

INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 625
Saint Paul, Minnesota

REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
360 Colborne Street
Saint Paul, MN 55102, and

Available Streaming Online at www.spps.org/boe and Saint Paul Cable Channel 16

October 24, 2023
5:30 p.m.

MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Jim Vue, Chair.

2. ROLL CALL

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

C. Allen was absent.

C. Long, General Counsel; S. Dahlke, Assistant Clerk

3. APPROVAL OF THE ORDER OF THE MAIN AGENDA

MOTION: Director Vue moved approval of the order of the main agenda. The motion was seconded by Director Foster.

The motion was approved by roll call vote:

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

4. RECOGNITIONS

BF 33415 Acknowledgement of Good Work Provided by Outstanding District Employees

The Minnesota Association of School Administrators (MASA) has named **Dr. Joe Gothard**, Superintendent of Saint Paul Public Schools (SPPS), the 2024 Minnesota Superintendent of the Year.

As the Minnesota honoree, Dr. Gothard is a candidate among other state recipients for National Superintendent of the Year, to be announced during the American Association of School Administrators (AASA) National Conference on Education on February 15-17, 2024, in San Diego, CA. Dr. Gothard was selected for this honor by a panel of representatives from a variety of Minnesota education organizations. Nominees are evaluated on how each candidate demonstrates leadership for learning, communication skills, professionalism, and community involvement.

"Dr. Gothard's selection as the 2024 Minnesota Superintendent of the Year reflects his unwavering commitment to excellence in education and his exceptional leadership in our state's educational community," said MASA Executive Director Dr. Deb Henton. "His innovative leadership and dedication to fostering a supportive and equitable learning environment have significantly impacted the success of all SPPS students and educators. We congratulate Dr. Gothard, and we look forward to his continued successful contributions to SPPS and Minnesota's education system."

Dr. Gothard has served as Superintendent of SPPS since 2017. Prior to his time with SPPS, he was Superintendent of the Burnsville-Eagan-Savage School District for four years. Dr. Gothard was a dean of students, middle school principal, high school principal, and then assistant superintendent with the Madison Metropolitan School District in Madison, WI. Dr. Gothard began his career in teaching as a biology teacher at La Follette High School in Madison.

Dr. Gothard is an active member of MASA and the American Association of School Administrators (AASA). He has served on the MASA Board of Directors for four years and is currently the MASA President. Dr. Gothard also serves as a member of the Professional Assistance Team, providing MASA members with professional and confidential support during times of need.

Superintendent Gothard then provided a brief message. He noted that La Follette High School is his alma mater. He is proud of the ways in which he works with colleagues and promotes them to be leaders through long-lasting relationships, and one of the ways in which he gives something back in terms of helping others from experiences he has also faced. He also noted his mentors throughout his life, including his middle school teacher, as she was one of the reasons he has chosen to dedicate his life to champion education for children in similar ways. He is honored to be the recipient this year, and thanked the Board and his team for their unwavering support. He also thanked his family for their support.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT

1. Leo Jackson Equitable pricing for athletic facilities
2. Jennifer Hartman Importance of youth programs and partnership with SPPS
3. Olonda England Athletics

6. APPROVAL OF THE ORDER OF THE CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION: Director Vue moved approval of the Order of the Consent Agenda with no items pulled for separate consideration. The motion was seconded by Director Henderson.

The motion was approved by roll call vote:

Director Ward	Yes
Director Vue	Yes
Director Allen	Absent
Director Kopp	Yes

Director Ellis	Yes
Director Foster	Yes
Director Henderson	Yes

7. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

- A. Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of September 19, 2023
- B. Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Board of Education of September 29, 2023

MOTION: Director Vue moved approval of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of September 19, 2023, and the Minutes of the Special meeting of the Board of Education of September 29, 2023. The motion was seconded by Director Foster.

The motion was approved by roll call vote:

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

8. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. Minutes of the Committee of the Board Meeting of October 10, 2023

At the Committee of the Board Meeting on October 10, 2023, Superintendent Gothard welcomed everyone to the meeting and provided a recap of his time at the recent Minnesota Association of School Administrators Conference in Duluth, and the opportunity to meet with colleagues from across the state and to connect with them on their challenges, and also to support each other.

The first presentation included information on 3DE, including the history and background of this program, partnerships with the City and County, and details of the program, which included that 3DE is a hands-on, project-based instructional model where student learn together to develop solutions to real-life issues and integrated core competencies. This presentation sparked a robust conversation amongst the Board, including questions on the logistics of the program in schools, expectations for students and educators, business partners, impacts to current programs, and schools chosen for this program. Further information was also requested on the future costs, the sense from the school communities on this change to programming, details on the foundation partners, 3DE staff at sites, the role of 3DE for students who may join this program later in their high school career, cultural changes for schools, and teacher evaluations. Discussion also included questions on the potential compensation for students for their work and intellectual property, as well as engagement for our ELL and SPED students.

The next presentation included an update on Budget Engagement and Community Values. From this information, board members noted questions on the upcoming engagement sessions and their locations, survey opportunities, virtual engagement opportunities, and next steps after engagement sessions. Discussion also focused on the clarity for the community on the inputs and outputs of the engagement sessions, as well as questions around values or spending decisions, a request for clear and transparent information on the successful strategies before ARP funds and after, data collection during budget

engagement, and questions on the timeframe. Other points of discussion included the survey questions. Within the conversation on the financial advisory committee, questions were raised about the rubric for the selection process, the role of this group in financial business, and the importance of representation on the committee. A note about the Board interaction with the formation of the budget was also highlighted, as well as committee name recommendations.

MOTION: Director Kopp moved to accept the report on the October 10, 2023 Committee of the Board meeting and approve the recommended motions and minutes of that meeting as published. The motion was seconded by Director Ellis.

The motion was approved by roll call vote:

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

9. FUTURE MEETING SCHEDULE

A. Board of Education Meetings (5:30 p.m. unless otherwise noted)

- 2023
 - October 24
 - November 14
 - December 19
- 2024
 - January 9 (Annual Organizational Meeting)
 - January 23
 - February 20
 - March 19
 - April 23
 - May 21
 - June 11 (Special Meeting – Non-Renewals) | 4:00 p.m. | Conference Room 5A
 - June 18
 - July 16
 - August 20
 - September 17
 - October 22
 - November 19
 - December 17

B. Committee of the Board Meetings (4:30 p.m. unless otherwise noted)

- 2023
 - October 10
 - November 8 - Wednesday
 - December 5
- 2024
 - January 9
 - February 6
 - March 6 - Wednesday

- April 2
- May 7
- June 11
- August 7 – Wednesday
- September 10
- October 8
- November 6 – Wednesday
- December 3

B. Motion to Reschedule the April 2024 Committee of the Board Meeting from Tuesday, April 2, 2024 to Wednesday, April 3, 2024

MOTION: Director Vue moved to cancel the Committee of the Board scheduled for Tuesday, April 2, 2024, and schedule a Special Committee of the Board Meeting for Wednesday, April 3, 2024 (due to the Honors Concert on Tuesday, April 2, 2024). The motion was seconded by Director Henderson.

The motion was approved by roll call vote:

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

10. SUPERINTENDENT'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Superintendent Gothard began his announcements by providing a report on the HBCU Tour Student Send-Off at Progressive Baptist Church. He noted that 90% of students who attend the tour enroll at an HBCU. This tour is organized every year and it is heartening to see the community coming together to provide this experience to students. It is an impressive tour, and great to have our students share updates after they graduate. He thanked the community for making this possible – both financially and chaperoning the tour on the bus with several stops.

He also shared his time at the Tribal Nations Educational Council meeting, which is a biannual meeting that meets according to state statute. In meeting with folks across the tribal nations, it is great to listen to those who have dedicated their lives and education to serving our Native students and community. While the total student population is 1-2% Native American/American Indian, in almost all categories we see their achievement lags behind other student groups. The percentage of students is small, but we have work to address. Chair Vue and Vice Chair Kopp, as well as Executive Director Carita Green and her team were also in attendance at Hočokata Ti, a beautiful space in Shakopee, which is a Native cultural space, and he felt honored to be there in this conversation.

He noted two data points to share – including the number of courses failed by Native students and number of students marked as chronically absent. These are areas in which we need to improve, and need to talk about to bring to the surface, and share these hard truths, especially as a leader in a district so focused on equity.

He went on to share about a meeting with County Attorney, John Choi, and other Ramsey County superintendents to discuss attendance for students. Kathy Kimani and her team were also present with the Attendance Matters team. While attendance is a concern across the country, this is work we can do here and now in Ramsey County, and needs to be one of the highest priorities. It needs to be done without shame, but finding supports for families and motivation and access to opportunities that school and education is important. This work begins with students in kindergarten, and continues through high school.

Director Kopp appreciated the Superintendent naming these difficult issues, as we can't fix what we don't name. She thanked him to putting it in front, and for calling us to gather together to do better for our students.

Director Foster noted it is important to name it, label it, and tie resources to these topics. She wants to continue to talk about equity and what it means in SPPS, and when we move resources where needed, other groups may feel left out – but that is not the case. When one group is elevated, all others also are raised. We are dealing with particular disparities in ethnic groups, and it is necessary for our leaders to be talking about what is not working well, and resources need to be tied to data-based decisions for our students. We need to use our time, talents, and resources to elevate students so that all students can receive the supports they need.

11. AGENDA ITEMS THAT REQUIRE BOARD ACTION

1. Consent Agenda

MOTION: Director Vue moved approval of all items within the consent agenda withholding no items for separate consideration. Director Henderson seconded the motion.

The motion was approved by roll call vote:

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

1. Gifts

BF 33416 Request to Accept Gift from North Star Marine Veterans Corp

That the Saint Paul Public Schools Board of Education authorize the Superintendent to allow Como Park Senior High School/MCJROTC to accept a monetary gift from North Star Marine Veterans of \$5,000.00. The money will be deposited into the JROTC intra-school account 19-212-291-000- 5096-J001, and will be used with the above projects

BF 33417 Acceptance of Gift from Randolph Heights PTA

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to accept the gift from Randolph Heights PTA.

BF 33418 Request to Accept Gift from TKDA

That the Board approve the funds from TKDA, in the amount of \$5,500. Funds will be used to purchase additional speakers for our sound system, and Hands-on STEAM Materials for our school/students.

2. Grants

BF 33419 Request for Permission to Submit a Grant to the Air and Space Forces Association's AFJROTC Grant

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to submit a grant to the Air and Space Forces Association AFJROTC grant program; to accept funds; and to implement the project as specified in the award documents.

BF 33420 Request for Permission to Submit Grants to Assistance League Minneapolis/St. Paul's Operation School Bell Links to Learning Grants

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to submit grants from Assistance League Minneapolis/St. Paul's Operation School Bell Links to Learning Grant program; to accept funds; and to implement the projects as specified in the award documents.

BF 33421 Request for Permission to Submit a Grant to the Minnesota Department of Education's Comprehensive Literacy State Development Grant

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to submit a grant to the Minnesota Department of Education's Comprehensive Literacy State Development grant; to accept funds; and to implement the project as specified in the award documents.

BF 33422 Request for Permission to Submit a Grant to the Minnesota Professional Educator Licensing and Standards Board's Teacher Mentorship and Retention of Effective Teachers Grant

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to submit a grant from the PELSB's Teacher Mentorship and Retention of Effective Teachers grant program; to accept funds; and to implement the project as specified in the award documents.

BF 33423 Request for Permission to Submit Grant Applications to Project Lead the Way

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to submit a grant to Project Lead the Way; to accept funds; and to implement the project as specified in the award documents.

BF 33424 Request for Permission to Submit a Grant to Saint Cloud State University

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to submit a grant to Saint Cloud State University to support academic and professional development activities in Mandarin language classes; to accept funds, if awarded; and to implement the project as specified in the award documents.

BF 33425 Request for Permission to Submit Grant Applications to the St. Paul Chapter of the Awesome Foundation

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to submit grant applications to the St. Paul Chapter of the Awesome Foundation; to accept funds; and to implement the projects as specified in the award documents.

BF 33426 Request for Permission to Submit a Grant to the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to submit a grant to the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community; to accept funds; and to implement the project as specified in the award documents.

BF 33427 Request for Permission to Submit a Grant to the US Department of Education's Perkins Innovation and Modernization Grant

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to submit to the U.S. Department of Education's Perkins Innovation and Modernization Grant; to accept funds; and to implement the project as specified in the award documents.

3. Contracts

BF 33428 Partnership Contract between Right Track and Saint Paul Public Schools

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to sign the Partnership Contract between Saint Paul Public Schools and Right Track until June 2027.

BF 33429 Request to Sign Concurrent Enrollment Contract with Saint Paul College

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to sign the Concurrent Enrollment Contract between Saint Paul Public Schools and Saint Paul College for FY24.

BF 33430 Request to Sign Contract with Daugherty (Partner Agency), pertaining to the Access Point Program

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to sign the contract between Saint Paul Public Schools and Daugherty for the 2023-24 and 2024-25 school years

BF 33431 Request to Sign Contract with the Finishing Trades Institute of the Upper Midwest

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to sign the contract between Saint Paul Public Schools and the Finishing Trades Institute for the 2023-24 school year.

BF 33432 Request to Sign Contract with ProCare Therapy for Contracted Special Education Staffing Support at River East and the District at Large

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to approve this contract.

BF 33433 Request to Sign Contract with Soliant for Social Work Staffing

The Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent (designee) to sign the Contracted Services Agreement between Soliant and Saint Paul Public Schools.

BF 33434 Design Services for Multi-Site Electrical System Replacement at Harding and Central High School (Project # 0651-23-01)

That the Board of Education authorize award of design and construction administration services to Emanuelson-Podas for the not-to-exceed fee of \$200,300.

BF 33435 Construction Manager as Advisor Services for the Wellstone Elementary Plumbing, Piping and HVAC Replacement project (Project # 4260-23-01)

That the Board of Education authorize award of construction manager as advisor services and pass through general conditions to H+U Construction for the not-to-exceed fee of \$640,237.

4. Agreements

BF 33436 Request to Sign Concurrent Enrollment Joint Powers Agreement with Minnesota State University, Mankato

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to sign the Concurrent Enrollment Joint Powers Agreement between Saint Paul Public Schools and Minnesota State University, Mankato for FY24.

BF 33437 Approval of Employment Agreement Between Independent School District No. 625, Saint Paul Public Schools, and Minnesota Teamsters Local 320, Exclusive Representative for Nutrition Services Employees

That the Board of Education of Independent School District No. 625 approve and adopt the Agreement concerning the terms and conditions of employment of those nutrition services employees in this District for whom the Minnesota Teamsters Local No. 320 is the exclusive representative; duration of said Agreement is for the period of July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2026.

BF 33438 Approval of Employment Agreement Between Independent School District No. 625 and Minnesota Teamsters Public and Law Enforcement Employees Local No. 320 Representing Teaching Assistants

That the Board of Education of Independent School District No. 625 approve and adopt the Agreement concerning the terms and conditions of employment for teaching assistant employees in this school district for whom the Minnesota Teamsters Public and Law Enforcement Employees Local No. 320 is the exclusive representative; duration of said Agreement is for the period of July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2026.

BF 33439 Approval of the Employment Agreement for the Assistant Director of Labor Relations effective October 16, 2023

That the Board of Education approve the employment agreement with the Assistant Director of Labor Relations effective October 16, 2023.

BF 33440 Request to Sign School Social Work Internship Agreement with Bethel University

The Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent (designee) to sign the School Social Work Internship Agreement between Saint Paul Public Schools and Bethel University

BF 33441 Right of Entry Permit at Riverview with the City of Saint Paul

That the Board of Education authorize the execution of the Right of Entry Permit between the District and the City of Saint Paul at Riverview.

BF 33442 Partnership and Regrant Agreement between Saint Paul Public Schools and The Trust for Public Land

That the Board of Education authorize the execution of the Partnership and Regrant Agreement between the District and The Trust for Public Land for outdoor nature-based capital improvements at Maxfield Elementary School.

5. Administrative Items

BF 33443 Monthly Operating Authority

That the Board of Education approve and ratify the following checks and electronic transfers for the period August 1, 2023 – August 31, 2023

(a) General Account	#764111-765038	\$40,097,574.26
	#0004989-0005012	
	#7004895-7004938	
	#0008883-0009005	
(b) Construction Payments	- 0 -	\$17,638,365.50
(c) Debt Service	- 0 -	<u>\$32,455.00</u>
		\$57,768,394.76

Included in the above disbursements are two payrolls in the amount of \$12,604,842.88 and overtime of \$59,936.12 or 0.48% of payroll.

(d) Collateral Changes

Released: None

Additions: None

That the Board of Education further authorize payment of properly certified cash disbursements including payrolls, overtime schedules, compensation claims, and claims under the Worker's Compensation Law falling within the period ending February 29,2024

BF 33444 Recommendations for Exclusion of Students Non-Compliant with Minnesota Statute 121A.15 Health Standards: Immunizations

That the Board of Education exclude noncompliant student(s) from school(s) effective November 1, 2023, should they not comply with Minnesota State Health Standards for Immunizations on or before this date.

Human Resources Transactions

BF 33445 Transactions for September 1 – September 30, 2023

BF 33446 Active Employee and Early Retiree Health Insurance with PEIP

That the Board of Education approve a contract for active employee and early retiree health insurance coverage with PEIP, effective January 1, 2024, at the proposed premium renewal rates.

BF 33447 Active Employee and Early Retiree Health Insurance with Medica

That the Board of Education approve a contract for active employee and retiree health insurance coverage with Medica, effective January 1, 2024, at the proposed premium rates.

6. Bids

BF 33448 Phase Gate Approval of the Bruce Vento Elementary - New Construction Project WS 32-I (Project #1020-22-01): Gate #4 - Contract Award

That the Board of Education approve the award of Bid No. A24-3926-JG for the Bruce Vento Elementary - New Construction Project (Project #1020-22-01) to North Country Concrete for a lump sum base bid of \$750,500.

BF 33449 Phase Gate Approval of the Bruce Vento Elementary - New Construction Project WS 27-B (Project #1020-22-01): Gate #4 - Contract Award

That the Board of Education approve the award of Bid No. A23-4017-JG for the Bruce Vento Elementary - New Construction Project (Project #1020-22-01) to Pulse Electric for a lump sum base bid of \$367,315.

BF 33450 Phase Gate Approval of the Bruce Vento Elementary - New Construction Project WS 27-A (Project #1020-22-01): Gate #4 - Contract Award

That the Board of Education approve the award of Bid No. A23-4016-JG for the Bruce Vento Elementary - New Construction Project (Project #1020-22-01) to Muska Electric for a lump sum base bid of \$489,500.

BF 33451 Phase Gate Approval of the Bruce Vento Elementary - New Construction Project WS 26-A (Project #1020-22-01): Gate #4 - Contract Award

That the Board of Education approve the award of Bid No. A24-3925-JG for the Bruce Vento Elementary - New Construction Project (Project #1020-22-01) to Neo Electrical Solutions for a lump sum base bid of \$4,198,000.

BF 33452 Phase Gate Approval of the Bruce Vento Elementary - New Construction Project WS 23-B (Project #1020-22-01): Gate #4 - Contract Award

That the Board of Education approve the award of Bid No. A24-3924-JG for the Bruce Vento Elementary - New Construction Project (Project #1020-22-01) to General Sheet Metal Company for a lump sum base bid plus Alternates 2 & 3 of \$8,807,700.

BF 33453 Phase Gate Approval of the Bruce Vento Elementary - New Construction Project WS 22-A (Project #1020-22-01): Gate #4 - Contract Award

That the Board of Education approve the award of Bid No. A24-3923-JG for the Bruce Vento Elementary - New Construction Project (Project #1020-22-01) to Davis Mechanical for a lump sum base bid of \$2,288,000.

BF 33454 Phase Gate Approval of the Bruce Vento Elementary - New Construction Project WS 21-A (Project #1020-22-01): Gate #4 - Contract Award

That the Board of Education approve the award of Bid No. A24-3922-JG for the Bruce Vento Elementary - New Construction Project (Project #1020-22-01) to Frontier Fire Protection for a lump sum base bid of \$683,700.

BF 33455 Phase Gate Approval of the Bruce Vento Elementary - New Construction Project WS 14-A (Project #1020-22-01): Gate #4 - Contract Award

That the Board of Education approve the award of Bid No. A23-3749-JG for the Bruce Vento Elementary - New Construction Project (Project #1020-22-01) to Minnesota Elevators for a lump sum base bid of \$423,294.

BF 33456 Phase Gate Approval of the Bruce Vento Elementary - New Construction Project WS 11-A (Project #1020-22-01): Gate #4 - Contract Award

That the Board of Education approve the award of Bid No. A24-3942-JG for the Bruce Vento Elementary - New Construction Project (Project #1020-22-01) to Singer Ashland for a lump sum base bid of \$647,945.

BF 33457 Phase Gate Approval of the Bruce Vento Elementary - New Construction Project WS 09-F (Project #1020-22-01): Gate #4 - Contract Award

That the Board of Education approve the award of Bid No. A24-3921-JG for the Bruce Vento Elementary - New Construction Project (Project #1020-22-01) to Fransen Decorating for a lump sum base bid of \$550,215.

BF 33458 Phase Gate Approval of the Bruce Vento Elementary - New Construction Project WS 09-D (Project #1020-22-01): Gate #4 - Contract Award

That the Board of Education approve the award of Bid No. A24-3920-JG for the Bruce Vento Elementary - New Construction Project (Project #1020-22-01) to MCI Carpet One for a lump sum base bid of \$1,505,500.

BF 33459 Phase Gate Approval of the Bruce Vento Elementary - New Construction Project WS 09-C (Project #1020-22-01): Gate #4 - Contract Award

That the Board of Education approve the award of Bid No. A24-3919-JG for the Bruce Vento Elementary - New Construction Project (Project #1020-22-01) to Twin City Acoustics for a lump sum base bid of \$728,000.

BF 33460 Phase Gate Approval of the Bruce Vento Elementary - New Construction Project WS 09-B (Project #1020-22-01): Gate #4 - Contract Award

That the Board of Education approve the award of Bid No. A24-3918-JG for the Bruce Vento Elementary - New Construction Project (Project #1020-22-01) to Grazzini Brothers for a lump sum base bid of \$592,000.

BF 33461 Phase Gate Approval of the Bruce Vento Elementary - New Construction Project WS 09-A (Project #1020-22-01): Gate #4 - Contract Award

That the Board of Education approve the award of Bid No. A24-3917-JG for the Bruce Vento Elementary - New Construction Project (Project #1020-22-01) to Mulcahy Nickolaus for a lump sum base bid of \$3,915,800.

BF 33462 Phase Gate Approval of the Bruce Vento Elementary - New Construction Project WS 08-D (Project #1020-22-01): Gate #4 - Contract Award

That the Board of Education approve the award of Bid No. A23-4015-JG for the Bruce Vento Elementary - New Construction Project (Project #1020-22-01) to Ford Metro, Inc. for a lump sum base bid of \$2,361,490.

BF 33463 Phase Gate Approval of the Bruce Vento Elementary - New Construction Project WS 08-A (Project #1020-22-01): Gate #4 - Contract Award

That the Board of Education approve the award of Bid No. A24-3916-JG for the Bruce Vento Elementary - New Construction Project (Project #1020-22-01) to Bredemus Hardware for a lump sum base bid of \$849,686.

BF 33464 Phase Gate Approval of the Bruce Vento Elementary - New Construction Project WS 07-C (Project #1020-22-01): Gate #4 - Contract Award

That the Board of Education approve the award of Bid No. A24-3915-JG for the Bruce Vento Elementary - New Construction Project (Project #1020-22-01) to Camacho Contractors for a lump sum base bid of \$2,779,370.

BF 33465 Phase Gate Approval of the Bruce Vento Elementary - New Construction Project WS 07-B (Project #1020-22-01): Gate #4 - Contract Award

That the Board of Education approve the award of Bid No. A24-3914-JG for the Bruce Vento Elementary - New Construction Project (Project #1020-22-01) to Nordstrom Architectural Sheet Metal for a lump sum base bid of \$1,829,200.

BF 33466 Phase Gate Approval of the Bruce Vento Elementary - New Construction Project WS 07-A (Project #1020-22-01): Gate #4 - Contract Award

That the Board of Education approve the award of Bid No. A24-3913-JG for the Bruce Vento Elementary - New Construction Project (Project #1020-22-01) to Henkemeyer Coatings for a lump sum base bid of \$452,496.

BF 33467 Phase Gate Approval of the Bruce Vento Elementary - New Construction Project WS 06-B (Project #1020-22-01): Gate #4 - Contract Award

That the Board of Education approve the award of Bid No. A24-3912-JG for the Bruce Vento Elementary - New Construction Project (Project #1020-22-01) to Shaw Stewart Lumber for a lump sum base bid of \$1,294,299.

BF 33468 Phase Gate Approval of the Bruce Vento Elementary - New Construction Project WS 06-A (Project #1020-22-01): Gate #4 - Contract Award

That the Board of Education approve the award of Bid No. A24-3911-JG for the Bruce Vento Elementary - New Construction Project (Project #1020-22-01) to Tekton Construction for a lump sum base bid of \$1,298,000.

BF 33469 Phase Gate Approval of the Bruce Vento Elementary - New Construction Project WS 05-D (Project #1020-22-01): Gate #4 - Contract Award

That the Board of Education approve the award of Bid No. A24-3910-JG for the Bruce Vento Elementary - New Construction Project (Project #1020-22-01) to Industrial Construction Specialists for a lump sum base bid of \$324,943.

BF 33470 Phase Gate Approval of the Bruce Vento Elementary - New Construction Project WS 05-C (Project #1020-22-01): Gate #4 - Contract Award

That the Board of Education approve the award of Bid No. A24-3909-JG for the Bruce Vento Elementary - New Construction Project (Project #1020-22-01) to Daka Corporation for a lump sum base bid of \$398,900.

BF 33471 Phase Gate Approval of the Bruce Vento Elementary - New Construction Project WS 04-A (Project #1020-22-01): Gate #4 - Contract Award

That the Board of Education approve the award of Bid No. A24-3908-JG for the Bruce Vento Elementary - New Construction Project (Project #1020-22-01) to Gresser Companies for a lump sum base bid of \$1,652,460.

BF 33472 Phase Gate Approval of the Bruce Vento Elementary - New Construction Project WS 02-A (Project #1020-22-01): Gate #4 - Contract Award

That the Board of Education approve the award of Bid No. A24-3907-JG for the Bruce Vento Elementary - New Construction Project (Project #1020-22-01) to Frattalone Companies for a lump sum base bid of \$479,900.

BF 33473 Phase Gate Approval of the Barack and Michelle Obama School Addition and Renovation Project WS 0241 (Project #3210-23-01): Gate #4 - Contract Award

That the Board of Education approve the award of Bid No. A24-4036-JG for the Barack and Michelle Obama School Addition and Renovation project (Project #3210-23-01) to Kellington Construction, Inc. for a lump sum base bid plus Alternates #1 of \$3,142,780.

BF 33474 Phase Gate Approval of the Hidden River Middle School Renovation WS 31-A (Project #3140-20-02): Gate #4 - Contract Award

That the Board of Education approve the award of Bid No. A23-3728-JG for the Hidden River Middle School project (Project #3140-20-02) to Max Steininger, Inc. for a lump sum base bid of \$1,355,700.

BF 33475 Phase Gate Approval of the Hidden River Middle School Renovation WS 09-D (Project # 3140-20-02): Gate #4 - Contract Award

That the Board of Education approve the award of Bid No. A23-3717-A for the Hidden River Middle School project (Project #3140-20-02) to CFS Interiors & Flooring for a lump sum base bid plus Alternates #3 & 4 of \$803,674.

BF 33476 Phase Gate Approval of the Hidden River Middle School Renovation WS 09-B (Project # 3140-20-02): Gate #4 - Contract Award

That the Board of Education approve the award of Bid No. A23-3715-JG for the Hidden River Middle School project (Project #3140-20-02) to Grazzini Brothers for a lump sum base \$387,100.

BF 33477 Phase Gate Approval of the Hidden River Middle School Renovation WS 05-A (Project # 3140-20-02): Gate #4 - Contract Award

That the Board of Education approve the award of Bid No. A23-3706-JG for the Hidden River Middle School project (Project #3140-20-02) to Noble X for a lump sum base \$1,355,000.

7. Change Orders

ITEMS PULLED FOR SEPARATE CONSIDERATION - None

FURTHER AGENDA ITEMS THAT REQUIRE BOARD ACTION

1. Resolution Relating to \$15,000,000 General Obligation School Building Bonds, Series 2023A; Ratifying the Award of Sale, Prescribing the Form and Details and Providing for the Payment Thereof

Superintendent Gothard then welcomed Tom Sager, Executive Chief of Financial Services, and Michael Hart, Director at PMA, to present this item. Chief Sager reviewed the board agenda item information, including:

- At the August 22, 2023 School Board meeting, the School Board received information pertaining to an upcoming school building bond sale for purposes of obtaining the resources for the District's capital needs included in the SPPS Builds plan. At the August 22 meeting, the School Board approved a resolution that authorized the Superintendent, Chief of Administration and Operations, or Executive Chief of Financial Services to execute a Bond Purchase Agreement for the stated purposes.
- The sale of these bonds commenced on Tuesday, October 10, 2023. The District received 11 bids in a competitive sale for the bonds with the most favorable bid coming from Fidelity Capital Markets, Boston, MA. The most favorable bid met all the parameters approved by the School Board to complete this sale. The bond proceeds will be applied to expenses related to projects identified as part of the District's capital plan in accordance with the SPPS Builds program.

Mr. Hart then reviewed a presentation, which included details on the bonds, bid summary, sale summary, sources and uses, bond structure, calendar, rating, and next steps.

The full set of information and presentation can be found in the BoardBook.

QUESTIONS/DISCUSSION: None

BF 33478 Resolution Relating to \$15,000,000 General Obligation School Building Bonds, Series 2023A; Ratifying the Award of Sale, Prescribing the Form and Details and Providing for the Payment Thereof

MOTION: Director Vue moved to approve the Resolution Relating to \$15,000,000 General Obligation School Building Bonds, Series 2023A; Ratifying the Award of Sale, Prescribing the Form and Details and Providing for the Payment Thereof. Director Foster seconded the motion.

The motion was approved by roll call vote:

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

10. INFORMATIONAL AGENDA ITEMS

A. Literacy Update

Superintendent Gothard then welcomed Craig Anderson, Executive Director of the Office of Teaching and Learning, and Sue Braithwaite, Interim Elementary Assistant Director in the Office of Teaching and Learning, to present this information. He noted the WINN strategies, and literacy models to sustain following the expiration of ARP funding. Mr. Anderson and Ms. Braithwaite thanked the Superintendent, WINN teachers, and TOSAs for the changed practices based on science and learning in this work, and the work in LETRS training and learning the science of reading. Superintendent Gothard noted the work of SPPS Reads, and the community call to action in this work and interaction with the community in an intentional way around literacy, and the viewing of “The Right to Read.”

The presentation began with information around seeing literacy through an equity lens and a powerful quote on this topic. The first portion focused on where we have been – including MCA summary data, FAST fall to spring 2023 growth trends, and figures on reading by the numbers, including data on 4th grade proficiency rates. The second portion focused on where we are now, including the science supporting our decisions, and the five pillars of early literacy in combination with oral language and written expression, the six shifts in elementary instruction, a diagram depicting what instruction looks like in SPPS for all students, including word recognition, language comprehension and reading comprehension, K-12 district literacy systems of support, and information on the Spring 2023 WINN strategy. The third portion focused on where we are going, and included information on the READ Act through the Department of Education, SPPS’s response, and information on SPPS Reads.

The full presentation can be found in the BoardBook.

QUESTIONS/DISCUSSION:

- Director Ellis requested information on the universities in Minnesota who are teaching the science of reading. Response: The University of Minnesota is work towards it, and all educational institutions are trying to determine the new way and changing practices.
- She also requested additional information on the training for staff, and how it needs to be completed by 2026, and how professional development will be implemented. Response: We are still awaiting guidance, but anticipate it will occur over the summer, or after school through modules and live sessions. We do know the three companies in which we will be working, but we do not know the delivery models yet.
- Director Henderson offered a reflection, that she is grateful for the presentation and information and it's exciting to see the progress and potential, at the same time, it's heartbreaking to see these numbers and how far we are behind, and reflecting on the generations of students who have been let down. She thanked the team for doing the work to move forward, as this is a massive task and we are ready and willing to do the work to ensure it moved forward.
- Director Kopp thanked the team for the presentation, and has been looking forward to it for many months. She knew some figures would be difficult to see, but also heartened by the successes and new legislation to keep moving forward.
- She also requested information on the supports for middle and high school students. Response: There are 6-8 WINN teachers for foundational skills and decoding of words. Each middle school has a WINN teacher. There is also a screener for those who need support in reading and language comprehension, vocabulary in ELA classes to support that information.
 - Director Kopp noted that is wonderful to hear, and recalled her experience as a secondary teacher, and was pleased with the support for students and WINN for 6-8.
 - For high school, there are reading acceleration courses for students who may need additional support.
- How are we setting goals? Response: One of the priorities of the Division of School and OTL was full implementation of Tier 1 and literacy for elementary. All teams within DOS are working together towards these goals, and we hope to lean into that and see deliberate choice in make those our focus areas and seeing progress in those, and will report back to the Board and community. In elementary, there are Tier 1, middle Tier 1, and Tier 2 in literacy with the WINN process, and in high schools, it's about credit attainment across the entire system. There are also short-term and long-term goals, and a short-term goal is 100% implementation for materials in all classrooms.
- The importance of progress monitoring was notes.
- For the long-range goals, there are check points along the way to shift practice if needed, through FAST data.
- Director Kopp noted it is wonderful to build capacity first, and it is exciting to meet benchmarks and progress monitoring and to keep this conversation going on a regular basis to keep it at the front of our minds. She looks forward to seeing the progress.
- How are teachers and universities involved in the planning for this work and bringing it into the literacy team? Response: We know universities and colleges lag with the new legislation, and we are thinking about how to bring them in as partners. The University of Minnesota has made shifts, and one of the options of PD is from their department, as well as St. Thomas and Maxfield, St. Kate's, Hamline, and we are looking at reading prep programs and ways to support teachers and reading licensure programs. In cohorts of the LETRS training, staff have learned practices and emerging implementation.
- Director Kopp appreciated the presentation and the depth of knowledge and passion for this work. "Every child, every day" is an incredibly important motto for this work, and the reason we are all

here. She noted that as she closes her time as a board member, and thinking about literacy for choices, and when our students finish college, get the job, travel, take time off, or go into their career or into college – that our students have a choice and the world is open to them and decide their calling. She can't imagine what it is like when every class is a struggle. Literacy also changes school climate and attendance. Literacy is transformative in so many ways and the root of many things. She is grateful to the team, especially Ms. Braithwaite for her depth of knowledge in this area and her expertise, as well as Mr. Anderson.

- Ms. Braithwaite thanked her team as well, including the Superintendent and Jenny Davis, who works tirelessly and recognized her for her work.

B. Policy Update

a. SECOND READING: Policy 413.01 - Chemical Use and Abuse

Superintendent Gothard then welcomed Kathy Kimani, Director of Office of Student Support, and Becky Schmidt, Interim Director of Student Health and Wellness, to present this Second Reading. Information on the policy included the rationale for the policy update, committee members and their work on these proposed revisions, and a review of the proposed changes to reflect MSBA model policy language.

The full presentation can be found in the BoardBook.

QUESTIONS/DISCUSSION:

- Superintendent Gothard noted there has been a disturbing trend in drug and chemical use in our community, and violent behavior around it as well. Director Olson and our community partners are tasked with the important work to look as how we do things better as well, and the importance of licensed drug and alcohol counselors, and there needs to be state funding dedicated to this work.
- Director Vue thanked Ms. Kimani and Ms. Schmidt for their due diligence on this policy, including the updated from 2009, which speaks to the level of work in this district, and he also thanked the board members on the Policy Work Group and staff for their support in these proposed revisions.

b. SECOND READING: Policy 501.03 - Student Dress Code

Superintendent Gothard then welcomed Pat Pratt-Cook, Executive Chief of Human Resources, to present this Second Reading. Information included the rationale for these proposed changes, a review of currently language compared to the Policy Work Group's rationale for changes, and details on the new proposed language.

The full presentation can be found in the BoardBook.

QUESTIONS/DISCUSSION: None

13. BOARD OF EDUCATION

A. Information Requests/Responses and Items for Future Agendas

- Director Ward reiterated his requests from previous meetings, including a report on class size (last year to this year), and the results of the exit surveys of families.

B. Board of Education Reports/Communications

- Director Ellis provided an update on events she has attended the past few months. While she was unable to attend the Urban Debate League event in September, she noted that SPPS students did participate in it, and it is available online. She also noted her time at several athletic events, including volleyball games, soccer games, including the Mayor’s Cup, and the Marydale Festival. She also provided a report from a conference she attended with the Saint Paul Teachers Retirement Fund regarding pensions in San Diego, CA.
- Director Henderson provided a brief report on the progress of SEAB.
- Director Vue noted that he attended the Budget Engagement Session on October 13th with the Parent Advisory Councils.

14. ADJOURNMENT

Director Vue moved to adjourn the meeting; Director Ellis seconded the motion.

The motion was approved by roll call vote:

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:40 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