# 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

August 22, 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: J. Foster, H. Henderson, U. Ward, J. Vue, C. Allen, J. Kopp, Z. Ellis

Superintendent Gothard

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 with one change – to move the approval of the consent agenda to follow Further Items that Require Board Action, after the agenda item of Board Meeting Streaming. The motion was seconded by Director Ward.

The motion was approved by roll call vote:

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

#### 4. RECOGNITIONS

BF 33320 Acknowledgement of Good Work Provided by Outstanding District Employees

Welcoming new leaders to the 2023-24 school year.

Tom Sager, Executive Chief of Financial Services

Kirk Morris, Assistant Superintendent, Division of Schools

Heidi Nistler, Assistant Superintendent, Specialized Services

Mario McHenry, Executive Director, Technology Services

Jodi Danielson, Director of Schools and Learning, Division of Schools and Learning

Pang Yang, Assistant Director, Research, Evaluation and Assessment

Sue Braithwaite, Interim Assistant Director, Office of Teaching and Learning

Kerry Suzuki, Process Improvement Officer, Human Resources

Brian Cihacek, Purchasing Manager, Office of Business and Financial Affairs

Kevin Larson, Distribution Manager, Facilities/Nutrition Services

Nevonia Rainwater, Accounts Payable Manager, Office of Business and Financial Affairs

Karen Huiett, Capital Project Delivery Manager, Facilities

Jude Vales, Principal, Adams Spanish Immersion

Jamell Tidwell, Principal, Farnsworth Aerospace Upper Campus

Shandyn Benson, Principal, Gordon Parks and AGAPE High Schools

Abdisalam Adam, Principal, East African Elementary School

Anthony Chlebecek, Interim Principal, Harding Senior High

Melissa Ehlers, Principal, Frost Lake Elementary

Kelly Dietrich, Principal, Focus Beyond Transition Services

Julie Hutcheson-Downwind, Interim Principal, American Indian Magnet

Diana Brown, Principal, Como Park Senior High

Jennifer Ewald, Principal, Como Park Elementary

Phil Hutcheson, Assistant Principal, Farnsworth Aerospace Upper

Geoff Freeman, Assistant Principal, Adams Spanish Immersion

**Danielle Hughes**, Assistant Principal, Frost Lake Elementary

Alecia Sanders, Assistant Principal, Wellstone Elementary

Constance Anderson, Assistant Principal, Humboldt High School

Kehinde Olafeso, Assistant Principal, Humboldt High School

Laura Ramsborg, Assistant Principal, Highland Park Senior High

Meera Patel, Assistant Principal, Como Park Elementary

Terri Steen, Assistant Principal, Journeys Secondary and Downtown High School

Devon Smith, Assistant Principal, American Indian Magnet School

Peirre Conwell, Assistant Principal, Washington Technology Magnet School 6-8

Carlottia Ruff, Assistant Principal, Battle Creek Middle

**DeOnta El-Shabazz**, Assistant Principal, Highland Park Senior High

Jimmy Nyembwe, Assistant Principal, Harding Senior High

David Mrozek, Assistant Principal, Bruce Vento Elementary

Anthony Minus, Assistant Principal, Como Park Senior High

Sara Johnson, Assistant Principal, Battle Creek Elementary

Kathryn Garvey, Assistant Principal, Washington Technology Magnet School 6-8

Talisha Jackson, Assistant Principal, Como Park Senior High

#### 5. PUBLIC COMMENT

1. <u>Mick McGibbon</u> St. Cloud Public Schools Resolution re: Charter Schools

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

## 7. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

- A. Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of July 18, 2023
- B. Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Board of Education of July 18, 2023

MOTION: Director Vue moved approval of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of July 18, 2023 and the Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Board of Education of July 18, 2023. The motion was seconded by Director Foster.

The motion was approved by roll call vote:

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

#### 8. COMMITTEE REPORTS

#### A. Minutes of the Committee of the Board Meeting of August 9, 2023

At the Committee of the Board Meeting on August 9, 2023, Superintendent Gothard welcomed everyone to the meeting, and provided a recap of his experience at the MDE Back to School Conference, including the work of SPPS Reads! Questions from the Board focused on the training for the Science of Reading, funding, and training within higher education to prepare teachers and staff.

Next was a presentation on the Fiscal Year 2024 to 2026 Financing Plan for facilities maintenance and improvement. Discussion from the board included questions on the Certificates of Participation and their alignment to achievement and integration, the different levels of funding, information on the \$44M of extra expenditures included in the plan, and the factoring of interest rates in these proposals.

The next presentation was on School Safety, with a review of the work of the Security and Emergency Management team. It was noted that the culture and climate of the school community is so important - and bigger than the work of a single person or a single team. Questions from the Board included further details on the new technology and system for visitors to buildings, information on the training academy and ongoing professional development for School Support Liaisons, the reporting structure within the Office of Security and Emergency Management, communication on the topic of school safety to students and families, benefits of electronic passes for students, and the importance of instilling a sense of community values for students, families and staff in order for them to feel a sense of belonging in the academic community. The importance of families in this work was also noted, as well as adult behaviors to impact change, and support

for our Educators of Color staff. More information was also requested on the training of SSLs and staff, and similar trainings and tools for staff to feel safe and to help in a crisis situation.

The next presentation included details on the Fiscal Year 2025 Budget Engagement Framework. Board members were asked to focus their discussion on the success in this budget engagement process, nonnegotiables within the engagement process, and goals of engagement and expectations within the process. Within the discussion, board members noted the rationale of the presented budget recommendation, alignment of the budget to schools and the district overall, the need for a multi-year engagement plan, and timing for the first review of the budget information. The sustainability of the budget engagement process was also noted, and different budget scenarios will be helpful, as well as flexibility in the school budgets. The need for families and community to be able to see the budget information early in order to analyze and evaluate it was noted, as well as the amount of funding that is discretionary and that could be impacted by community input. The timeline of the budget process was also discussed, and the importance of receiving information early in order to evaluate and make decisions and to be accountable to community. The values of the Board in the budget process were also discussed, as well as future discussions on the definition of discretionary funds. Board members approved of a districtwide budget advisory committee, and also encouraged the engagement for women and people of color in this work. Student engagement will also be necessary in the budget engagement process. The Board also noted the importance of themes of budget priorities across the community to incorporate into the budget process, and using the framework of Student Outcomes Focused Governance to set the values of the community and goals. The messaging to families and community members was also noted. Success will be defined if goals are met, which are smart and aligned to the strategic plan, with a non-negotiable of staying true to the values of the Board, District, and Community. Future steps in formalizing a project plan of budget engagement based on the discussion heard from the Board was also shared.

The final presentation included information on Board Meeting Streaming, and three options were presented. Questions centered on the audio needs of one of the options, clarity in speakers, a note about the collective voice of the Board versus individual board members, the differences in formality of meeting types, information on the stipends for staff, details on proposed equipment upgrades, and further details on the livestream viewer data. It was also noted that this will come before the Board for a vote on streaming options at the August 22, 2023 Regular Meeting.

MOTION: Director Kopp moved to accept the report on the August 9, 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 Foster	Yes
Director Henderson	Yes
Director Ward	Yes
Director Vue	Yes
Director Allen	Yes
Director Kopp	Yes
Director Ellis	Yes

#### 9. FUTURE MEETING SCHEDULE

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

- January 3, 2023 | Annual Meeting: 4:30 p.m.
- January 17
- February 21
- March 21
- April 18
- May 23
- June 6 | Special Non-Renewals: 4:00 p.m.
- July 18
- August 22
- September 19
- October 24
- November 14
- December 19

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

- January 3, 2023
- February 7
- March 7
- April 11
- May 9
- June 6
- August 9 Wednesday
- September 5
- October 10
- November 8 Wednesday
- December 5

#### B. 2024 Meeting Schedule

MOTION: Director Vue moved to approve these meeting dates for 2024.

#### 2024 Regular Meeting Schedule

Time: 5:30 p.m. (unless noted otherwise)

Location: Conference Rooms A and B - 360 Colborne Street, Saint Paul, MN 55102

(unless noted otherwise)

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

- November 19, 2024
- December 17, 2024

#### 2024 Committee of the Board Meeting Schedule

Time: 4:30 p.m.

Location: Conference Room 5A - 360 Colborne Street, Saint Paul, MN 55102

- January 9, 2024
- February 6, 2024
- March 6, 2024 Wednesday
- April 2, 2024
- May 7, 2024
- June 11, 2024
- August 7, 2024 Wednesday
- September 10, 2024
- October 8, 2024
- November 6, 2024 Wednesday
- December 3, 2024

#### The motion was seconded by Director Allen.

The motion was approved by roll call vote:

Director Foster Abstain

Director Henderson Yes

Director Ward Yes

Director Vue Yes

Director Allen Yes

Director Kopp Yes

Director Ellis Yes

#### 10. SUPERINTENDENT'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Superintendent Gothard then shared his experience at New Educator Week Kick-Off Event, and the excellent group of new educators to our district.

He also provided an update on the Hiring Fair held at Como Park Senior High, and the news media able to attend. He also provided data on the number of attendees and confirmed hires, as well as there were many community members eager to show up and find their match within the district. He thanked the Human Resources team for their work in mobilizing the team, Communications for involving the media, and to Chief Pratt-Cook for continuing to push and find new ways to hire qualified folks.

He noted that the group of New Educators is excited to be working in the education field, contrary to popular belief of many leaving education. He thanked them for answering the call, and we do this work together, we problem solve together, and do great things together.

He also welcomed back our district and school leaders, and noted the Welcome Back event held at E-STEM. He shared the viewing of the documentary The Right to Read, and the initiative to turn what we have learned into action for the scholars in SPPS.

He also shared the creation of a District Literacy Leadership Team, and the need to model and change priorities to the most pressing need of literacy. The first meeting has been held, and we will demonstrate our ongoing commitment to reading, and showed the SPPS Reads! shirts available. He also shared that he is proud of our New Educators, but this work is more than teachers and support staff – it will require our entire community, and SPPS Reads! will ignite the community on what they can do to contribute to the literacy improvement for children in SPPS, and we are a model for that work.

He also shared that through the pandemic, and with the work of WINN teachers, and with the Science of Reading and Reads Act, while thanking the legislature and Governor for championing this work, SPPS is ahead of schedule with our ARP funds and ongoing historical needs, we have already begun this work and are now a model for it, and he is proud of the representation of leadership and this is priority in all we do.

With the beginning of the MN State Fair, he also shared that he will be meeting with the media. At a student convening earlier this year, he had an incredible interaction with a group of students, and encouraged a student to share the stage with him at the Fair this year.

He ended his announcements with excitement to welcome back our students on September 5<sup>th</sup> and September 7<sup>th</sup>.

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

#### 1. Gifts

#### BF 33321 Acceptance of Gift from Start Proud!®

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (or designee) to accept this gift from Start Proud!® on behalf of Hazel Park Preparatory Academy and Mississippi Creative Arts School.

**BF 33322** Highland Park Senior High School Gift Acceptance of \$5,391.22

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to accept the donation of \$5,391.22 for the use in the instrumental music department at Highland Park Senior High School and that the Superintendent (designee) send a letter of appreciation to Friends of Highland Arts.

#### BF 33323 Gift Acceptance from McGough for Student Store

That the Board of Education authorize the acceptance of a gift of labor and materials to construct and outfit a student store at Highland Park Senior High School.

BF 33324 Acceptance of Donation of Electric-Powered Landscape Equipment from The Toro Company and MTI Distributing

That the Board of Education authorize the acceptance of a gift of electric-powered landscape equipment from The Toro Company and MTI Distributing.

#### 2. Grants

BF 33325 Independent School District (ISD) 625 Resolution for Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Boost Grant

WHEREAS, the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) Safe Routes to School Program assists schools and communities by making it safer for children to walk, bike, and roll to school; and

WHEREAS, MnDOT Safe Routes to School Program solicits applications to enable schools and communities to implement Safe Route to School non-infrastructure activities; and

WHEREAS, if ISD 625 is awarded a SRTS Boost Grant, these funds would be used to provide non-infrastructure activities to local communities to develop Safe Routes to School initiatives that increase safety and encourage more children to walk and bicycle to school , including installing a traffic garden at the Txuj Ci HMong Studies Lower Campus; and

WHEREAS, no local match funding is required; and

WHEREAS, SRTS Boost grant activities will commence after the grant agreement is fully executed.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

- That ISD 625 authorizes the Superintendent to enter into a grant agreement with the Minnesota Department of Transportation for financial assistance to fund a Safe Routes to School Boost Grant and eligible expenses.
- 2. That the Superintendent is authorized to execute such Agreement and any amendment(s).

#### 3. Contracts

#### **BF 33326** Purchase of Districtwide 9-12 APEX License

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent to approve a purchase in the amount of \$209,000 for a district-wide APEX license.

#### BF 33327 TMA Contract Renewal

That the Board of Education authorize award of the three-year contract renewal to TMA at a cost of \$199,666 in FY24, FY25, and FY26.

#### 4. Agreements

**BF 33328** Memorandum of Agreement for Recruitment and Retention of Special Education Teaching Assistants between St. Paul Public Schools (District) and Teamsters Local 320

That the Board of Education approves the Memorandum of Agreement between Saint Paul Public Schools and Teamsters Local 320.

<u>BF 33329</u> Memorandum of Understanding for Hiring and Retention Bonuses between St. Paul Public Schools (District) and Saint Paul Federation of Educators (Federation)

That the Board of Education approves the Memorandum of Understanding between Saint Paul Public Schools and the Saint Paul Federation of Educators.

**BF 33330** Memorandum of Understanding between Saint Paul Public Schools and University of Saint Thomas

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to sign the Memorandum of Understanding between Saint Paul Public Schools and University of St. Thomas.

**BF 33331** Request to Sign School Psychology Practicum/Internship Agreement with the Minnesota State University

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to agree to the proposed partnership with Minnesota State University – Mankato.

**BF 33332** Request to Sign School Psychology Practicum/Internship Agreement with the University of Minnesota

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to agree to the proposed partnership with the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities.

**BF 33333** Request to Sign School Psychology Practicum/Internship Agreement with the University of Wisconsin River Falls

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to agree to the proposed partnership with University of Wisconsin, River Falls.

**BF 33334** Request to Sign School Social Work Internship Agreement with the University of Minnesota, Duluth

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

**BF 33335** Request to Sign Student Teaching Agreement with Augsburg University

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

**BF 33336** Request to Sign Student Teaching Agreement with Bethel University

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

**BF 33337** Request to Sign Student Teaching Agreement with College of St. Scholastica

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

**BF 33338** Request to Sign Student Teaching Agreement with Gustavus Adolphus College

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to sign the Student Teaching Agreement between Saint Paul Public Schools and Gustavus Adolphus College.

BF 33339 Request to Sign Student Teaching Agreement with Hamline University

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

**BF 33340** Request to Sign Student Teaching Agreement with Metropolitan State University

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

BF 33341 Request to Sign Student Teaching Agreement with St. Mary's University of Minnesota

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

BF 33342 Request to Sign Student Teaching Agreement with St Olaf College

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

**BF 33343** Request to Sign Student Teaching Agreement with University of Minnesota Twin Cities

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

Approval of Terms and Conditions of Professional Employment Between Independent School District No.625, St. Paul Public Schools, and Unrepresented Members of Independent School District No. 625, Saint Paul Public Schools ("Agreement").

That the Board of Education of Independent School District No. 625, Saint Paul Public Schools, approve the recommended salary and benefits increases for members of the Unrepresented group and additional individuals whose employment contracts with the School District incorporate the terms and conditions of the Unrepresented Agreement: duration of said recommendation is for the period of July 1, 2023 through

June 30, 2026.

#### BF 33345 Facility Use Agreement with Saint Paul College

That the Board of Education authorize the execution of the Facility Use Agreement between the District and Saint Paul College, located at 235 Marshall Avenue.

Assignment and Novation Agreement with JLG Architects, Inc. BF 33346

That the Board of Education authorize the administration to transfer the rights, obligations, and benefits in the Agreement with 292 Design Group, Inc.to JLG Architects, Inc.

Partners in Energy Memorandum of Understanding – Implementation Phase 2 (2023-2025) BF 33347

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (or designee) to execute a Memorandum of Understanding between Xcel Energy and Independent School District No. 625 in order for the District to implement the Partners in Energy program.

Administrative Items

#### BF 33348 Monthly Operating Authority

1. That the Board of Education approve and ratify the following checks and electronic transfers for the period June 1, 2023 – June 30, 2023

(a) General Account	#762038-763237	\$95,435,682,54

#0004915-0004959 #7004822-7004860 #0008568-0008724

(b) Construction Payments - 0 -\$5,125,610.22 (c) Debt Service - 0 -\$6,350.00

\$100,567,642.76

Included in the above disbursements are three payrolls in the amount of \$65,063,576.47 and overtime of \$345,357.52 or 0.53% of payroll.

(d) Collateral Changes

Released: None Additions: None

2. 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 December 31, 2023

#### **Human Resources Transactions**

BF 33349 Transactions for July 1 – July 31, 2023

BF 33350 Revision to Policy 505.00 Bullying Prohibition and Policy 415.00 Discrimination, Harassment, Violence and Retaliation

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to approve the revisions to Policy 505.00 Bullying Prohibition and Policy 415.00 Discrimination, Harassment, Violence and Retaliation.

**BF 33351** Revision to Policy 506.00 Student Discipline

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to approve the revisions to Policy 506.00 Student Discipline.

BF 33352 Saint Paul Public Schools 2022-23 Wellness Policy Annual Report

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to accept this report and continue to support wellness promotion to Saint Paul Public Schools students, staff, and families through physical activity, healthy eating, and mental well-being.

**BF 33353** 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 issue payment and otherwise perform the Settlement Agreement.

**BF 33354** Proposed Discharge of Tenured Teacher

That the Board of Education:

- 1. Accept the filing of the Charges proposing to discharge Tenured Teacher for the grounds alleged in the Charges.
- 2. Direct the Assistant Clerk of the Board of Education to serve Tenured Teacher with a copy of the Charges filed with the Clerk on August 17, 2023, and give notice to Tenured Teacher of the teacher's rights to a hearing or arbitration under the Teacher Tenure Act.
- 3. Authorize the District's legal counsel to select a hearing officer or an arbitrator, as applicable, if Tenured Teacher requests a hearing.

**BF 33355** City of Saint Paul Public Sidewalk Easement

That the Board of Education approve the City of Saint Paul public sidewalk easement at the new Bruce Vento site.

<u>BF 33356</u> Phase Gate Approval of the Cherokee Heights Elementary System Replacements Project (Project #2070-23-01): Gate #2 – Project Charter; Gate #2A – Finance Plan Update

That the Board of Education approve the Cherokee Heights Elementary System Replacements project (Project #2070-23-01) at Phase Gate Check #2 – Project Charter; Gate Check #2a – Finance Plan Update.

Phase Gate Approval of the Como Park Senior Athletics (Project # 4110-23-01): Gate #3
 Project Budget; Gate #3A – Finance Plan Update

That the Board of Education approve the Como Park Senior Athletics project (Project #4110-23-01) at Phase Gate Check #3 – Project Budget; Gate Check #3a – Finance Plan Update, setting the final project

budget at \$1,008,000 and indicating direction to proceed with construction bidding.

**BF 33358** FY2024 Indoor Air Quality Management Plan

The District is required by law to have an IAQ Management Plan that is adopted by the Board of Education. This agenda item fulfills that requirement.

6. Bids

<u>BF 33359</u> Phase Gate Approval of the Bruce Vento Elementary - New Construction Project WS 23-A (Project #1020-22-01): Gate #4 - Contract Award; Gate #4A – Finance Plan Update

That the Board of Education approve the award of Bid No. A23-3750-A for the Bruce Vento Elementary - New Construction Project (Project #1020-22-01) to Midwest Mechanical Solutions for a lump sum base bid of \$1,985,000.

BF 33360 Phase Gate Approval of the Bruce Vento Elementary - New Construction Project WS 31-A (Project #1020-22-01): Gate #4 - Contract Award; Gate #4A - Finance Plan Update

That the Board of Education approve the award of Bid No. A23-3751-A for the Bruce Vento Elementary - New Construction Project (Project #1020-22-01) to Veit for a lump sum base bid of \$2,060,028.

BF 33361 Phase Gate Approval of the Bruce Vento Elementary - New Construction Project WS 31-B (Project #1020-22-01): Gate #4 - Contract Award; Gate #4A - Finance Plan Update

Phase Gate Approval of the Bruce Vento Elementary - New Construction Project WS 31-B (Project #1020-22-01): Gate #4 - Contract Award; Gate #4A - Finance Plan Update.

BF 33362 Phase Gate Approval of the Bruce Vento Elementary – New Construction Project WS 33-A (Project #1020-22-01): Gate #4 - Contract Award; Gate #4A – Finance Plan Update

That the Board of Education approve the award of Bid No. A23-3753-A for the Bruce Vento Elementary - New Construction Project (Project #1020-22-01) to Veit for a lump sum base bid of \$2,641,700.

Phase Gate Approval of the Bruce Vento Elementary - New Construction Project WS 03-A (Project #1020-22-01): Gate #4 - Contract Award; Gate #4A - Finance Plan Update

That the Board of Education approve the award of Bid No. A23-3558-A for the Bruce Vento Elementary - New Construction Project (Project #1020-22-01) to Northland Concrete & Masonry for a lump sum base bid of \$4,877,700 upon receipt of MDE authority for the use Certificates of Participation.

<u>BF 33364</u> Phase Gate Approval of the Bruce Vento Elementary - New Construction Project WS 03-B (Project #1020-22-01): Gate #4 - Contract Award; Gate #4A – Finance Plan Update

That the Board of Education approve the award of Bid No. A23-3746-A for the Bruce Vento Elementary - New Construction Project (Project #1020-22-01) to Wells Concrete for a lump sum base bid of \$1,252,842.

BF 33365 Phase Gate Approval of the Bruce Vento Elementary - New Construction Project WS 05-A (Project #1020-22-01): Gate #4 - Contract Award; Gate #4A - Finance Plan Update

That the Board of Education approve the award of Bid No. A23-3747-A for the Bruce Vento Elementary - New Construction Project (Project #1020-22-01) to Daka Corporation for a lump sum base bid of \$2,895,000.

BF 33366 Phase Gate Approval of the Bruce Vento Elementary - New Construction Project WS 05-B (Project #1020-22-01): Gate #4 - Contract Award; Gate #4A - Finance Plan Update

That the Board of Education approve the award of Bid No. A23-3748-A for the Bruce Vento Elementary - New Construction Project (Project #1020-22-01) to Industrial Construction Specialists for a lump sum base bid of \$1,157,999.

#### 7. Change Orders

BF 33367 Change Order #1 for Bituminous Roadways, Inc. for the FY23 Paving Program (Project # 0800-23-01)

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent, Superintendent's Designee, or Executive Director of Operations and Administration to sign Change Order #1 for Bituminous Roadways, Inc. for the FY23 Paving Program (Project # 0800-23-01) for the amount of \$185,535.

#### ITEMS PULLED FOR SEPARATE CONSIDERATION - None

#### FURTHER AGENDA ITEMS THAT REQUIRE BOARD ACTION

1. Approval of Bond Sale Resolution to Continue SPPS Builds Initiative

Superintendent Gothard then welcomed Executive Chief of Financial Services, Tom Sager, to present the Approval of Bond Sale Resolution to Continue SPPS Builds Initiative. Chief Sager provided the background and pertinent facts, included below, and also acknowledged the work of Steve Pumper from PMA.

- This past June, as part of the FY 25 budget approval process, the building construction fund's (06) budget reflected plans to continue the SPPS Builds initiative, and the financing of related projects.
- The annual SPPS Builds report and progress was given at the July BOE meeting, along with the annual Long Term Facilities Maintenance 10 year plan.
- At the Committee of the Board meeting on August 9, the district's Municipal Advisors from PMA
  presented upcoming facility improvement plans and the financing strategies for these plans, all
  based on approval from the Minnesota Department of Education.
- The overview presented at the August 9 COB meeting was the culmination of several months of collaborative analysis and planning within the district's facilities, finance, and operations departments.
- Though not directly related, also included in the resolution is language pertaining to a refunding
  opportunity of outstanding bonds, and the potential savings to property owners as a result of this
  refunding. Taking these actions together will maximize the efficiency of these bond sales.

#### **QUESTIONS/DISCUSSION:** None

a. Resolution Stating Official Intent To Proceed With And Authorizing The Issuance Of Not To Exceed \$26,800,000 General Obligation School Building And Refunding Bonds, Series 2023A, Not To Exceed \$113,700,000 Full-Term Certificates Of Participation, Series 2023B, And Not To Exceed \$15,000,000 General Obligation School Building Bonds, Series 2024A; Declaring Official Intent To Comply With Reimbursement Bond Regulations Under The Internal Revenue Code Of 1986; And Authorizing The Superintendent, Executive Chief Of Financial Services Or Executive Chief Of Administration And Operations To Award The Sale Thereof And To Take Such Action And Execute All Documents Necessary To Accomplish Said Award And Sale

#### **BF 33368**

Resolution Stating Official Intent To Proceed With And Authorizing The Issuance Of Not To Exceed \$26,800,000 General Obligation School Building And Refunding Bonds, Series 2023A, Not To Exceed \$113,700,000 Full-Term Certificates Of Participation, Series 2023B, And Not To Exceed \$15,000,000 General Obligation School Building Bonds, Series 2024A; Declaring Official Intent To Comply With Reimbursement Bond Regulations Under The Internal Revenue Code Of 1986; And Authorizing The Superintendent, Executive Chief Of Financial Services Or Executive Chief Of Administration And Operations To Award The Sale Thereof And To Take Such Action And Execute All Documents Necessary To Accomplish Said Award And Sale

MOTION: Director Vue moved to approve the Resolution Stating Official Intent To Proceed With And Authorizing The Issuance Of Not To Exceed \$26,800,000 General Obligation School Building And Refunding Bonds, Series 2023A, Not To Exceed \$113,700,000 Full-Term Certificates Of Participation, Series 2023B, And Not To Exceed \$15,000,000 General Obligation School Building Bonds, Series 2024A; Declaring Official Intent To Comply With Reimbursement Bond Regulations Under The Internal Revenue Code Of 1986; And Authorizing The Superintendent, Executive Chief Of Financial Services Or Executive Chief Of Administration And Operations To Award The Sale Thereof And To Take Such Action And Execute All Documents Necessary To Accomplish Said Award And Sale. Director Allen seconded the motion.

The motion was approved by roll call vote:

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

#### 2. Compensation & Classification Study - Saint Paul Public Schools, MN

Superintendent Gothard then welcomed Executive Chief of Human Resources, Pat Pratt-Cook, as well as Kristen Gilley, Senior Consultant at Evergreen Solutions, to present this report. The presentation included details on the study goals, project phases (internal review and external review), and recommendations.

The full presentation can be found in the BoardBook.

#### **QUESTIONS/DISCUSSION:**

- Director Henderson requested information on the study results and what we know about retention rates. Response: Yes, we have heard, anecdotally, that some staff do leave for significant amounts in more suburban districts, and the purpose and outcome of the recommendations is for a more market-competitive rates to retain and recruit top talent in the district.
- For ASAP and MMSA, who are in a good space, does that also match what they know and learned in the last year? Response: Yes, and Kristen also met with groups for them to hear firsthand and to have their guestions answered.
- Director Vue requested information on the phases, and if there will be a Phase 3. We want to be leaders in hiring and retaining top talent at what point will we know we are top leader in retaining top talent? Response: We see this as an ongoing process, and updating job descriptions on a regular basis and staying updated on the market in terms of salaries, and we will be at a different place at the bargaining table. We know with the unions where positions fall in the market, and need to be aligned with budgeting decisions, and where to put resources and how to make strategic decisions. In terms of how quickly we will be able to advance salaries for all positions out goal is to get to the midpoint. Until we are at the midpoint, it will be difficult to say we are market leaders. Another factor is that sometimes there will be difficult decisions to make, and if there are some groups that are market leaders, and others that are lagging, we need to get folks to the midpoint and may need to prioritize some groups and increase the COLA and the range to get to the midpoint quicker.
- Director Ellis requested information on the timeline for the revision of job descriptions. Response:
   We have started the efforts and are in place to start the updates, and want to ensure what is proposed is approved before updating them. Evergeen employs a job description team who will start to work on them, and hope to have them completed by the end of the school year.
- For Phase 2, how long will that work be for folks once back in buildings, and is the goal to have that information by the end of the school year as well? Response: Typically Evergreen will be planning and meeting with folks in focus groups, and then assessment of the current conditions for those groups. We will allow the other school districts and HR teams to settle with the beginning of the school year, then begin the salary analysis and market results, for that to be available by the end of the calendar year, after the holidays.
- Director Foster thanked Chief Pratt-Cook and the team. She noted that we talk about pay equity and how important it is, and we talk about staff who are making minimum wage, but not a living wage. This is to get folks up to par at market rate, and this is the process by which we include everyone in this space. Equity is a key word, and in order to be fair and equitable to all employees, and to be a premier place, we need to put resources to the space and this work to ensure it is true, fair, and done correctly. She thanked the team for their work, and that this has been in process for three year, and we are now seeing the fruition of that work. We talk about having to look at one group over another, but she implored folks to think about their colleagues, and to think about fairness, and to think of it in spaces and places of work. Continue to ask questions, and we need to realistically challenge the system, and it is about keeping the work moving forward.

BF 33369 Compensation & Classification Study – Saint Paul Public Schools, MN

MOTION: Director Vue moved that the Board of Education approves moving forward with the Implementation of the recommendations from the classification and compensation study. Director Allen seconded the motion.

The motion was approved by roll call vote:

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

#### 3. Policy Update

a. THIRD READING: Policy 506.06 Search of Student Lockers, Desks, Personal Possessions and Student's Person

Superintendent Gothard then welcomed Laurie Olson, Director of Security and Emergency Management to present the third reading of this policy update. The rationale for this proposed policy was reviewed, including that the District does not have an official Board policy as required by statute, and that while this is a new policy, the adherence is not new. An overview of the proposed policy was shared, including the purpose, definition of "contraband", and violations. Further details were also provided on searched of lockers and personal possessions within a locker, desks, and personal possessions and Student's person.

The full presentation, and proposed policy, can be found in the BoardBook.

**BF 33370** THIRD READING: Policy 506.06 Search of Student Lockers, Desks, Personal Possessions and Student's Person

MOTION: Director Vue moved to approve the proposed revisions to Policy 506.06 Search of Student Lockers, Desks, Personal Possessions and Student's Person. Director Foster seconded the motion.

The motion was approved by roll call vote:

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

#### 4. Board Meeting Streaming

Next, Superintendent Gothard welcomed Erica Wacker, Director of Communications, to present this report. Within the presentation, live viewership data was shared, as well as these three options for the Board to consider, including rationale and annual cost for each

#### Option 1

- Committee meetings remain in 5A
- Meetings are audio recorded and not streamed

#### Option 2

- Committee meetings remain in 5A
- Meetings are streamed as audio only

#### Option 3

- Move Committee meetings to Rooms A/B to be video livestreamed
- Meetings would be held at the dais, look like a Regular meeting

Further details on the board action were also provided, including that if Option 2 or Option 3 is selected, COB streaming would begin in January 2024 to allow time to order equipment and software, hire additional streaming staff and troubleshooting.

The full presentation can be found in the BoardBook.

#### QUESTIONS/DISCUSSION:

- Director Ward noted that it has been a little over a year since he first requested this item, and he imagined it to look like Option 3. He thanked the Executive Committee for bringing it forward, and Director Wacker for investigating the options. In the interest to ensure we are as accessible as possible and for the community to follow the Board, the minutes are helpful, but also leave out parts of conversations and they are important in the Committee meetings. In looking at the different options, he is torn between options, but know Director Kopp raised the importance of a more informal, roundtable discussions for conversation and that would be nice to maintain. With the option of audio-streaming, he noted concerns about following who is speaking and equipment. He is interested to hear how his colleagues are thinking about options, and is in favor of Option 2 or Option 3.
- Director Kopp thanked the team for the research and providing real options for the Board. She also thanked Director Ward for raising this issue, because there is now visibility around the stipend, which needed to be fixed. She also noted that she has long appreciated the less formal nature of Committee of the Board meetings and the ability to look at other board members; she values those conversations, which are candid and fruitful, with deliberation on the information received. She also recognized the value of the community being witness to the deliberations, and noted that Option 2 is also appealing as a best of both worlds for the audio to be accessible and posted online.
- Director Henderson noted she is also leaning toward Option 2, which maintains the culture of board meetings, and also opening it more to the public. The meat of the work is done in the Committee of the Board meeting, and those are spaces often most removed from where the Board is seen. If even 50-100 people listen to the Committee of the Board meeting audio, that is 50-100 more than are in the room, and it feels like a great opportunity. She also encouraged all to think about other ways to engage and share spaces, including translation services. She agreed that as a person who is more introverted, it can be intimidating to be on camera in the main boardroom, and with the questions and conversations that are had in Committee meetings, she is leaning toward Option 2 as a wonderful opportunity to bring in community.
- Director Ellis noted she is also leaning toward Option 2, especially thinking of our PACs and their presentations, and it is important for them to feel comfortable in the space in order to be in relation with them. The conversations in the Committee of the Board room are rich and she wants to be able to share that with community, and those conversations feel smaller and more intimate as the Board processes information. It would feel and look different to have two meetings a month in the board room with the video livestream. She noted the table and seating arrangement in Committee of the Board meetings, and it is easier to look at her colleagues in that space, as opposed to at the dais.

• Director Vue noted a question that without the video visual, will those speaking needs to introduce themselves? Will it be a procedural change at the meeting? How will listeners be able to identify who is speaking? Response: That is something to discuss as a group. While it likely will not be as formal to state their name each time, as listeners may join at any point during the meeting. It is comparable to a radio broadcast where the listener may join and not know the speakers. There may need to be some behavior changes to ensure that those speaking are near a microphone. Roberts Rules were also noted and directing questions or responses "through the Chair", and that level of formality is still appropriate.

#### **BF 33371** Board Meeting Streaming

MOTION: Director Vue moved to move forward with Option 2, which includes that Committee meetings remain in 5A and Meetings are streamed as audio only. Director Ward seconded the motion.

The motion was approved by roll call vote:

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

#### 10. INFORMATIONAL AGENDA ITEMS

### A. 2023-24 Back-To-School Readiness Report

Superintendent Gothard then welcomed several leaders and members of Administration to present this report and to share our readiness for student learning this year and provide a glimpse into the hard work of staff to be able to welcome students back beginning on Tuesday, September 5, 2023.

Within the Schools and Learning portion of the meeting, details were shared on intentionality in schools and learning, literacy, mathematics, progress toward graduation, school climate and safety, aligned professional learning, intentional and purposeful collaboration, implementation and accountability, student experiences, and East African Elementary Magnet School.

Within the Human Resources portion of the presentation, staff reviewed data from the HR dashboard, including the vacancy report, and recruitment and retention strategies.

Chief Turner also reviewed the latest updated to high schools offering yellow buses, which include Central (9-12), Harding (9-12), Humboldt and OWL (6-12; was offered in previous years and will continue), Highland (6-12), and Washington Tech (6-12).

The full presentation can be found in the BoardBook.

#### **QUESTIONS/DISCUSSION:**

• Director Henderson requested information on the tiered levels of Restorative Practices. Response: We are starting to talk about this as a Restorative Practices districtwide plan. In Tier 1, all students

receive the services, and include Morning Meeting time for connection and intentional community-building, and at secondary, that continues with Foundations and Advisory. Every high school Advisory teacher also received a bag which includes circle prompts, games, social-emotional learning information, as starting points for their classes. There is also RP professional development available for staff. We also have community partner contracts to support buildings with circle experiences, and include Circle Keepers and the Legal Rights Center. At Tier 2, there are 15 schools participating in a RP cohort, which looks at non-exclusionary discipline and engaging in restorative versus punitive. These include the assistant principal and intervention specialist, who attend monthly convening and work together and look at discipline date and moving to a restorative mindset and build a RP team in their building. At Tier 2, sites have a RP coordinator on site and leading the work, and providing direct support to educators, working closely with building leadership teams. This work is funded by both the District and federal grants, as well as a partnership with the U of M.

- Is the goal to move schools to a Tier 3? Response: The goal isn't necessarily to do things like a Tier 3 who have a RP coordinator, but we do believe the goal is for all to have a shift in mindset and move towards believing and thinking about relationships before rules. Within Tier 1, we are working with intervention specialists and defining that role, with professional development and introducing RP as a foundation of their work.
- For student outcomes portion of the principal evaluation, and knowing there are so many new leaders, what are we doing to provide support for leaders and measurable and reasonable expectations of principals? Response: We do have a structure for new leaders, where they are connected with a mentor, usually a veteran principal and in collaboration with the Principal's Association, who meet on a monthly basis with their mentors, and they also come together for a new leaders meeting to discuss content and topics determined by mentors and hearing from new leaders and topics. We collaborate with those member of SPPA and coordinate those meetings. Student outcomes based goals are one of the developments.
- In a similar topic, and related to new educators, what are the supports available to them in the classroom? Response: It is New Educator Week, where new educators are welcome to attend to learn about their spaces, technology, and HR. Another day was designed to build community and included a message from Dr. Gothard, and activities designed to cross-pollinate with the larger group. A resource fair was also held including booths from different departments, where new educators could learn information and meet folks in those departments for help or questions. Information was then shared on the mentor/mentee program for new educators, as well as TD&E for teacher development and evaluation. The remainder of the week includes job-alike category learning, and working with their administrative team at their school and pay for set-up of their classroom.
- Director Henderson requested further information on the mentor/mentee program. It runs the entire year, and there are touchpoints from the principal within the first year. In the second year, PAR educators are assigned, which is Peer Assistant and Review, with SPFE, and includes many observations. In Year 3, teachers have the choice to continue with the PAR support, and working with Assistant Director Franke for affinity groups. In Year 2, teachers are very busy, and encouraged to go through PAR in Year 3 to mindfully engage in those practices. The team is also working on retention, especially in Years 4 and 5.
- Director Ellis requested the number of credits earned it was 4738.
- She also requested more information on the special education classrooms. Response: We are adding 10 additional special education classrooms to serve students, and looking at ways to lower class sizes and add more opportunities for students to be in their community school, and may need

- a higher level of service, with programming in place to meet the needs of all students in SPPS. Most are at the elementary level.
- More information was also requested on yellow bus service, and if Como Park Senior would be added. Chief Turner noted that this is the list for this school year, and also includes LEAP. We currently do not have the capacity to add Como at this time. Johnson will continue to operate with Metro Transit, and the school community is excited about that. Creative Arts will also continue as a Metro Transit school, as it is downtown and has worked well for them. As we increase capacity we will continue to see if we can add another comprehensive high school, but at this time, Como is still taking Metro.
- For bus cards and the students going back to yellow buses, they will no longer be issued a bus card, unless it is for athletics. Johnson, Creative Arts, and Como students will still receive bus cards
- Director Ellis requested further information on the 27 schools that are offering dinner. Those meals
  are offered every day, and there are a variety of sites, including elementary, middle, and high
  school. We also operate at sites through Parks and Rec. They currently are not hot meals, as we
  struggle with staffing, we may be able to go back and look at that for the student experience. Staff
  also noted they would send a list of the schools offering dinner to students.
- For progress toward graduation, are those support classes and study hall credit-bearing classes? Response: The support classes are a credit-bearing class, however study hall is not. In talking about classes to replace study hall to make it a more meaningful experience and to build a relationship with a caring adult, classes have replaced study hall and include Freshman Foundation, Scot Foundations, and those types of classes. Every high school does offer a support class to take instead of a study hall.
- Director Foster is encouraged by the advisory classes, and is important when talking about building culture in this district. All the supports are scaffolded for our students and families. In thinking about weekly grade checks, and personalized learning plan review, and progress toward graduation, and the excitement around those initiatives, and SPPS Reads! and what it looks like for family involvement, successes and outcomes. She thanked the team for sharing, for their energy, and for checking-in and holding those accountable and asking questions. In thinking about this work long-term, it is impactful to the success and outcomes, and how we are also thinking of families in all of this as well.
- Director Kopp noted hearing about student outcomes, which is wonderful, and also connected to
  the student focus, which is important. She also appreciated the focus on literacy, and the
  importance to meet the needs of students in early grades, so they can read and learn in middle and
  high school. She noted the importance of literacy, and thanked the team for sharing that
  information.
- In terms of transportation, and hearing conversations with students about safety on Metro Transit, particularly on the Green Line, and going back to the student experience and wanting students to walk into their morning on a positive note on Metro Transit, or at the end of the day do we know from data if there are certain programs or geography where issues are happening and what we can do to improve their experience? Response: Regardless of increasing the number of students taking yellow buses, we do continue to have thousands ride Metro Transit, and we also continue to have regular meetings with Metro Transit, to look at those hot spots, or isolated places, and to continue the partnership with Move MN, which is an organization to help us communicate with families and students to feel safe on buses and trains. We have also hired a staff member in the Office of Transportation to work with schools to have a better experience with bus cards, their use, and how to receive support and help. All supports and communications will continue with families and staff. With bus pricing, we also encourage families and students to take advantage of the

- discounted Metro Transit bus card. We have heard from families they appreciated the opportunities for students to use Metro Transit and to be more independent, and would like that to continue.
- Director Allen requested further details on the training required for teachers for the Read Act. It is 8 college credits for this training, and wondering about job-embedded PD and other literacy support professional development. Response: Letters Training is one of the approved vendors from MDE, but there are others with similar systemic and systematic ways to teach phones and how to read. Letters is the most intensive, and college-level course. Mr. Anderson also provided details on the experience of teachers who received the training. There is also funding from MDE for teachers to take the courses, which are mostly online. While the training is through MDE, we will also be looking if we need to bring in-house, and if there is one training that floats to the top and teachers approve. It is non-negotiable that SPPS reads.
- Director Allen also requested information on the fair and equitable grading, and the changes.
   Response: We are moving toward grading practices that are predictable and using the same grading scales and strategies and consistent with students scores and show what they know and can do.
- For credit recovery, is that at all buildings, or middle and high schools? Response: Credit recovery is a high school allocation. It is not in middle school programs, where there is ALC funding.
- More information was also provided on the structure of the credit recovery program, and that
  intervention specialists are involved. Director Allen noted her experience as a para, and the
  packets that would be brought by students to complete.
- Director Allen also requested information on culturally responsive environments, and how to create a safe space for teachers and students to express their culture, and how are we shifting to do that? Response: That is a topic as supervisors of new administrative staff, and anytime an administrator of color leaves, we dig into the reasons and root causes. Going back to the mentor/mentee program, it is likely to create a space of affinity in the monthly touch points and to support a larger amount of administrators of color. We also ensure that our second-year leaders are invited to the meetings as well. We are also thoughtful of our partnerships between mentors and mentees, and one of the reasons assistant principals were brought in as well, and that new leaders want to have more touchpoints with each other.
- Director Foster thanked the team for their work, and to our returning and new folks as well. She
  also thanked the Facilities staff for their work in preparing our buildings. She is excited about the
  new opportunities and relationships that will be built. As a board member, she encouraged her
  colleagues to visit buildings and see classrooms, and feel the excitement in those buildings and to
  experience onboarding. To the current families, and those who are new thanks for choosing
  SPPS.
- Director Vue noted questions on how the team reports back on the progress and work identified in the presentation as critical – including intentionality in schools and learning, and recruitment and retention strategies. We need to think about how to report back on those areas, in order to inform the community.
- Superintendent Gothard thanked the team. He is proud of the progress and the great work that aligns with what we say and do, and value. This excitement is important for the 33,000 students who will walk through the doors on September 5<sup>th</sup>. He also noted that on his drive to Washington Tech for New Educator Week, that the potholes have been filled, and he is seeing work that is a big deal and changes the feelings about school, and that we take care of and pay attention to our students, staff, families, and buildings and that we value each and every one.

#### 13. BOARD OF EDUCATION

#### A. Information Requests/Responses and Items for Future Agendas

- Director Ward requested information on comparisons of class sizes from this upcoming year to previous year. We have discussed the increase in positions, while projecting a decrease in enrollment, and the impact of those on class sizes, and as a method to improve student achievement and classroom and work environment. He is open to the timing based on final enrollment reports. Superintendent Gothard clarified that classroom guidelines have not changed based on bargaining agreements.
- Director Allen requested a report on the status of the first day of school, and the first week of school, and if buildings require adjustments – where in the budget are those adjustments being made.
- Director Ellis requested information on the number of students who received credits during summer school, and how many could be earned, as well as the demographics of the students. Chief Turner noted that we do plan to report a presentation on summer school in September with an official report to the Board.
- Director Vue noted his official request on the report back to the Board on the school opening priorities for the slides identified previously within the School Readiness Report.

#### B. Board of Education Reports/Communications

- Director Ellis provided a report on her time at the Freedom Schools celebration with Director Foster, and the amazing work at both Rondo and Hazel Park in the program. She also thanked Mr. Tom Parent and Facilities for the upcoming facilities tour, and also congratulated Mr. Parent on his appearance on The Today Show. She also congratulated Teacher of the Year, Michael Houston, for his interview on MPR.
- Director Allen provided a report on her time at Restorative Practices training, and circle time, and learning about folks who are ready to shape hearts in restoring harm, rather than penalizing students. She also noted the TV show in which she helped to create, which airs every Saturday on the CW at 11:30am, and includes conversations about the impact of COVID-19 on the Black community and experiences.

#### 14. ADJOURNMENT

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

The motion was approved by roll call vote:

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

The meeting adjourned at 9:13 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