

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

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

**January 3, 2023
Following Annual Meeting**

MINUTES

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 5:28 p.m. by Vice Chair Kopp.

II. ROLL CALL

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

Staff: J. Turner, K. Thao, C. Long, A. Collins, N. Paez, C. Anderson,
S. Schmidt de Carranza, S. Dahlke, T. Parent, E. Wacker, T. Sager,, A.
Kunz, J. Danielson, C. Green, J. Vollmer

III. 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 Allen and Director Foster. It passed by acclaim.

IV. SUPERINTENDENT'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Superintendent Gothard began the meeting by welcoming everyone, and wishing everyone a Happy New Year, with an eventful first day back with the weather. He noted that Jim Grathwol is our new legislative lobbyist, and will be joining at future meetings. He also welcomed Jodi Danielson, who has joined as Director in the Division of Schools and Learning. Superintendent Gothard also shared the announcement of the appointment of Willie Jett as Commissioner of Education. He recapped Mr. Jett's previous roles as well as work with him. Superintendent Gothard also shared information on the upcoming legislative session and AMSD meeting on Friday that will preview the session, and that he has been asked to present at that meeting, and included details on that first meeting including legislators that are invited and introduced. He also noted that Governor Walz is planning to be there. AMSD meetings are a great chance to come together with other metropolitan districts in the state. He also shared that the statements by Governor Walz in Monday's conference show excitement about public education and to fully fund our schools. He shared his vision for the upcoming session, and the need to know the financial picture for our district in order to recruit and retain our workforce.

V. STUDENT OUTCOMES FOCUSED GOVERNANCE: Regular Meeting Agenda Redesign

Director Kopp then led the Board through discussion on the redesign of the agenda for Regular Meetings. Handouts showed the current design, and the proposed new design, which includes three main areas - re-occurring parliamentary procedure items, action items including the consent agenda, and informational items including presentations/information where a vote/action is not required at that meeting. She noted that the agenda redesign is part of the SOFG framework in that it reorganizes and streamlines the time spent at board meetings to focus on student achievement. With the incorporation of public comment into the main agenda, it seemed like a fitting time to address this topic, and the opportunity to make the agendas more user-friendly for both the Board and Community.

Materials can be found in the BoardBook.

QUESTIONS/DISCUSSION:

- A question was asked about the location of Progress Monitoring in the redesigned agenda, which would be immediately after the Superintendent's Announcements.
- Director Henderson noted the timing of items will be important, as our community may be interested in action on particular items, which would be after Progress Monitoring.
- Director Ward wondered when the earliest on the agenda that an item could be moved to if there is special community interest. Director Kopp noted that following the Superintendent's Announcements may be an option, with further discussion from the Board, and language prepared to move an item on the agenda.
- Director Ellis requested information on the difference between Superintendent's Announcements and Informational Items. Superintendent's Announcements are very brief sharing of events or news, similar to the Superintendent's Announcements during the Committee of the Board meeting.
- Director Ellis also requested further information on items within the Action Items. Director Kopp noted that a helpful way to view Informational and Action item is:
 - Information: Presentation, then discussion at that meeting
 - Action: Presentation, then discussion, then vote at that meeting
- Director Ward noted that an item that has unanimous support might be placed under the Consent Agenda, for more time to discuss Progress Monitoring or other items where there may be divisiveness or extensive questions.
- Director Kopp noted this is an opportunity to streamline and make time for Progress Monitoring, and finding places to tuck things in and make them more streamlined.
- Director Ellis also requested information on progress monitoring of the strategic plan, and if that would be the same or different as progress monitoring within SOFG. That will be determined by the Board as they determine their goals and guardrails, and their alignment with the strategic plan.
- Director Ellis also noted the importance of discussion on the systemic equity focus area of the strategic plan. Superintendent Gothard provided a brief overview on the work of systemic equity, and that more information will be presented. He recommended including systemic equity within the progress monitoring.
- Director Vue noted that SPPS will always have ongoing business and work, and that there will be more than one presentation and one vote on items - one example is Envision SPPS, where there are continuous updates.
- Director Ellis noted it would be helpful to have a template of the agenda redesign with explanations and more straightforward.
- Director Ellis also noted the extension of public comment time, and information sent to the Board regarding those comments. Superintendent Gothard recommended to think further on that topic as public comment is a one-way conversation with the Board, and expectations around responses.

- Director Kopp also noted there are other venues for information, including small groups and individual meetings with Administration and staff, and it may depend on interest from board members.
- Director Vue noted a goal is efficiency of time in meetings, and that we are improving in that area.
- The procedure for moving on with the agenda following public comment was also discussed, with the recommendation to immediately proceed with the next item following public comment.
- Director Ward also noted that with the different process for public comment, it will be important to communicate clearly with community members.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting adjourned at 6:16 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