

**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](http://www.spps.org/boe) and Saint Paul Cable Channel 16

**September 19, 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: H. Henderson, U. Ward, J. Vue, J. Kopp, Z. Ellis  
Superintendent Gothard

J. Foster arrived at 5:31 p.m.

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 Ellis.**

The motion was approved by roll call vote:

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

**4. RECOGNITIONS**

**BF 33372** Acknowledgement of Good Work Provided by Outstanding District Employees

1. **Hannah Darr**, a teacher and content coach at Battle Creek Middle School, has received a Fulbright Teachers for Global Classrooms Program award from the U.S. Department of State and the Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board.

As a Fulbright recipient, Darr will share knowledge and foster meaningful connections across communities in the United States and abroad. Fulbrighters engage in cutting-edge research and expand their professional networks, often continuing research collaborations started abroad and laying the groundwork for forging future partnerships between institutions. Upon returning to their classrooms in the United States, they share their stories and often become active supporters of international exchange, inviting foreign scholars and educators to their school or campus and encouraging their colleagues and students to go abroad.

2. **Shana Lee**, a teacher at Murray Middle School, has been selected by the U.S. Department of State for a 10-month fellowship project, training teachers and teaching English in South Africa at the University of KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN). Lee is one of only 184 U.S. citizens selected for the 2023-2024 English Language Fellow Program.

Lee has been teaching at Murray since 2019 where she focuses on the language of science for long-term multilingual learners and students who are new to the country. At UKZN, she will work with students enrolled in the Bachelor of Education program in both English language courses and teaching methodology courses. She will also provide support, training and workshops to in-service educators at local K-12 schools and technical vocational colleges.

The English Language Fellow Program is the premier opportunity for experienced teachers of English to speakers of other languages (TESOL) to enact meaningful and sustainable changes in the way that English is taught abroad. The program is sponsored by the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA) with funding provided by the U.S. government.

3. **Dr. Winston Tucker**, principal of Highland Park Senior High School, has received the MNIB Leadership Award from the Minnesota Association of International Baccalaureate World Schools (MNIB). Each year the MNIB awards one outstanding school administrator or leader with this award. The award recipient is nominated by a colleague for being a leader who stands out as someone who helps promote and sustain the MNIB program in their school.

Dr. Tucker's nominating colleague said about him, "When it comes to supporting the IB in Saint Paul, Dr. Winston Tucker takes the lead, not only at Highland Park, but in the three IB high schools in our district. He has been a long-time advocate for our teachers at Highland Park and is dedicated to promoting our IB program with students, teachers, support staff and our larger family community. Dr Tucker communicates regularly with our partner school (Highland Park Middle School) to promote a fluid 6-12 program. He really understands that as an IB school, we don't put our program 'on the back burner,' but showcase this valuable asset as much as possible."

## 5. PUBLIC COMMENT

1. **Leo Jackson** Equitable pricing for athletic facilities
2. **Jennifer Hartman** Importance of youth programs and partnership with SPPS
3. **Peter Hendricks** Digital ticketing for athletic events
4. **William Hill** Equal Opportunity – Policy 401
5. **Earl Miller** Naming the Harding Auditorium in Honor of JoAnn Clark
6. **Melvin Miller** Naming the Harding Auditorium in Honor of JoAnn Clark

**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 Foster.

The motion was approved by roll call vote:

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

**7. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

A. Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of August 22, 2023

**MOTION:** Director Vue moved approval of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of August 22, 2023. 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	Absent
Director Kopp	Yes
Director Ellis	Yes
Director Foster	Yes

**8. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

A. Minutes of the Committee of the Board Meeting of September 5, 2023

At the Committee of the Board Meeting on September 5, 2023, Superintendent Gothard welcomed everyone to the meeting and to the beginning of the 2023-2024 school year, and provided a recap of his day in visiting schools on their first day of the new school year, including connecting with students, families, and staff. Discussion from the Board focused on the differences in tone of the start of this school year as compared to recent previous years.

The first presentation was the Resolution Relating to Extending A Tax Increment Financing District For The Minnesota Event District In The City Of Saint Paul. Questions and discussion from the Board included the rationale for this specific requirement and recent legislation, and overview of the TIF process and district, potential impacts of funding to the school district, reimbursements, and effects on property taxes if this were to not pass. This item will come before the Board for a vote at the Regular Meeting on September 19, 2023.

The second presentation included details on the American Rescue Plan Fiscal Year 2023 End of Year Update. Discussion on this presentation focused on the continued guidance by this process in SPPS, examples of implementation challenges, discussion on the data presented of American Indian students

served by ARP funds, details on the process for redeployment of funds, evaluation of fund use by our community partners, further information on the unspent funds, goals for the progress of initiatives and those that were sunsetted, including the need to inform the community about those initiatives. Further details were also shared about the needs assessment results. Discussion also included the timeline on when schools will feel the effects of adjustments and changes from ARP funding, and the importance of communication to schools about those changes and impacts. Information was also shared on the priorities for the upcoming budget from this work, including the WINN strategy, and the need to be data-driven in the decision making process.

Lastly, the policy update included presentations on proposed revisions to two policies. Within the discussion for updates to Policy 501.03 - Student Dress Code, details were requested on student dress and cultural expression in athletics, and ways to ensure that this policy is upheld at events. The role of the Minnesota State High School League regulations was also noted, as well as the training needed and conversations with the League. The next presentation included proposed updates to Policy 413.01 - Chemical Use and Abuse. The consensus was to move both policies updated to the three-reading process.

**MOTION: Director Kopp moved to accept the report on the September 5, 2023 Committee of the Board meeting and approve the recommended motions and minutes of that meeting as published. 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	Absent
Director Kopp	Yes
Director Ellis	Yes
Director Foster	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

**10. SUPERINTENDENT'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Superintendent Gothard began his announcements by providing further details on the first few days of school. He thanked all staff, parents, caretakers, partners, and students for a wonderful opening of the 2023-2024 school year. He noted the warm weather on the first day of school, and a second day that was 35 degrees cooler, and it is nice to settle into a more seasonable weather pattern. He thanked Mayor Carter for joining him to spend time in our schools; he tells students that, one day, he wants them to take his job as mayor, and the Superintendent tells students the same. We want students to see themselves however they want, and with open minds to who they want to be as leaders. He also thanked board members for their work.

He also thanked our partners at the US Department of Education for visiting SPPS, including Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona and his visit to Txuj Ci. It was the final stop on his five-state bus tour to celebrate their Raise the Bar initiative and strategic focus on supporting the 15,000 public school districts across the country. He then reviewed the key areas of the Raise the Bar plan, and its alignments with our work in SPPS. He noted the multilingualism component of Txuj Ci, and Secretary Cardona's excitement for the celebration of multilingualism, and our WINN strategy. Ray Hart from the Council of the Great City Schools also joined for the visit, and we appreciate their support, and advocacy for federal support for E12. He also noted the night before the visit, parents had the opportunity to meet with the Department of Education, and they were very impressed with our parent groups, level of educators, and collaboration in SPPS. He thanked the Office of Family Engagement and Community Partnerships for supporting our PACs about accelerating learning in literacy, and SPPS Reads! The DOE staff returned to Washington D.C. with real examples of staff connections with parents and students. With the first week of school, it was a great celebration to share what all of us love about this district, and our kids, staff, and community.

Director Foster appreciated the report, and noted it is important that as we look at education as a fundamental human right, that we continue to say that every staff position matters and every staff position plays a role in the outcomes for students. She thanked everyone for their work.

**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 Ellis seconded the motion.

The motion was approved by roll call vote:

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

1. Gifts

2. Grants

**BF 33373** Request for Permission to Accept a Grant from Arizona State University

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to accept a grant award from Arizona State University and to implement the project as specified in the award documents.

**BF 33374** Request for Permission to Accept a Grant from the MN Humanities Center

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to accept a grant from the MN Humanities Center; to accept funds; and to implement the project as specified in the award documents.

**BF 33375** Request for Permission to Accept a Grant from the Minnesota Office of Higher Education's Direct Admissions Pilot Program

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to accept a grant from Minnesota Office of Higher Education's Direct Admissions Pilot Program to fund the MN pilot program in 14 high schools; to accept funds; and to implement the project as specified in the award documents.

**BF 33376** Request for Permission to Submit a Grant to the Minnesota Department of Education's Concurrent Enrollment Introduction to Teaching Grant

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to submit a grant from Minnesota Department of Education's Concurrent Enrollment Introduction to Teaching Grant program; to accept funds; and to implement the project as specified in the award documents.

**BF 33377** Request for Permission to Submit a Grant to the MN Department of Employment and Economic Development - Bridge to Career Pathways Grant Program

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to submit a grant from the MN DEED's Bridge to Career Pathways Grant; to accept funds; and to implement the project as specified in the award documents.

**BF 33378** Request for Permission to Submit a Grant to the MN Department of Employment and Economic Development - On Ramp to Career Pathways Grant Program

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to submit a grant from the MN DEED's On Ramp to Career Pathways Grant; to accept funds; and to implement the project as specified in the award documents.

**BF 33379** Request for Permission to Submit a Grant to the US Department of Education's Education Innovation and Research (EIR) Grant

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to submit a grant from the US Department of Education's EIR Grant program; to accept funds; and to implement the project as specified in the award documents.

**BF 33380** Request for Permission to Submit a Grant to the US Department of Education's Full Service Community Schools Grant

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to submit a grant from the US Department of Education's Full Service Grant program; to accept funds; and to implement the project as specified in the award documents.

### 3. Contracts

**BF 33381** Approval for a Contract that Exceeds \$175,000 with Dr. Tracey Benson for the 2023-2024 School Year

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to approve a contract that exceeds \$175,000 with Dr. Tracey Benson for the 2023-2024 school year to support systemic equity professional development with Principals and Assistant Principals in SPPS.

**BF 33382** Contract between Saint Paul Public Schools and Junior Achievement North pertaining to JA Finance Park

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to sign the Contract between Saint Paul Public Schools and Junior Achievement North for JA Finance Park for the 2023-24 school year.

**BF 33383** K-5 Step Up to Writing

The Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent to enter into a contract with Voyager Sopris Learning. The total cost for services will not exceed \$475,000.

**BF 33384** Mental Health Partnerships

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to approve the mental health partnerships authorized by the Office of School Support.

**BF 33385** Request to Sign Concurrent Enrollment Contract with of Fond du Lac Tribal and Community College

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to sign the Concurrent Enrollment Contract between Fond du Lac Tribal and Community College and Saint Paul College for FY24.

**BF 33386** Request to Sign the Contract with RealTime Talent for CLNA Support Services

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to sign the contract between RealTime Talent and SPPS for FY24.

**BF 33387** Request to Sign Income Contract with Saint Paul College for MATH 0910 (Introductory Algebra)

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

**BF 33388** Request to Sign Income Contract with Inver Hills Community College

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to sign the Income Contract between Saint Paul Public Schools and Inver Hills Community College for FY24.

**BF 33389** Service Contract with Learning A-Z to Purchase RazKids Plus

The Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent to enter into a contract with Learning A-Z RazKids. The total cost for services is to not exceed \$300,000.

**BF 33390** Request for Permission to Participate in an Affiliation Agreement with the University of Minnesota Dietetics Program

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to execute an affiliation agreement with the University of Minnesota Dietetics Program for the term specified above.

**BF 33391** Request to Sign Contract with Construction Careers Foundation

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

**BF 33392** Design Services for Wellstone Elementary Plumbing, Piping, and HVAC Replacement Project (Project # 4260-23-01)

That the Board of Education authorize award of design and construction administration services to U+B Architecture and Design, Inc for the not-to-exceed fee of \$562,800.

#### 4. Agreements

**BF 33393** Request to Sign Memorandum of Agreement with Minneapolis College

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



**BF 33394** Request to Sign the Memorandum of Understanding with St. Catherine University for CNA Programming

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to sign the contract with St. Catherine University for FY24.

**BF 33395** Request to Sign Student Teaching Agreement with Northwestern University St. Paul

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to sign the Student Teaching Agreement between Saint Paul Public Schools and Northwestern University St. Paul.

**BF 33396** Request to Sign Student Teaching Agreement with University of Wisconsin River Falls

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to sign the Student Teaching Agreement between Saint Paul Public Schools and University of Wisconsin River Falls.

5. Administrative Items

**BF 33397** Monthly Operating Authority

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

a) General Account	#763238-764110 #0004960-0004988 #7004861-7004894 #0008725-0008882	\$58,637,208.22
b) Construction Payments	-0-	\$4,054,101.04
c) Debt Service	-0-	<u>000.00</u>
		\$62,691,309.26

Included in the above disbursements are two payrolls in the amount of \$13,753,157.77 and overtime of \$117,342.82 or 0.85% 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 January 31, 2024.

**BF 33398** 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 September 27, 2023, should they not comply with Minnesota State Health Standards for Immunizations on or before this date.

**Human Resources Transactions**

**BF 33399** Transactions for August 1 – August 31, 2023

**BF 33400** Approval to Create a Cooperative Sponsorship between St. Paul Johnson, St. Paul Como Park, St. Paul Harding and St. Croix Lutheran for Boys Hockey

Authorize the Superintendent (or Designee) to approve the Cooperative Sponsorship for Girls' Basketball with St. Paul- Washington Technology Magnet and St. Paul- Johnson.

**BF 33401** Revision to Policy 102.00 Equal Opportunity/Non Discrimination and Policy 401.00 Equal Employment Opportunity

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to approve the revisions to Policy 102.00 Equal Opportunity/Non Discrimination and Policy 401.00 Equal Employment Opportunity.

**BF 33402** Settlement of Claim

That the Board of Education approve the Settlement Agreement in the above-referenced matter; authorize its Superintendent to sign the Settlement Agreement; and authorize School District administration to perform the Settlement Agreement.

**BF 33403** Phase Gate Approval of the Wilson (fka LEAP) School Concrete Replacement (Project # 4270-22-01): Gate #3 – Project Budget

That the Board of Education approve the Wilson (fka LEAP) School Concrete Replacement project (Project # 4270-22-01) at Phase Gate Check #3 – Project Budget, setting the final project budget at \$465,000 and indicating direction to proceed with construction bidding.

**BF 33404** SPPS Builds Phase Gate Title Simplification

That the Board of Education accepts this report on the title revision to the SPPS Builds phase gate check agenda items.

**BF 33405** Maximum Hourly Rate Increases for Pre-Qualified Professional Engineers, Technology Consultants and Landscape Architects for Small Projects

That the Board of Education authorize the administration to adjust the terms of professional consulting services in accordance with the Request for Qualifications No. A21-1417-A to incorporate new maximum hourly billing rates per the above table.

**BF 33406** Phase Gate Approval of the E-STEM Chiller Replacement (Project # 2210-20- 01): Gate #5.2 – Project Final Fiscal Close-out

That the Board of Education accept the financial report provided for E-STEM (Project # 2210-20- 01) at Phase Gate Check #5.2 – Project Final Fiscal Close-out.

**BF 33407** Phase Gate Approval of the Humboldt Senior High School Athletics (Project #2142-22-01): Gate #5.2 – Project Final Fiscal Close-out

That the Board of Education accept the financial report provided for Humboldt Senior High School Athletics (Project # 2142-22-01) at Phase Gate Check #5.2 – Project Final Fiscal Close-out.

**BF 33408** Phase Gate Approval of the Phalen Lake Hmong Studies (now Txuj Ci) HVAC (Project # 1200-19-01): Gate #5.2 – Project Final Fiscal Close-out

That the Board of Education accept the financial report provided for Phalen Lake Hmong Studies (now Txuj Ci) HVAC (Project # 1200-19-01) at Phase Gate Check #5.2 – Project Final Fiscal Close-out.

**BF 33409** Phase Gate Approval of the Washington Technology Magnet Athletic Site Improvements (Project # 4040-19-01): Gate #5.2 – Project Final Fiscal Closeout

That the Board of Education accept the financial report provided for Washington Technology Magnet Athletic Site Improvements (Project # 4040-19-01) at Phase Gate Check #5.2 – Project Final Fiscal Close-out.

**BF 33410** Minnesota Department of Transportation (“MN DOT”) Proposal to Purchase Rights to District Property

That the Superintendent (or designee, including Tom Parent, Executive Director of Operations and Administration) execute and approve MN DOT’s proposal to purchase property and temporary easement and construction rights to a portion of the District property located at and around 975 Snelling Ave S, St Paul, MN 55116 in the amount of \$4,375.00 for replacement of signals, highway purposes, lane conversion, and improvement of sidewalks around the District’s property, and to seek a county board resolution releasing the use restriction that affects the Highland Track and Field parcel..

6. Bids

**BF 33411** Phase Gate Approval of the Wilson (fka LEAP) School Concrete Replacement (Project # 4270-22-01): Gate #4 - Contract Award

That the Board of Education approve the award of the Wilson (fka LEAP) School Concrete Replacement project (Project # 4270-22-01) to RAK Construction for a lump sum base bid of \$342,725.

7. Change Orders

**ITEMS PULLED FOR SEPARATE CONSIDERATION - None**

**FURTHER AGENDA ITEMS THAT REQUIRE BOARD ACTION**

1. Resolution Relating to Extending a Tax Increment Financing District for the Minnesota Event District in the City of Saint

Superintendent Gothard then welcomed Tom Sager, Executive Chief of Financial Services, to present the Resolution Relating to Extending a Tax Increment Financing District for the Minnesota Event District in the City of Saint. Pertinent facts shared included information on tax increment financing, this proposed extension, the capital improvements, and that there is no negative impact to the school district property levy as a result of this TIF. The letter of request from the City of Saint Paul was also noted, as well as the proposed resolution, which states:

**APPROVING MINNESOTA LAWS 2023, CHAPTER 64, ARTICLE 8, SECTION 4  
RELATING TO EXTENDING A TAX INCREMENT FINANCING DISTRICT**

## FOR THE MINNESOTA EVENT DISTRICT IN THE CITY OF SAINT PAUL

BE IT RESOLVED By the School Board of Independent School District No. 625 (the “School District”) as follows:

1. It is hereby determined that:

(a) Minnesota Laws 2023, Chapter 64, Article 8, Section 4 (the “Special Law”) authorized the Housing and Redevelopment Authority of the City of Saint Paul, Minnesota to extend the duration of the Downtown and Seventh Place (For the Minnesota Event District) Tax Increment Financing District by 10 years to 2033, subject to certain terms and conditions;

(b) the Special Law is effective upon approval by a majority vote of the City Council of the City of Saint Paul, Minnesota (the “City”), a majority vote of the Ramsey County Board of Commissioners, and a majority vote of the School Board of Independent School District No. 625 (the “School Board”), and the filing of a certificate with the Minnesota Secretary of State, all in accordance with Minnesota Statutes, Sections 469.1782, subd. 2 and 645.021, subds. 2 and 3; and

(c) the School Board has determined that is in the best interest of the School District and its residents to approve the Special Law.

2. The Special Law is hereby approved in all respects.

3. School District staff are authorized and directed to transmit a certified copy of this resolution to the City for filing with the Secretary of State.

The full presentation and supporting materials can be found in the BoardBook.

### **QUESTION/DISCUSSION:**

- Director Henderson request further information on the minor impact on the levy that was mentioned. Response: There is a unique levy in Saint Paul that pertains to severance, which has a slight adjustment related to TIFs.
- Director Ward requested further information on the explanation of how this TIF does not impact revenue for the district. Response: The school district property tax levy is set by statute, and also includes the number of pupils and state aid – those are the key drivers. This TIF has virtually no impact on revenue as the properties surrounding the TIF district make up the difference in taxes.
- Staff from the City confirmed that in a TIF district, the tax burden is spread throughout the remaining property owners. There are 58 TIF districts in the City of Saint Paul. None of them results in lower revenue for SPPS.
- It was noted this is a specially legislated TIF district that Saint Paul sought to extend for 10 years, and the legislature mandated an affirmative from the City, County and School District. That special legislation is only applicable to this one situation.
- Director Ward requested information on the rationale for the County to be held harmless in this TIF. Response: The legislation required that the County be held harmless because the County didn’t want to take the tax burden that would be spread out across the entire county.
- As a reiteration from the Committee of the Board meeting, this TIF is for properties owned by the City, not a private interest, and to increase economic development around the public entities in downtown.

- Further information was also provided on the amount “captured” within the TIF, with comments in the plan of the tax rate. The school district’s portion is \$1.5M each year, and the City is about \$2M per year, with the County held harmless. Further discussion was also held on the impact per person in the city, and the impacts if this would not pass, including that the City would need to make up that revenue.
- Director Ward noted this is an investment in public entities that do a lot of good for the city.

**BF 33412** Resolution Relating to Extending a Tax Increment Financing District for the Minnesota Event District in the City of Saint Paul

**MOTION:** Director Vue moved to approve that the School Board continue to partner with the City of Saint Paul and Ramsey County to approve the resolution and extend the TIF District for the City of Saint Paul as presented, including approval of the resolution titled “Approving Minnesota Laws 2023, Chapter 64, Article 8, Section 4 Relating To Extending A Tax Increment Financing District For THE Minnesota Event District In The City Of Saint Paul”. Director Ellis seconded the motion.

The motion was approved by roll call vote:

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

2. Pay24 Levy Ceiling Certification

Director Vue noted that this item was a placeholder on the agenda, and while we are currently waiting for information from the State, this agenda item has been removed, and a special meeting will need to be scheduled. Superintendent Gothard noted that this meeting will be to set the ceiling maximum in which the levy can go no higher, and the levy will be certified in December, following the Truth in Taxation hearing also scheduled for early December.

**MOTION:** Director Vue moved to approve a special meeting of the Board of Education regarding the Pay24 Preliminary Property Tax Levy Certification to commence on Friday, September 29, 2023 beginning at 11:00am in Conference Room 5A of the District Administration Building located at 360 Colborne Street. Director Ellis and Director Foster seconded the motion.

The motion was approved by roll call vote:

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

3. Naming the Harding Senior High School Auditorium in Honor of JoAnn Clark

Superintendent Gothard then welcomed Jackie Turner, Executive Chief of Administration and Operations, to present this topic. Information within the presentation includes the purpose – to acknowledge JoAnn Clark for the great work and many years of service she has given to the community, as well as committee members on this project. The dedication timeline was reviewed, with the plaque presentation on October 16, 2023 prior to the HBCU college tour at Progressive Baptist Church, and the JoAnn Clark Auditorium Celebration on February 17, 2024 at the Thinking College Early Fair at Harding High School.

**QUESTION/DISCUSSION:**

- Director Foster noted that when COVID-19 hit, this district faced substantial losses - many became sick and there were tough times. In naming spaces for folks, too often we give them credit and celebrate them when they are gone - she wants to be able to celebrate JoAnn Clark and give her flowers. On the East Side and all over Minnesota, and in the legislature, as well as folks in DC, folks know JoAnn Clark. She is an incredible advocate for our students in SPPS, and in her partnership and vision, she has provided a movement for access and opportunities for our Black students, and created a pathway for them when there was not one. Her work has not stopped, and her daughter Annette is poised to be the next champion of this work. She is progressive in this work and with the church community. JoAnn does not waver in her work. She stands fast and fights for our students in SPPS; she is a cheerleader for the district. This is a way of celebrating her life, her works of paving the way, and being innovative for Students of Color. She recommended that the Board support the renaming and give her flowers and thank her for her legacy in real time in this life to enjoy and appreciate it.

**BF 33413** Naming the Harding Senior High School Auditorium in Honor of JoAnn Clark

**MOTION:** Director Vue moved that the Board of Education approves the request to name the Harding Senior High School auditorium in honor of JoAnn Clark. Director Foster seconded the motion.

The motion was approved by roll call vote:

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

**10. INFORMATIONAL AGENDA ITEMS**

A. Summer Learning and First Week of School 2023

Superintendent Gothard then welcomed staff to present Summer Learning and First Week of School 2023. He noted his pride in the team, and while we are past the pandemic, we have not slowed down in our work, and maintain the sense of urgency in service of our students and each other, and we are seeing the results of those efforts. Details on summer enrollment figures were shown, including 12,719 students. Further information was also shared on PreK-12 Summer Learning, including a summer literacy focus, PreK-4 Summer Stars, themed summer programs, 5-8 Summer Quest, 9-12 high school credit recovery, 9-12 online credit recovery, and 11-12 high school credit recovery. Information was also presented on student

data for high school credit recovery, including summer learning success impacts in content areas, and demographics. Details were also shared on special education extended school year. Community Education summer programs were also detailed in this report, including a video, summer enrollment summary and program information, CDF Freedom School, Adult Basic Education. Discovery Club, and ECFE. Further information on the 2023-2024 SY Opening Week Update was also shared with details from Student Placement, Nutrition Services, Transportation, and HR.

The full presentation can be found in the BoardBook.

### **QUESTIONS/DISCUSSION:**

- Director Ward noted this is an exciting update. In hearing concerns from folks at Harding about the lack of yellow buses, and the high rates of the entryway being chaotic with the different arrival times, have we heard how the reintroduction of yellow buses has impacted those concerns? Response: We can provide that data and feedback from secondary principals, including the requested anecdotal data.
- Director Foster requested information on the universal free meals, and the reasons to complete the FRL form. Response: We are focusing on the educational benefits form, because there are additional benefits for students, including discounted athletic fees, and other options and opportunities for students. This form also impacts Title funds for schools, and additional programming available based on the number of students who qualify for educational benefits. There is also usually a friendly competition by schools on the completion rates of the return of this form by families, and incentives for schools and support.
- Director Foster reiterated that while there are universal free meals, the forms support information for other categorically eligible funds that schools can receive, and the more forms that are returned, the more opportunities for eligibility and resources. She encouraged the community to complete the form, and if support is needed, staff in the schools are able to help.
- Director Ellis requested further information on credit recovery. Response: We have three different programs to support credit recovery during the school year, including school-based EDL, evening high school and others. A student who is failing a class will continue with the course and continued to be supported in that learning. There is a differentiated approach for 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> graders in that there are 3 classes in 2 sessions in summer learning. For 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> graders, there are benchmarks that need to be passed, but the limit of credits to earn is off, and is a motivator for rising seniors or hopeful graduates.
- Director Ward highlighted the hiring numbers that were presented, and that they are exciting to see. He thanked Chief Pratt-Cook and her staff also.
- Director Foster noted this District is doing things different and we are seeing those changes and outcomes, and the Board is grateful and appreciative of this work that is happening for change. We go back to adult behaviors that change in order to see different outcomes. We are versatile in building relationships and understanding our families and to be adaptable in practice and pedagogies that are working with our young people.
- Director Henderson noted the welding video included in the presentation and that when students are engaged in the material and connected, with a tangible experience, and wondering about what the next step is, and how to bring that back into the school year, while still developing the skills to all studies? Response: At the core of the development of classes like that, it is because of a student credit deficit, and those “cool rooms” were seen by students, but they maybe needed to go to another room for support classes. These classes open the door for them to get back on track for credits, and it also helps to have access to caring adults, such as counselors.

- Director Vue appreciates the summer learning opportunities and its growth in recent years, and his personal family experiences with summer learning.
- He also requested further details on yellow buses to Como High School and the timeline and expectations for that. Response: We are working with contractors to ensure they are able to continue to recruit and retain additional drivers to have that capacity. Once that is finalized, the administrative team will then look at the timing for transition, which could be either second semester or waiting until Fall 2024. The goal is to bring Como back to yellow buses.
- Director Vue also requested further details on the work of HR talent acquisition. Response: We were proactive this year, and included established relationships with HBCUs and a number of other colleges, as well as participation in over 100 recruitment activities, with intentionality in relationships in community, as well as early contract for teachers, and hiring and retention bonuses for selected positions. We are using data to make decisions on where to shift hiring efforts, and looking at the previous five years in attrition and hiring rates. Superintendent Gothard also provided details on the Como Park Senior Hiring Fair. Chief Pratt-Cook noted that through the job fairs, over 6,000 applications were screened to establish a qualified pool of candidates. More information was also provided on the principals' role at hiring events.
- Director Vue also noted the important role of the Food Truck at parks and events across the city. Chief Turner provided more details on the logistics of the food truck and the wonderful meals they create and distribute throughout the city.
- Director Ellis noted a question about the online credit recovery opportunities – is it only for SPPS students, or is it open to those outside of SPPS? Response: It is open to anyone who would qualify for credit recovery.

B. Policy Update

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

Superintendent Gothard then welcomed Kathy Kimani, Director of Office of Student Support, and May Langworthy, Director of Student Health and Wellness, to present this First Reading. He also noted it is Ms. Langworthy's final board meeting, and we wish her nothing the best in her future as she moves into another role outside of SPPS; her final day at SPPS is October 4. He also recognized Becky Schmidt as Interim Director of Health and Wellness. 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:** None

b. FIRST READING: Policy 501.03 - Student Dress Code

Superintendent Gothard then welcomed Pat Pratt-Cook, Executive Chief of Human Resources, to present this First 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:**



- Director Vue commented on the great work on behalf of the Policy Work Group for bringing these proposed changes before the Board.
- Superintendent Gothard noted there has been national coverage around hairstyles and discipline of a student in another state, and it is troubling on so many accounts. This policy states how we are working with students and supporting them with this policy for the well-being and acceptance. He also noted in spending time with students, including statements around hijabs, and learning about our customs and ways children are raised, and it's important to model and lean into that and embrace it, and find opportunities to inform the community. Through policy, it shows our support and as an educational tool to support students, staff, and families.

**13. BOARD OF EDUCATION**

A. Information Requests/Responses and Items for Future Agendas

- Director Ward requested an update on the data from exit surveys for families – including reasons for leaving the district and why, and concerns that led them to that decision.
- Director Ellis requested a presentation about adult programs in the district, including data on adult learners and the number with young people in SPPS.
- Director Ellis also requested information about the ARP grants to community partners, with the end of the ARP funds in 2024.
- She also requested information as a follow-up from Public Comment on the invoice for the community football team.

B. Board of Education Reports/Communications

- Director Ellis provided an update of the events she has recently attended including the 25-year luncheon, a facilities tour, summer graduation, including wondering about the 159 students who graduated at that event and the steps. She also recognized Hispanic Heritage Month, and that she was able to attend the Harding/Humboldt football game versus Two Rivers at TCO Stadium, and thanked Dr. Littles-Butler for singing the national anthem. She also recapped her time in schools these first few weeks of the new school year, and recognized our Transportation team, as well as building teams, including clerks for updating families on the location of their students.

**14. ADJOURNMENT**

**Director Vue moved to adjourn the meeting; Director Ward seconded the motion.**

The motion was approved by roll call vote:

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:25 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