

**INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 625
Saint Paul, Minnesota**

**COMMITTEE OF THE BOARD MEETING
360 Colborne Street
Saint Paul, MN 55102**

**April 11, 2023
4:30 p.m.**

MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 4:30 p.m. by Vice Chair Kopp.

2. ROLL CALL

Board of Education: J. Kopp, J. Vue, H. Henderson, J. Foster, U. Ward, Z. Ellis, C. Allen
Superintendent Gothard

Staff: K. Thao, J. Jonassen, A. Collins, N. Páez, Y. Vang, C. Anderson,
S. Schmidt de Carranza, S. Dahlke, T. Parent, T. Sager, J. Turner, S.
Gray Akyea, J. Danielson, L. Olson, A. Kunz, E. Wacker, C. Green, L.
Rider, S. Dahlke, D. Abrams, M. Hoerth, B. Natala, P. Pratt-Cook

Community: L. Bolton, J. Verges, M. Wall, S. Anderson, Y. Carrillo, L. Asklin

3. APPROVAL OF THE ORDER OF THE MAIN AGENDA

MOTION: Director Kopp moved approval of the Order of the Agenda. The motion was seconded by Director Ellis. It passed by acclaim.

4. SUPERINTENDENT'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Superintendent Gothard welcomed everyone back from Spring Break, and hopes they found time to unwind and relax during that time. He also noted he received the first email about air conditioning in schools from a student in 7th grade. Our focus is on fourth quarter, and the hard work to support a strong finish to the end of this school year. He also thanked everyone for the organization of the Marnita's Table event on March 30th, and provided details on the attendance and event, as well as the data from the event to be summarized and shared next month. He thanked the Senior Executive Leadership Team for their work during Spring Break around allocations to buildings, and the interview and selection process for hiring and collaboration with SPFE for the cycle of interviews and selection before the end of the school year, which is early for SPPS and beneficial for our district.

5. REQUEST FOR PERMISSION TO PARTICIPATE IN THE NATIONAL OPIOID SETTLEMENTS

BF 33147

Request for Permission to Participate in the National Opioid Settlements

Superintendent Gothard then welcomed Jamie Jonassen, Assistant General Counsel, to present. She summarized the background of this item, including communication from Attorney General Ellison about two months ago about a settlement taking place regarding opioid addiction and the impact on communities across the country, and there are several school districts being asked to participate. The District is not a party to this settlement, but did receive the communication from the AG. By signing onto this agreement, the District opens the opportunity to apply for grants in the future, and release claims against the opioid manufacturers and retailers named in the settlement.

The full presentation can be found in the BoardBook.

QUESTIONS/DISCUSSION:

- Being part of this settlement would mean waiving the ability to bring suit against companies - is there any possibility we'd like to bring a suit against them? Response: It's very unlikely that we would, as we would not see great claims against them.
- Is there any other obligation to signing this? Response: There are no other obligations. In the future, we will be communicated with as to options on applying for grants, but there is no guarantee we will receive those, but we are signing off on the opportunity to apply for them.
- What is the vision for the grant money and how will it be utilized? Response: The settlement funds are related to use, including the treatment of opioid use, support for those in treatment, connecting folks to help for opioid addiction, and addressing the needs of criminal justice, and perinatal care for babies of opioid addiction, and preventing the overprescribing, as well as others that may apply to the District.
- Is the grant money student specific, or family specific? Response: That has not been formulated yet, and we are waiting to hear from the State.
- What are the next steps and timeline? Response: We are asking that the Board vote on this item, and authorize the District to sign off on it. The deadline for signature is April 18th, and from there, the State will determine those who are participating and calculating the grant funds.
- Are there further actions required by the Board on the potential grants? Response: Yes, the Board would need to approve the potential grants from this settlement in the typical Board-approval process
- Director Ellis noted it will be helpful to include information such as the specificity to students and/or families.
- Superintendent Gothard recapped state allocated funds for student supports and competitive grants, and the criteria and proposal process, and that information can be shared as it is received.

MOTION: Director Kopp moved that the Board of Education approve School District participation in the National Opioid Settlements and authorize the Board Chair (or designee) to execute all necessary documents to ensure participation, including the Amended Minnesota Opioids State-Subdivision Memorandum of Agreement and the Settlement Agreement Participation Forms. The motion was seconded by Director Foster.

The motion was approved by roll call vote:

Director Henderson	Yes
Director Ward	Yes
Director Vue	Yes
Director Allen	Yes
Director Kopp	Yes

Director Ellis	Yes
Director Foster	Yes

6. FISCAL YEAR 2022-23 REVISED BUDGET

BF 33148 Fiscal Year 2022-23 Revised Budget

Superintendent Gothard then welcomed Tom Sager, Executive Chief of Financial Services, and Lisa Rider, Controller, to present the FY2022-23 Revised Budget. Topics included the review of Revenue Changes - All Funds, Expenditure Changes - All Funds, Projected FY23 Ending Fund Balances, and the recommendation and approval.

Each year, as part of the budget cycle, the District provides a revised budget for the current fiscal year. The original (adopted) budget was presented the previous June.

The revised budget takes into account new information such as the previous year's final audit results, actual enrollment, any changes to funding, any employment contract changes, and any new expenses not previously identified.

For the FY 23 Revised Budget, the total General Fund balance is anticipated to increase slightly by \$208,406. This includes all reserved accounts in the General Fund.

The Food Service Fund balance is expected to decrease by \$5,707,490 due to fewer meals being purchased and the discontinuation of the USDA reimbursement program during the pandemic. Yet, this fund balance remains healthy and viable.

The Community Education Service Fund balance is expected to increase by \$2,854,975. This increase is directly related to increased ESSER III revenue and with robust pre-pandemic programs coming back on line and stakeholder participation.

ESSER II funds will expire in September 2023 and ESSER III funds will expire in September 2024. During this period, the District has the opportunity to re-align and re-focus operational and delivery priorities, based on the successes realized during the last three years with the use of the federal ESSER funding.

The full presentation can be found in the BoardBook.

QUESTIONS/DISCUSSION:

- Director Allen requested further information on the food service budget, and the impacts of the universal free lunch program. Response: With universal lunches, the school district will be reimbursed for those meals, with revenue from the State or Federal government. The fees from patrons will discontinue.
- Will it be dollar-for-dollar, or a formula for the reimbursements? Response: Our hope is that it will be similar to the USDA reimbursements during the pandemic. We have not seen the calculations yet, but do know expenditures are increasing as a result of supply chain issues or costs, and will see those indicated in the expenditures. When calculating the formula, those will be calculated within the revenue. It is not revenue tied to expenditures as much as it is to the students being served.

- Director Ward requested clarification on the costs that the bill will cover within food service. Response: Within Fund 2 for food service, salaries and benefits of staff, food, equipment, and indirect costs are included, such as space usage, utilities and others that the formula will pay back to the General Fund.
- Has the bill that passed consider those things? Response: We have yet to see that, and it is not tied to expenditures, but will take into consideration the trend for a typical meal, and then applied at the rate they offer. Reimbursement rates take into consideration the typical expenditures, and we record all expenditures under the food service fund, as does every other school district, so the State and Federal governments will have solid data to determine the rates.
- Director Vue requested information on the next steps as we are looking at the upcoming proposed budget. Response: This information is in regards to the current FY23 budget, and once this is finalized, the team is in process of putting together the FY23-24 budget. We anticipate coming back in May with an update on the progress, and typically at the Committee of the Board in June, and then bring it for a final review and action in June at the Regular Meeting.
- Director Ward noted that within the budget process, we have discussed what it would look like for board members to be more involved in the process and the opportunities to gather feedback. He noted that he hopes proposals for that revised process will be represented with the budget and hopes to have answers before voting on this year's budget about what it will look like for next year.

MOTION: Director Kopp moved that the Board of Education approve the Fiscal Year 2022-2023 Revised Budget as presented. The motion was seconded by Director Vue.

The motion was approved by roll call vote:

Director Henderson	Yes
Director Ward	Yes
Director Vue	Yes
Director Allen	Yes
Director Kopp	Yes
Director Ellis	Yes
Director Foster	Yes

7. STUDENT OUTCOMES FOCUSED GOVERNANCE: CONTRACT REVIEW

Director Vue and Director Kopp then led the Board through a discussion on Student Outcomes Focused Governance and the accompanying contract with the Council of the Great City Schools on this work. Director Kopp provided a summary of activities, discussion and timeline up to now, and a slide was presented that showed an estimated breakdown of costs for the contract.

A robust discussion was then held amongst board members. Questions included the timeframe of the contract and that it is no more than two years; data for other districts that have implemented this work and their outcomes, which we are still waiting on from the Council, as this work is still in progress within those districts; concerns about the impacts of the elections on the Board composition and that new members will not have the training on this governance model; questions around engagement, especially with families and community members on the West Side; the potential of pushing back the contract in order to include potential new members; the flexibility of the engagement and this model; wonderings if the Council is the organization to provide the training; community experts in Saint Paul to help in this work; wondering if we could do this work on our own, but the timeline for that as well; questions on the adapted

framework that would be composed by the Board, and different from that of the Council; the value in bringing the question of the framework to the community before voting on it; discussion on changes to the current strategies in place; the role of SOFG in the evaluation process for the superintendent; goals for the Board and the urgency for this work; the willingness to of the coaches to be flexible as SPPS may change the framework for this work, and the language within the contract to allow for the flexibility requested; the work of the Board in hearing from community members on topics that are not outcome focused; the potential for the Board to do this work based on our size and student population; and further discussion on the next steps, including the review of the contract amendments and changes with the Council.

The Board then reviewed the Students Outcomes Focused Governance manual as presented, and voted line-by-line on approval or changes to the manual, including to keep the line as is, change the language, or remove the language. The original manual can be found here: <https://www.cgcs.org/cms/lib/DC00001581/Centricity/Domain/4/StudentOutcomesFocusedGovernanceManual.pdf>

8. ADJOURNMENT

Director Kopp moved to adjourn the meeting. All directors seconded the motion. It passed by acclaim.

The meeting adjourned at 9:58 p.m.

For clarity and to facilitate research, these minutes reflect the order of the original Agenda and not necessarily the time during the meeting the items were discussed.

Prepared and submitted by:

Sarah Dahlke, Assistant Clerk, St. Paul Public Schools Board of Education