Technical Organizations (CTSO's). Approximately 150 students have competed in BPA, HOSA, SkillsUSA and ProStart. The competitions occur at different times throughout the year. Most recently, students at SCC competed in Regional SkillsUSA in a variety of different program competitions at Delta College, SVSU and Bay Arenac Skills Center. SCC students did a great job. State Qualifiers occurred in the following programs: Graphic Arts, Auto Collision and Repair, Pre-Engineering, Law and Criminal Justice, Careers in Education, and Welding. Typically, to be a State Qualifier, a student must finish first, second or third in Regional's. Congratulations to Tyler Stroup who finished first in the region in Auto Collision, and Jarrid Weighman who finished first in the Regional Culinary competition.
 - ✓ On Monday, February 29th SCC students visited Davenport University in Midland and participated in three mock interviews to hone their interviewing skills and receive tips from over 130 local business and industry leaders. In between the two sessions, Mr. Kevin Gregory provided a workshop in Leadership for staff and community leaders. Students were expected to dress professionally and bring their portfolios, which is a required activity at SCC, to present to business and industry leaders. Davenport University in Midland, Sodexo, Team One Credit Union and Target all sponsored and donated resources and funding for this event. For that Saginaw Career Center was very grateful. Saginaw Career Center would also like to acknowledge and thank their staff members, in particular, Mrs. Stuber, Mr. Smith, Mrs. Votruba, Mr. Filepek and Mrs. Johnson. A video of this event will be appearing on their website.
 - ✓ The SCC Robotics Team (Team Phoenix), will be competing in a District "First Stronghold" competition in Midland, March 18-19. Some of the Team Phoenix members from Saginaw Career Complex include Alex Prenzler, Zack Rossiter, and Jerardo Hernandez from Heritage High School, Sean Hudecek from Swan Valley High School, Joel Olivares from Hemlock High School, and Vincent Sanchez from Saginaw High School. There are also includes 7 or 8 students on Team Phoenix that do not attend Saginaw Career Complex.

4. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Two members of the public offered comment: Mr. Pugh and Mr. Loperena.

5. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE FEBRUARY MEETINGS**

Moved by R.A. Knapp and seconded by M. Thompson, that the Board approves the minutes of the following meeting, and that the Secretary is instructed to sign same officially and affix thereto the seal of the Board:

- February 10, 2016 Board Workshop

Trustee Knapp requested that the minutes reflect R. **A.** Knapp rather than R. Knapp.

Trustee Patterson informed the chair he would abstain from the vote due to his being absent at this meeting.

President Thomas informed Trustee Patterson that was not an appropriate reason for abstaining from the vote on the minutes.

Trustee Patterson stated that he informed the chair that he was abstaining prior to the vote, which he stated was a requirement for abstention. If not provided that right, then he said he would vote no.

Ayes: 6 Nays: 1 (R. Patterson)

Moved by R. A. Knapp and seconded by M. Thompson, that the Board approves the minutes of the following meeting, and that the Secretary is instructed to sign same officially and affix thereto the seal of the Board:

- February 17, 2016 Action Meeting

Trustee Knapp requested that the minutes reflect R. **A.** Knapp rather than R. Knapp.

Ayes: 7 Nays: 0

Trustee Patterson asked the Chair who gave authorization to reformat the minutes? There is a different look to the minutes. The typeset is different, but he said that was OK. He further asked who authorized the change in the layout of the minutes?

President Thomas - stated that she wasn't aware of an authorization for a change in the layout.

Trustee Patterson - asked if the Chair had a discussion with the secretary who takes the minutes?

President Thomas - replied that she hadn't had a discussion with the secretary.

Trustee Patterson - asked if the secretary had opted on her own to omit board comments? He asked the Chair if she had approved the minutes of the meeting?

President Thomas - confirmed that she had and stated that she didn't have an issue with the minutes.

Trustee Patterson - asked the Chair to turn to page 11 and then asked her if the minutes looked any different to her?

President Thomas - indicated again that she didn't have a problem with the minutes.

Trustee Patterson – again asked if the Chair had given authorization to change the format of the minutes.

President Thomas - stated that she did not give authorization to change the format of the minutes.

Trustee Patterson - stated that board comments are not included in the book. For years and years, probably before you were born, board comments have always been included in this book. How come? If you didn't do it and you stated that you didn't authorize it to be done, then who is giving the authorization? Who is running this district? That has been the problem in this district for some time.

President Thomas - stated that if Trustee Patterson had any questions or needed any corrections, now would be the time to make those statements.

Trustee Patterson - said he was not pleased with the minutes. He believes the board has a right to know and receive an answer as to who changed the minutes. If you didn't authorize the minutes, then it was either the Superintendent or the secretary that changed them on their own. His issue with that particular part of the minutes is research for everyone; it is history. Often, the media will FOIA our paperwork so they can read for themselves what happened in the meeting. The minutes reflected today are worthless. There is nothing for them to FOIA anymore. There is no "meat" as to what exactly happened. There's no mention of the board comments. It's been removed and this has not happened in years. He further stated that it is an offense and a slap in the face to the Chair's authority and also to the board who did not have any say so. Seven board members are sitting here without knowledge. You know who did it! You know Mrs. Turner typed the minutes! Who gave her the authority to do it? He would like board comments to be reflected in the minutes.

Trustee Kopka - stated that when she was thinking of running for a seat on the board, she often referred to the minutes.

Trustee Patterson said he would approve the minutes with the addition of board comments.

Moved by M. Thompson and seconded by R. A. Knapp that the Board approves the minutes of the following meeting, and that the Secretary is instructed to sign same officially and affix thereto the seal of the Board:

- February 26, 2016 Special Meeting

Trustee Knapp - requested that the minutes reflect R. **A.** Knapp rather than R. Knapp.

Ayes: 7

Nays: 0

6. TREASURER'S REPORTS

A. Financial Reports

Moved by R. A. Knapp and seconded by M. Thompson, that the February Report of the Treasurer be received and filed.

Ayes: 6

Nays: 1 (R. Patterson)

B. Report on Claims

Moved by R. A. Knapp and seconded by M. Thompson, that the February Report on Claims be received and filed.

Ayes: 6

Nays: 1 (R. Patterson)

7. **REPORTS FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT**

A. The Superintendent presented the following **Recommendation for Action**:

Rejection of the Counter-Offer Proposal for Buena Vista High School

Moved by A. Thomas and supported by M. Thompson that the Board of Education rejects the counter-offer proposal of \$1.8 million from Michigan Development LLC (Pansophic) for the sale of Buena Vista High School.

Ayes: 6

Nays: 1 (B. Kopka)

Trustee Patterson – the representative from Pansophic attended a committee meeting recently. It appeared that he was upset when he tried to make phone calls to the Superintendent, but there was no response. While that conversation didn't take place prior to the committee meeting, the Superintendent spoke to the representative at the committee meeting and provided a legitimate answer. R. Patterson asked Superintendent McClain, "Other than his offer for \$1.8 million, what would he have said to you [N. McClain] had you taken his phone call?"

Superintendent McClain – replied that he's not sure what the representative would have discussed with him. In a conversation with Mr. Kujawa, from Century 21, the representative was resolute in the \$1.8 million offer, so there wasn't much that could have been said. It was the day of or the following afternoon before the committee meeting that this gentleman reached out to Superintendent McClain.

Trustee Patterson – Century 21 works on behalf of the district. When the realtor gave us the final offer from Michigan Development LLC, that was it; nothing else could be said.

Trustee Kopka – Do we have plans for this property if we are not going to sell it to Michigan Development LLC for \$1.8 million? After September when the State stops reimbursing us for the money spent at Buena Vista, how much will it cost the district? How much is it costing the district for security?

Superintendent McClain – indicated there were no immediate plans for this property. The general overall maintenance for this property is approximately \$26,000 per year.

T. Johnson - explained that the Buena Vista site is costing the district about \$26,000 per year and the funding source is the 20g funds.

Trustee Kopka – asked the reason for not selling this property to Michigan Development LLC? If we are not going to use this property and it will cost us money every year, why not sell it?

Superintendent McClain – responded that the \$1.8 million offer was laughable; the offer was entirely too low.

Trustee Kopka – made the observation that at last night’s Finance Meeting, there were some people who opposed spending \$2,800 on ChromeBooks, but then will oppose the sale of the Buena Vista property at \$1.8 million and knowingly spend \$26,000 on maintenance for this property.

Trustee McRae – reminded everyone they must look at the long range view. If this company opens and takes 100 or 150 of our students, the \$1.8 million is nothing. Perhaps this company should have countered a little higher. They will take some of our students. In reality we would not make a profit off the sale of the Buena Vista property.

Trustee Patterson – asked how much money is in the 20g fund?

Superintendent McClain – stated that initially there was \$2.5 million. According to T. Johnson, there is approximately \$1.7 to \$1.8 million left.

Trustee Patterson – asked if 20g funds were used to open the Henry Doerr Early Childhood Center?

T. Johnson – explained that 20g funds were used to assist with the opening of the Henry Doerr Early Childhood Center.

B. Human Resources / Labor Relations

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

- **Ancillary Staff** - None
- **Elementary Teachers**
 Wysopal, Kaitlyn effective January 15, 2016
 Grade 3/Zilwaukee School
- **Secondary Teachers**
 Julian, Danielle effective February 8, 2016
 English/Arthur Hill High School
- **Special Education Teachers** - None
- **Administrators** – None
- **Educational Support Group (ESG)** - None

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

- **Teacher Resignations**
 Boyle, Benjamin effective February 5, 2016
 Social Studies/Saginaw High School

Pool, Marissa effective February 26, 2016
Grade 5/Kempton School

- **Teacher Retirements**

Cooper-Schexnaidre, Lucille effective June 30, 2016
Kindergarten/Loomis School

Dixon, Denise effective June 30, 2016
Social Worker/District

Friedeberg, Martina effective June 30, 2016
Grade 1/Kempton School

Graham, Kathleen effective June 30, 2016
Grade 2/Kempton School

Harper, Deborah L. effective June 30, 2016
Kindergarten/Kempton School

Knack, Susan L. effective June 30, 2016
Kindergarten/Chester Miller

LaFlair, Linda effective June 30, 2016
Grade 1/Herig School

Millar, Lisa effective June 30, 2016
Social Studies/SASA

Mortimer, Christine effective June 30, 2016
Title I/Kempton School

Mudd, Mary effective June 30, 2016
Mathematics/Arthur Hill High School

- **Administrative Resignations** – None

- **Administrative Retirements** – None

- **Educational Support Group (ESG) Resignations**

Carter, Dedrea effective January 22, 2016
Pre-K Family Advocate/Henry Doerr ECC

- **Educational Support Group (ESG) Retirements** – None

Moved by A. Thomas and Supported by M. Thompson to approve the Human Resources/Labor Relations report as presented by Superintendent McClain.

AYES: 6 NAYS: 1 (R. Patterson)

Trustee Knapp – would like to see the district plan something to honor this year’s retirees.

Trustee Patterson – made note of the number of teachers leaving the district, particularly at Kempton School. He hopes conversations are being held with staff to find out the reason why teachers are leaving our district.

- C. Superintendent McClain presented to the board the Executive Summary of the Second Quarterly Report for Priority Schools – 2015-16 SY. He informed the board on the following information: Leadership Teams, Instructional and Support staff, teacher collaboration, analysis of the newly adopted Michigan State Science Standards, an upcoming conference call with MDE officials, and how the district’s Priority Planning Team will continue to meet to discuss the value that Student Support Teams have on modeling expectations and practices which are consistent with delivering quality instruction through high levels of student engagement.

In terms of graduation rates, N. McClain provided the board with graphs outlining the District and State Five Year Trend, as well as each high school’s Five Year Trend.

8. **BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS**

A. Finance

R. A. Knapp stated that the Finance Committee met on March 15, 2016, with the following **Recommendations for Action:**

Portable Digital Radios

Moved by R. A. Knapp and supported by M. Thompson that the board approves the purchase of Motorola portable radios with rapid charges, belt clips, antenna, and lithium ion batteries from ComSource, Inc., in the amount of \$45,798.00 using At-Risk funds.

Ayes: 7

Nays: 0

B. Liaison

R. Patterson reported that the Liaison Committee meeting scheduled for Friday, March 11, 2016, was cancelled. The next meeting of the Liaison Committee will take place on Thursday, April 21, at 5:30 PM at the County Administration Building, 111 S. Michigan Avenue, in the 2nd Floor Conference Room.

9. **OLD BUSINESS**

No business.

10. **NEW BUSINESS**

Moved by A. Thomas and supported by M. Thompson that the Board approve the re-appointment of Ann Schneider Branch to the Saginaw Library Board for an additional four-year term. Her term will expire on June 30, 2020.

Ayes: 7

Nays: 0

Ms. Ann Schneider Branch attended today’s meeting. She provided the following information:

- Class trips to the library are still being held!
- Tutoring Tables are available for afterschool tutoring sessions.

- Library Board Meetings are held the first Wednesday of each month.
- Summer Reading Programs are available this summer.
- Library books can now be checked out online.
- Some of the issues libraries are facing include: Internet/resources, and making sure the libraries remain relevant to the needs of students and the public

Trustee Knapp – made an observation that Ms. McCardle is working out very well.

Trustee Patterson – indicated he was pleased with the presentation by Ms. Schneider-Branch.

11. COMMUNICATIONS/RESOLUTIONS

No business.

12. FINAL BOARD COMMENTS

Trustee Knapp – indicated she was pleased with the reports from the student ambassadors. She asked everyone to keep the families of three of our past/present employees who recently passed away, in our thoughts and prayers.

President Thomas – also enjoyed the presentations made by students at today’s meeting. She said she is hoping the Saginaw High Trojans will win tonight’s basketball game.

13. NEXT MEETING

The Board of Education will hold an Action Meeting on April 20, 2016, at 7:00 p.m. This meeting will take place at the Board of Education, 550 Millard Street, Saginaw, MI 48607.

14. OTHER

15. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

School District of the City of Saginaw
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
550 Millard Street, Saginaw, MI 48607
March 29, 2016

President Thomas called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM.

The Pledge of Allegiance was taken.

1. ATTENDANCE

Board of Education:	President Thomas	Present
	Vice President Thompson	Absent
	Secretary McRae	Present
	Treasurer Knapp	Present
	Trustee Herd	Present
	Trustee Kopka	Present
	Trustee Patterson	Absent

Central Administration Staff:

Superintendent McClain	Present
------------------------	---------

2. Public Comments

Members of the public offered comment: Mr. Hamilton, Mr. Pugh, Mrs. Carpenter, Ms. Baldwin, and Mr. Loperena.

3. MDE Partnership Model

B. Whiston - clarified for everyone his conversation with the board during the conference call held on March 16, 2016. He agreed that it brought on a lot of misconceptions.

In terms of closing Saginaw High School, B. Whiston stressed that he has never been involved in any conversations regarding a possible closure and has never supported the closure of the school. That decision rests with the School Reform Office (SRO). The SRO is appointed by the Governor.

In terms of appointing someone to come in and run the District, B. Whiston pointed out that he doesn't have the authority to appoint that person; the Governor makes that decision.

B. Whiston explained the two models in which the board must decide which one they wish to move forward. The first is the Partnership Model (MASB, MDE, MASA, MAISA, SISD), which B. Whiston controls and would like to see implemented. The second is the SRO Model through the Governor's Office, who could appoint a CEO to run the District.

B. Whiston asked, "What can the partnership do to make Saginaw Public School District successful? What services do you want from us to make Saginaw successful?"

He was very clear with everyone. He recognizes the good job that Administration, the teachers and staff has done, but student performance is not where it should be. The performance of Saginaw Schools is not acceptable! That being said, the question becomes, "What do we do about it?" B. Whiston's philosophy is to create a Partnership Model where he meets with the Board President and the Superintendent to discuss how he can assist the District. What services does the district want from its partners to become successful?

He did insist that MASB provide a mentor for the board (M. Kerwin). Perhaps there should be a “restart” on this model. He further stated that he would like a signed agreement that outlines what all parties will agree to do moving forward.

Superintendent Whiston was clear, he doesn't want to make decisions on behalf of the Superintendent and the board, but would like to be a partner. We must identify the issues and decide what can be done to solve the problems.

In referencing his March 16 phone call with the board, B. Whiston informed everyone that student achievement is not where it needs to be. He further reinforced that the board's role is 1) to adopt policy, 2) appoint a superintendent, 3) approve a budget, 4) have the superintendent help the board set goals and the direction for the district, and 5) have the superintendent report back to the board on how the district is doing in terms of reaching those goals.

The board must understand that the major role of the board is to adopt and align policies to state laws and procedures within the district. The current board policies are very out of date and must be addressed. How will the board update the policies and procedures? One recommendation was to work with the company, NEOLA, to assist the district in updating the policies. If the board chooses to go with a different company, they must make sure they align the policies with federal, state and local laws, that's fine with him. The board has to do something to bring their board policies up to date, and NEOLA is a recognized company at providing that service.

Student achievement is what we are all about. What are we going to do to make students successful?

B. Whiston was candid with the board. He stated that this district has gone through too many superintendents for it to be successful. We must all work together to make sure N. McClain is successful in his role as superintendent; he must be allowed to lead this district.

While B. Whiston does not have the authority to come in and take over the district, there is another party that could state, “Based on the academic performance of Saginaw Schools right now, the SRO could make the decision to close Saginaw High or take over the district and appoint a CEO.

It was not B. Whiston's intention to sound threatening during his phone call on March 16, but to acknowledge the two options for the school district – a Partnership Model (to move the district forward), or a model developed by the SRO (take over under current law).

In closing, B. Whiston was very clear with everyone in attendance, if the board and community doesn't show improvement, the Governor and the SRO will at some point decide that if test scores don't improve, or if there continues to be a revolving door on the position of superintendent, the SRO could come in and appoint a CEO for the district. He said this is not a threat; it is reality.

A. Thomas – explained to everyone that since November 2015, M.Kerwin, MASB Facilitator, provided the board with professional development. The board was informed that there were three areas of responsibility – 1) student achievement, 2) financial solvency, and 3) board policies. She stated that it is the responsibility of the board to support Superintendent McClain and his recommendations. Board governance is the primary reason M. Kerwin has come twice each month to work with board members. A. Thomas stated that initially, she was not happy when M. Kerwin arrived in the district, as felt by many community people. Over the course of the past four months,

A. Thomas has become appreciative of M. Kerwin's efforts. The board has not been doing a good job. As it relates to policy and NEOLA, she never felt it was a threat (i.e., either do this or that will happen). It is simply a vehicle of good governance, by demonstrating board members are operating as a governing body. We as a board must learn our governing role. The reality is that the board has one area they can control – policy.

H. Herd – explained that he was originally concerned about what was defined as a partnership during the board meetings. He said that he is 100% supportive of the partnership as outlined by B. Whiston at tonight's meeting. He referenced the last meeting (March 16, 2016) held. The meeting was not in reference to student achievement or financial solvency. It seemed to be a blatant threat that if the board chose to not go with a particular company immediately and redo the policies, then we would be taken over by the state. We know that student achievement is not where it should be. Compared to where we were with student achievement, we are doing a very good job. H. Herd would like to see a partnership agreement in writing that could be shared with the community, since it is also a community issue.

T. McRae – wishes the meeting could have been scheduled to allow all seven board members to be in attendance, rather than a quick meeting held over Spring Break.

B. Whiston – indicated he would be willing to return to the district for another meeting with all seven board members in attendance.

P. Pugh – made note that there are some concerns in terms of priority schools – both locally and across the state. She asked B. Whiston to explain how priority schools impact the district.

B. Whiston – explained that the SRO has control of the bottom 5% of schools identified as priority schools. As was recently seen with another school district across the state, the SRO decided to also take over the feeder schools that fed into the identified priority school. Does the SRO have the legal authority to do that? That remains to be seen, however it happened. He agrees with the concept. If we are going to fix a priority school, then we must address those things occurring in the feeder schools. B. Whiston has control of the remaining 95% of the schools.

N. McClain – believes there is a major disconnect between elementary and high schools in terms of priority schools. The district has been and will continue to work with the Saginaw ISD and MASB to move us forward. We are on track in predicting a fund equity of \$5 million heading into the 2016-17 school year. That would be a tremendous achievement. He further mentioned that during a recent on-site review for the Title I buildings, there were no findings. A fiscal audit last October (2015) had no major findings as well. Fiscally, the district is sound and it is his plan to ensure it stays fiscally sound.

N. McClain stressed to everyone that he has devoted the past 20 years to this district and doesn't have any plan to leave. He is invested in this district; his family is invested in this district; he believes wholeheartedly in this district. He is passionate when he speaks of this district. He stated that he along with everyone else in this meeting realizes what the impact would be to have SRO take over our school district.

S. Blair – inquired about specific services the partners might be able to provide the district.

B. Whiston – responded to Ms. Blair by stating making use of the services of Ms. Norma Jean Sass, and outside partners. He is willing to come to the table and discuss the needs of this district, and provide support to ensure success by using current funds, or going out and securing additional funding sources. He is willing to make that happen. B. Whiston has been paying for MASB's assistance with the district. He stressed that he's trying to avoid dictating to the district what is needed. The district is well aware of what challenges there are in and out of the classroom. If it's people, resources, or supplies, then it's up to him to make that happen.

K. Gregory – asked Mr. Whiston what would happen if the Partnership Model is not deemed effective? Then what? What is considered effective? Is there a third option?

B. Whiston – explained that as State Superintendent, he brought this Partnership Model forward. If there is someone with a better model, bring it to the table for consideration. It's all about making the district successful. He assured everyone that no one would like the SRO model.

K. Hamilton – would like to hear what the community can do to assist the students and district?

N. McClain – believes the board needs to change its mindset. Student academics should always be at the forefront of decision making. Sometimes college readiness standards don't always make the best of conversations in the venues we've seen. He encouraged Mr. Hamilton to keep mentoring and supporting our students. We are so busy getting the work done we must do more than just talk.

L. Wilson – as a member of several boards, she stressed the importance of taking care of the board's policies and procedures. The ISD is in the process of updating their policies. It is very important for a governing board to have current policies in place and show good will toward each other.

M. Baldwin – asked if the board decides to make the decision to not go with the purchased services of NEOLA, will that affect the Partnership Model? Although there are two models, we could be under both models, correct? How is the six week achievement data presented to the community?

B. Whiston – explained that it would be a problem for the Partnership Model because the policies must be done by a professional organization specializing in school district policy; not necessarily NEOLA. He is dictating that the board solves their problem with updating their policies. He further stated that the priority schools could potentially fall under both models.

A. Thomas – asked Superintendent Whiston, "If there are members of the board who may be unclear in terms of the Partnership Agreement, what are the expectations of this Partnership, and specifically, with board governance?" This may have a direct affect with other board members. What would it look like? We must not have any ambiguity in terms of what the expectations are for the board, and also, the support the board must provide to the superintendent. There must be a clear understanding going forward with this agreement.

B. Whiston – suggested that he along with M. Kerwin, A. Thomas, N. McClain, and the other board partners meet to hear from N. McClain what he thinks is appropriate. B. Whiston can then write up the agreement based on the discussion held by all parties. B. Whiston would then bring it before the full board so they can ask questions. Then the decision would be made to sign the agreement or not sign it, depending on the board.

H. Herd – we must take a preliminary step before getting to the Agreement. He said he must acknowledge how this board operates. It operates differently than what some other boards operate. The board governance piece is not being addressed at this point. In terms of being transparent, the board (all seven members) must come together to discuss this information. He would like to prevent board members from stating they never agreed to the agreement. He stated that the board never said they did not intend to revise the policies. They need to be revised, but at the same time the board will need to understand what they are going to get in terms of the revised policies.

B. Kopka – asked when the partnership is presented to the board, will there be specific guidelines in terms of the definition of a successful partnership? When will it be determined how the Superintendent will prove academic growth? Improvement in academic growth may not be evident this school year, but she is expecting to see an improvement next year. When will MDE acknowledge the district is showing improvement in academic growth?

B. Whiston – explained that he would be meeting with N. McClain to develop a plan, which will include timelines. While the State Department would have an idea in mind, it is really the Superintendent that develops the plan/timelines. The starting point would begin in the areas of reading, writing and math. The plan would show growth within a year then increase to a 3-5 year timeline. Superintendent Whiston stated that he would be happy to have a conversation with the board regarding the district's data. The data should show where the district is currently at and where you want to be in five years; the data points should be reflective of that process. However, he believes it is the responsibility of N. McClain to provide the plan/timeline.

B. Kopka – asked if it is the decision of N. McClain or MDE to determine the plan/timelines?

B. Whiston – responded it's not the decision of MDE, but rather the decision of the district to say here is where we started, here is where we will be in five years, and here is the growth. It is the Superintendent's role to make those judgments. It is B. Whiston's role to ask what is needed to ensure the district attains that goal.

N. McClain – explained that MDE used to have set growth called Annual Measurable Achievement. Each school had a targeted percentage they had to reach in math, English, science and social studies. As long as the school met that benchmark, they were on course for proficiency. With some of the changes that we are now reading about and holding long discussions relative to M-Step, and the direction it is going, at this point we will need to wait for MDE to identify some of those benchmarks. It is, however, realistic for us to establish our own goals. When you look at the Superintendent's evaluation, it identifies growth standards in math and science, specifically for this year. On the state summative assessments and those assessments developed by the district, there can't be only one form of assessment. He believes the state is moving toward that goal. There is a certain level of growth that people believe is sufficient. N. McClain believes that under the direction of B. Whiston, we will move forward.

R. Knapp – raised concern with how the district will plan to measure growth. If we keep changing the method of assessing the target, how do we hit the target?

4. **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 9:12 PM.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

A. Information Regarding Administrative Recommendations**B. Grant Awards****C. Other Information and Recognition****1. Elementary Division****Kempton School**

Kempton students and staff participate in a morning assembly to promote community and culture each day. They highlight their Leader in Me habits, recognize student leaders, announce activities, and during the month of February, they spent each day learning about African-American contributions – past and present. Information and life achievements about these important people and contributions were tied to the 7 Habits and how they, the students, can contribute now and in the future. Assemblies will continue for the remainder of this school year.

Kempton's sixth grade Boys Basketball team received individual trophies for winning their division championship. Special recognition was given to Coach Campbell for his volunteer hours. The Boys Basketball players in grades 2, 3, 4 and 5 were also recognized with their coaches and they and their coaches were treated to a pizza party.

Sixth grade students recently visited Thompson Middle School in February to experience school life as a middle school student. Another visit was planned for March 8 at Zilwaukee School.

On March 8, from 4:00-7:00 PM, the school hosted, "Dinner with Dalton." This event was held to bring prospective new parents to Kempton School for a tour of the building. The guest speaker was Keva Clark who discussed the value of voice for school parents.

Kempton School held an "Information Night" for parents on March 10, 2016 at 5:30 PM. Information was shared with parents on the M-STEP Assessment.

This year's Kempton Science Fair was held during Parent-Teacher Conference s – March 22-24, 2016. There were 20 judges from around the community who took part in the judging of student work.

Loomis School

Loomis School recently held a Scholastic Book Fair. Parents and family members were presented with great gift ideas for Easter baskets.

Students were treated to a Violin demonstration by Saginaw Strings ensemble. Fourth grade students were able to demonstrate what they have learned so far from their instructor, Mrs. Nancy Powers.

The PreK students from Henry Doerr recently toured the Loomis facility. Fun classroom activities and lunch were provided students and their parents.

Loomis will hold their Office Central and Literature Family Night on April 7, 2016, from 4:30-6:30 PM. Parents and students will be able to practice math and reading skills in fun and creative ways.

“Lunch and Learn, Pt. 2” will be held on April 8, at 11:30 a.m. Part 2 will focus on parenting skills for family members.

Fifth grade M-STEP testing will begin on April 12, 2016.

Talmer Bank and Trust will present, “Teach Children to Save Day” on April 26. Employees of Talmer Bank and Trust will speak with students about a savings account and how to spend money wisely.

Stone School

Congratulations to Mrs. Hagan’s fifth grade class for collecting over \$650 for the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society. Instead of accepting their “Pasta Party,” the class elected to give that money back to the Society as well. That a thoughtful group of children!

Stone School’s sixth grade students visited both TMS and Zilwaukee School on March 4 and March 18, as part of their Transition Plan. Their students have received invitation letters from students at these schools.

Congratulations to first grade student, Traciana Dawkins! Traciana won a drawing to receive a bike from the Saginaw READ Association. She was presented with the bike on March 5 at the “Books for Breakfast” celebration hosted by the Saginaw READ Association at the Hunger Solution Center.

Stone School hosted Family Movie Night on Friday, March 11, from 6:00-8:00 PM. Earlier that day, parents were provided the opportunity to view Grade Level Common Core content. Everyone enjoyed these two events on March 11.

2. Secondary Division

Thompson Middle School

In the “Technology Corner” at Thompson Middle School, students have been working with their math teachers and with the technology coach on strategies to assist them in mathematics. “XO Let’s Go” is a strategy that requires students to work in pairs and listen intently to what their partner shares. Recalling what they have learned from any format type, including videos, presentations or images, students share any new information that they have learned.

TMS students celebrated an annual observance and remembrance of important people and events in the African community. During Black History month, Mrs. Fairris’ class utilized the district’s newly purchased Chromebooks to research Famous African Americans and write autobiographies.

Students have finished reading the building-wide read, *Touching Spirit Bear*. This book offers an account of Cole Matthews, a troubled 15-year old boy who finds himself banished by a sentencing circle to a remote Alaskan island. Cole has to work through

repairing the harm that he created through restorative practices. Students at TMS have been focused on using Restorative Circles this year and this book ties in perfectly with their restorative practices. Please feel free to stop in at TMS and see the Restorative Totem Poles, Aa'tows, and Quilts that the students have designed in honor of *Touching Spirit Bear*.

The 7th grade students in Mr. Glocksine's Social Studies class have learned how to become better citizens this year. One of the common misconceptions about Social Studies is that Social Studies is only about Maps, History, Politics, and Economics. While those things are true, Social Studies is also about learning how to be good citizens, which in turn has a positive impact on themselves and their community.

The 7th grade team at TMS is making a focused effort to put data in front of students, as much as possible. They are striving to reward a strong academic growth and improvement. They utilize the student data profile sheet to focus and drive their instruction (truly data driven). As this focus continues to build momentum, they are moving data into the hallways to better showcase the accomplishments of their students. If you get a chance, stop by TMS to see how they are using data every day.

Ms. Hurley and Ms. Hall's 8th grade science classes have been doing science investigations while dissecting frogs and pigs. By dissecting an animal in person and toughing it, the tactile experiences can provide students with an overall better learning experience that may assist them in future classes of biology or medical sciences will be studied.

There were two TMS teams that competed at the regional NOBCChE science bowl on March 12, 2016.

Eighth grade students visited Saginaw High School on March 14, to experience what it was like to be a high school student.

Eighth grade students volunteered at the Saginaw City Rescue Mission during the month of March. Students packed personal hygiene products in bags for distribution. This community service project benefited the community of Saginaw.

During the month of April, seventh grade students will volunteer in the kitchen at the Saginaw City Rescue Mission as they participate in a "bake day." Students will use their math and science skills as they measure, mix and bake spring cookies for visitors at the Rescue Mission.

The week of April 11-15, TMS 8th grade students will be taking the M-STEP. Parents have been asked to make sure their child has had plenty of rest and arrives to school on time to get breakfast. Eating breakfast can improve cognitive performance, test scores and achievement scores in students.

On April 27, 2016 at 4:00 PM, TMS is hosting a Family Game Night. All students and their families are invited for a night of quality family time. Families will play fun educational games to help kids learn to master critical Mathematical skills. Children must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. There will be prizes for families as well.

During the week of May 9-13, TMS 7th grade students will be taking the M-STEP. As with the eighth grade students, parents are asked to make sure their child has enough sleep and arrives early to school to enjoy a healthy breakfast.

Saginaw Career Complex

Recently, students at SCC competed in Regional SkillsUSA competitions in a variety of different program held at Delta College, SVSU, and Bay Arenac Skills Center. To be a State Qualifier, a student must finish first, second or third in Regional's. The following programs had State Qualifiers: Graphic Arts Program (4), Law and Criminal Justice (1) Careers in Education (1), Welding (2) and Culinary (11). Mr. Tyler Stroup finished first in the region in Auto Collision, Mr. Jarrid Weighman finished first in the Regional Culinary competition. Now, on to States!

On Monday, February 29, all Saginaw Career Center students traveled to Davenport University in Midland and participated in three mock interviews to hone their interviewing skills and receive tips from over 130 local business and industry leaders. Mr. Kevin Gregory provided a leadership workshop to staff and community leaders. All students were asked to dress professionally and to bring their portfolios, which is a required activity at SCC, to present to business and industry leaders. Many community businesses sponsored and donated resources and funding for this event. A video of this event can be found on SCC's website.

On Monday, March 21, the Culinary Management Team won first place in the State at the ProStart competition in Lansing. Five (5) SCC students won over \$190,000 in scholarships at this State event. They will travel to Dallas, Texas at the end of April. The Michigan Restaurant Association will be hosting a Champion Dinner at the Amway Grand Hotel in Grand Rapids on April 25, 2016. The students who will be going to Dallas will be honored at this event. Anyone wishing to attend this event should contact Ms. Julie Ivan at SCC.

Saginaw High School

"Real Talk" Youth Symposium 2016, was held March 31, from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Health Delivery sponsored this event.

The Saginaw High National Honor Society and Student Council is sponsoring a "5K Walk – Jump High for Health" - date yet to be determined.

The Saginaw High Health/Career Information Fair will be held (tentatively) on April 29.

SAT/PSAT Prep for students will be held every Monday and Wednesday, from 3:00-4:00 PM during the testing period.

Saginaw High is holding middle school visitations so middle school students can explore their options for high school. Presentations are provided by SHS student council members, which includes a tour of the building and lunch in the SHS cafeteria.

3. District

First Robotic Teams from Arthur Hill High School, the Saginaw Career Complex, and the Saginaw Arts and Sciences Academy made it to the quarter finals at the Midland First

Robotics District Competition held on Saturday, March 19, 2016. Out of a field of 40 teams, Arthur Hill's "Jackbotics" team took first place in the Midland Districts, earning them a potential bid into the state finals in April. Their robot was unstoppable, putting up points and stopping other teams with the best defense in the competition. They have one more competition in Lansing, then, it's off to the state finals in mid-April.

4. Community

The 29th Annual Saginaw County Art Exhibit will be held from April 25 to May 1, 2016 at Fashion Square Mall. The displayed art will be featured by students from Saginaw County. We would like to encourage everyone to stop by the Mall during this time to view the exceptional artwork. Many of these pieces will become permanent collections of area businesses and organizations.

6. REPORTS FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

A. Human Resources / Labor Relations

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

- Ancillary Staff - None
- Elementary Teachers - None
- Secondary Teachers
Parks, Bradford J. effective February 22, 2016
Mathematics/Saginaw High School
- Special Education Teachers - None
- Administrators – None
- Educational Support Group (ESG)
Dale, Rachel effective March 14, 2016
Career Development & Placement Coordinator/SCC

Jackson, Sparkle effective March 7, 2016
PreK Family Advocate/H. Doerr Early Childhood Center

Price, Allison effective February 29, 2016
PreK Social/Emotional Mental Health Spec./H. Doerr Early Childhood Ctr.

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

- Teacher Resignations - None
- Teacher Retirements - None
- Administrative Resignations – None
- Administrative Retirements – None
- Educational Support Group (ESG) Resignations - None
- Educational Support Group (ESG) Retirements
Darland, Terry L. effective May 27, 2016
HR Executive Assistant/Administration Building

Moved by _____ Seconded by _____



Strategic Plan for School Improvement 2015-2016

- | | |
|--------------------------|--|
| 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. |