

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

July 18, 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: Z. Ellis, J. Foster, U. Ward, J. Vue, C. Allen, J. Kopp  
Superintendent Gothard

H. Henderson 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 Allen.

The motion was approved by roll call vote:

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

**4. RECOGNITIONS**

**5. PUBLIC COMMENT**

1. **Peter Hendrick** High School Athletics Coaching Salaries Budget
2. **Leo Jackson** Permit/Facility Rates
3. **Jen Hartman** Permit/Facility Rates

**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 Ellis     | Yes    |
| Director Foster    | Yes    |
| Director Henderson | Absent |
| 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 June 20, 2023
- B. Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Board of Education of June 21, 2023

**MOTION:** Director Vue moved approval of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of June 20, 2023 and the Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Board of Education of June 21, 2023. The motion was seconded by Director Foster.

The motion was approved by roll call vote:

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

**8. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

There was not a Committee of the Board Meeting in July 2023.

**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

**10. SUPERINTENDENT'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Superintendent Gothard began his report by providing a brief update on the end of the first Summer Session, and it went well for thousands of SPPS students. He noted that there were concerns about employment and the work force, but the staff has been great at overcoming those and getting ahead of the challenges, and students are having a great summer in a variety of programs, and he looks forward to sharing more in a Summer Session presentation towards the end of the season.

He also noted that members of the Leadership Team have attended Council of the Great City Schools conferences, in areas such as curriculum, communications, and his time at the Summer Executive Committee meeting. Meetings such as these are invaluable, with the opportunity to meet and learn from others in district like ours from around the country in similar situations. One takeaway from the Executive Committee meeting was the uncertainty around continued federal funding and the federal Title I allotment formula. It has been discussed in the past and one we need to continue to look for to ensure we advocate for the current formula, which focuses on the concentration of poverty in cities like Saint Paul. This has a considerable impact to us and many districts if it were to change, and we will stay close with our staff, lobbyist, and the staff at the Council. He also noted a reminder for the CGCS Fall Conference October 25-29 in San Diego, with the agenda to be published in August.

**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 Foster seconded the motion.**

The motion was approved by roll call vote:

|                    |        |
|--------------------|--------|
| Director Ellis     | Yes    |
| Director Foster    | Yes    |
| Director Henderson | Absent |
| Director Ward      | Yes    |
| Director Vue       | Yes    |

|                |     |
|----------------|-----|
| Director Allen | Yes |
| Director Kopp  | Yes |

1. Gifts

**BF 33277** Acceptance of Donation from Trust Point Inc. to Maxfield Elementary School

That the Board approve the funds from Trust Point Inc., in the amount of \$17,978, half of which are to be used by Maxfield Elementary School to purchase a book vending machine and books to fill it and that those funds are to be put to code; 19-524-291-000-5096-G501.

**BF 33278** Acceptance of Gift from Rev. Dr. Darcel Hill

The Board of Education approve the funds from Rev. Dr. Darcel Hill for Youth Workers Program, in the amount of \$20,000, and that those funds are to be deposited into code 04-005-505-321-5040-8503

**BF 33279** Open World Learning Community Parent Teacher Organization Donation

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent to allow Open World Learning Community School to accept a monetary gift from Open World Learning Community Parent Teacher Organization of \$12,000.00. The money will be deposited into the account, 19-250-291-000-6430-U001.

2. Grants

**BF 33280** Request for Permission to Accept three Grants from the French-American Cultural Exchange (FACE) Foundation

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to accept three grants from the French-American Cultural Exchange (FACE) Foundation for funds to support French language programs at Central High School, Hidden River, & L'Etoile du Nord French Immersion; to accept funds; and to implement the projects as specified in the awarding documents.

**BF 33281** Request for Permission to Submit Grant Applications to Project Lead the Way

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to submit grant applications to Project Lead the Way for the funds to implement PLTW programming across the district; to accept funds, if awarded; and to implement the project as specified in the award documents.

3. Contracts

**BF 33282** Contract between SPPS and Achieve Twin Cities

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to approve the contact between SPPS And Achieve Twin Cities for the 2023-24 school year.

**BF 33283** Contract between Saint Paul Public Schools and Junior Achievement North pertaining to JA BizTown, JA Entrepreneurship Pathway and JA Launch Lessons/Career Speakers Series

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

**BF 33284** Request For Proposal (RFP) extension No. 23-3660-JG Student Transportation for 2023-2024 School Year

That the Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent (designee) to award contracts based on responses to Request for Proposal No. 23-3660-JG for Type III Student Transportation for School Years 2023-2024 and 2024-2025, with the ability to extend the contracts for two additional years.

#### 4. Agreements

**BF 33285** Approval of Employment Agreement Between Independent School District No. 625, Saint Paul Public Schools, and District Lodge No. 77 International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers AFL-CIO, Exclusive Representative for Machinists

That the Board of Education of Independent School District No. 625 approve and adopt the Agreement concerning the terms and conditions of employment of those machinist employees in this school district for whom District Lodge No. 77 International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers AFL-CIO, is the exclusive representative; duration of said Agreement is for the period of July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2026

**BF 33286** Community Action Partnership Head Start and St. Paul Public Schools Memorandum of Understanding

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to enter into this partnership.

**BF 33287** Request to Enter into the Saint Paul Children's Collaborative Agreement

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to enter into the Saint Paul Children's Collaborative Agreement for the purpose of coordinating the Representatives in the activities of the family services collaborative and for meeting the requirements of Minnesota Statute 124D.23.

**BF 33288** Lease Agreement with Community Action Partnership of Ramsey & Washington County - Head Start

That the Board of Education authorize the execution of the Lease Agreement between the District and Head Start at the Belvidere building, located at 271 Belvidere Street East.

**BF 33289** Partnership and Regrant Agreement between Saint Paul Public Schools and The Trust for Public Land

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

**BF 33290** Community Action Partnership Head Start and St. Paul Public Schools Memorandum of Understanding.

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to enter into this partnership.

5. Administrative Items

**BF 33291** Monthly Operating Authority

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

|                           |                  |                 |
|---------------------------|------------------|-----------------|
| (a) General Account       | #760829-762037   | \$66,896,437.93 |
|                           | #0004888-0004914 |                 |
|                           | #7004784-7004821 |                 |
|                           | #7004784-7004821 |                 |
| (b) Construction Payments | - 0 -            | \$3,601,643.43  |
| (c) Debt Service          | - 0 -            | 0.00            |
|                           |                  | \$70,498,081.36 |

Included in the above disbursements are two payrolls in the amount of \$44,531,745.46 and overtime of \$216,071.56 or 0.49% 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 November 30, 2023.

**Human Resources Transactions**

**BF 33292** Transactions for June 1 – June 30, 2023

**BF 33293** Phase Gate Approval of the Highland Park Middle School Addition and Renovation Project (Project #3081-23-01): Gate #3 – Project Budget; Gate #3A – Finance Plan Update

That the Board of Education approve the Highland Park Middle School Addition and Renovation project (Project # 3081-23-01) at Phase Gate Check #3 – Project Budget; Gate Check #3a – Finance Plan Update, setting the final project budget at \$49,500,000 and indicating direction to proceed with construction bidding.

**BF 33294** Qwest Corporation Proposal to Purchase Rights to District Property

That the Board of Education approve Qwest Corporation's proposal to purchase rights to District property located at 1863 Clear Avenue East in the amount of \$350.00 for the placement of a fiber cabinet.

**BF 33295** Approval of Pay Equity Implementation Report

That the Board of Education of Independent School District No. 625 approve the Pay Equity Implementation Report and Request for Reconsideration of Pay Equity Non-Compliance submitted to The Office of Minnesota Management and Budget.

6. Bids

**BF 33296** Phase Gate Approval of the Hidden River Middle School Renovation WS 02-A (Project # 3140-20-02): Gate #4 - Contract Award; Gate #4A – Finance Plan Update

That the Board of Education approve the award of Bid No. A23-3703-A for the Hidden River Middle School project (Project #3140-20-02) to Envirobate, Inc. for a lump sum base bid plus Alternates #3, 4, and W1 of \$1,366,480.

**BF 33297** Phase Gate Approval of the Hidden River Middle School Renovation WS 03-A (Project # 3140-20-02): Gate #4 - Contract Award; Gate #4A – Finance Plan Update

That the Board of Education approve the award of Bid No. A23-3704-A for the Hidden River Middle School project (Project #3140-20-02) to B&D Associates, LLC for a lump sum base bid plus Alternate #7 of \$1,959,500.

**BF 33298** Phase Gate Approval of the Hidden River Middle School Renovation WS 04-A (Project # 3140-20-02): Gate #4 - Contract Award; Gate #4A – Finance Plan Update

That the Board of Education approve the award of Bid No. A23-3705 for the Hidden River Middle School project (Project #3140-20-02) to B&D Associates for a lump sum base bid of \$1,608,000.

**BF 33299** Phase Gate Approval of the Hidden River Middle School Renovation WS 05-B (Project # 3140-20-02): Gate #4 - Contract Award; Gate #4A – Finance Plan Update

That the Board of Education approve the award of Bid No. A23-3707-A for the Hidden River Middle School project (Project #3140-20-02) to High Five Erectors, Inc. for a lump sum base bid of \$658,470.

**BF 33300** Phase Gate Approval of the Hidden River Middle School Renovation WS 06-A (Project # 3140-20-02): Gate #4 - Contract Award; Gate #4A – Finance Plan Update

That the Board of Education approve the award of Bid No. A23-3708 for the Hidden River Middle School project (Project #3140-20-02) to Reiling Construction Co., Inc. for a lump sum base bid plus Alternate #W1 of \$1,478,843.

**BF 33301** Phase Gate Approval of the Hidden River Middle School Renovation WS 07-H (Project # 3140-20-02): Gate #4 - Contract Award; Gate #4A – Finance Plan Update

That the Board of Education approve the award of Bid No. A23-3710-A for the Hidden River Middle School project (Project #3140-20-02) to Berwald Roofing, Inc. for a lump sum base bid of \$1,022,900.

**BF 33302** Phase Gate Approval of the Hidden River Middle School Renovation WS 08-F (Project # 3140-20-02): Gate #4 - Contract Award; Gate #4A – Finance Plan Update

That the Board of Education approve the award of Bid No. A23-3713-A for the Hidden River Middle School project (Project #3140-20-02) to CapitalCity Glass, Inc. for a lump sum base bid of \$3,059,300.

**BF 33303** Phase Gate Approval of the Hidden River Middle School Renovation WS 09-A (Project # 3140-20-02): Gate #4 - Contract Award; Gate #4A – Finance Plan Update

That the Board of Education approve the award of Bid No. A23-3714-A for the Hidden River Middle School project (Project #3140-20-02) to Pinnacle Wall Systems for a lump sum base bid of \$1,670,822.

**BF 33304** Phase Gate Approval of the Hidden River Middle School Renovation WS 09-C (Project # 3140-20-02): Gate #4 - Contract Award; Gate #4A – Finance Plan Update

That the Board of Education approve the award of Bid No. A23-3716-A for the Hidden River Middle School project (Project #3140-20-02) to Sonus Interiors, Inc. for a lump sum base bid of \$1,069,005.

**BF 33305** Phase Gate Approval of the Hidden River Middle School Renovation WS 09-G (Project # 3140-20-02): Gate #4 - Contract Award; Gate #4A – Finance Plan Update

That the Board of Education approve the award of Bid No. A23-3719-A for the Hidden River Middle School project (Project #3140-20-02) to WTG Terrazzo & Tile, Inc. for a lump sum base bid of \$903,200

**BF 33306** Phase Gate Approval of the Hidden River Middle School Renovation WS 09-K (Project # 3140-20-02): Gate #4 - Contract Award; Gate #4A – Finance Plan Update

That the Board of Education approve the award of Bid No. A23-3720-A for the Hidden River Middle School project (Project #3140-20-02) to Mulcahy Nickolaus, LLC for a lump sum base bid plus Alternate #W1 of \$348,565.

**BF 33307** Phase Gate Approval of the Hidden River Middle School Renovation WS 11-F (Project # 3140-20-02): Gate #4 - Contract Award; Gate #4A – Finance Plan Update

That the Board of Education approve the award of Bid No. A23-3722-A for the Hidden River Middle School project (Project #3140-20-02) to Culinox, LLC for a lump sum base bid of \$681,269.

**BF 33308** Phase Gate Approval of the Hidden River Middle School Renovation WS 21-A (Project # 3140-20-02): Gate #4 - Contract Award; Gate #4A – Finance Plan Update

That the Board of Education approve the award of Bid No. A23-3724-A for the Hidden River Middle School project (Project #3140-20-02) to Nova Fire Protection, Inc. for a lump sum base bid plus Alternate #8 of \$820,928..

**BF 33309** Phase Gate Approval of the Hidden River Middle School Renovation WS 22-A (Project # 3140-20-02): Gate #4 - Contract Award; Gate #4A – Finance Plan Update

That the Board of Education approve the award of Bid No. A23-3725-A for the Hidden River Middle School project (Project #3140-20-02) to Weidner Plumbing and Heating for a lump sum base bid plus Alternate #W1 of \$1,570,000.

**BF 33310** Phase Gate Approval of the Hidden River Middle School Renovation WS 23-A (Project # 3140-20-02): Gate #4 - Contract Award; Gate #4A – Finance Plan Update

That the Board of Education approve the award of Bid No. A23-3726-A for the Hidden River Middle School project (Project #3140-20-02) to Pioneer Power, Inc. for a lump sum base bid plus Alternate #2 of \$9,304,500.



**BF 33311** Phase Gate Approval of the Hidden River Middle School Renovation WS 26-A (Project # 3140-20-02): Gate #4 - Contract Award; Gate #4A – Finance Plan Update

That the Board of Education approve the award of Bid No. A23-3727-A for the Hidden River Middle School project (Project #3140-20-02) to O’Neill Electric, Inc. for a lump sum base bid plus Alternates #2, 8 & W1 of \$2,814,465.

**BF 33312** Phase Gate Approval of the Hidden River Middle School Renovation WS 32-F (Project # 3140-20-02): Gate #4 - Contract Award; Gate #4A – Finance Plan Update

That the Board of Education approve the award of Bid No. A23-3731-A for the Hidden River Middle School project (Project #3140-20-02) to Peterson Companies, Inc. for a lump sum base bid of \$558,725

7. Change Orders

**ITEMS PULLED FOR SEPARATE CONSIDERATION - None**

**FURTHER AGENDA ITEMS THAT REQUIRE BOARD ACTION**

1. SPPS Builds: 5 Year Plan - 2024-2028
  - a. Resolution for SPPS Builds: FY 2024 – 2028 Five-Year Facilities Maintenance and Capital Implementation Plan
  - b. SPPS Builds: FY2024-2028 Five Year Facilities Maintenance and Capital Plan
  - c. Bi-Annual Use and Utilization Report: SY2022-2023

Superintendent Gothard then welcomed Tom Parent, Executive Director of Facilities and Operations, and Kathy Wallace, Manager of Facility Planning, to present this topic. The purpose of the presentation included a summary of SPPS Builds, the FY24-28 five-year implementation plan for improvements to SPPS facilities, for adoption by the Board of Education. SPPS Builds projects were then reviewed, with photos, including Frost Lake, Johnson HS, Jie Ming, AIMS, and the upcoming projects of Hidden River, Obama, Vento, and Highland Park Middle. The five-year plan influences this year were also reviewed, and included the integration of Envision SPPS and ARP-funded projects, staffing considerations, supply chain and inflation, and new programs and opportunities. The criteria for prioritization was also shared, and included conditions of existing buildings, use and utilization, and educational alignment. Within the SPPS Builds: Five-Year Plan FY24-28, there are 190 projects with one new construction, and five major renovation projects. Details were also shared on the recommendations and timeline for major projects and major infrastructure projects. More information was also shared on the updating of conceptual visions, as well as funding, with more information to be shared at an upcoming Committee of the Board meeting.

Ms. Wallace also reviewed the gate checks and their definitions and scope.

**QUESTIONS/DISCUSSION:**

- Director Ward requested an update on the progress to install solar on the roofs of our buildings. Response: In previous conversations it was mentioned that the District has a RFP for solar energy that was posted last spring, and shortly after that, the Inflation Reduction Act was enacted with significant and structural changes to how public entities can engage, which put an unfortunate pause on the RFP to include language reflecting that. It has been put on pause, but the commitment still remains, and hope in the next few months to be able to give the green light to the RFP. We are looking at opportunities on roofs that can hold the weight of the panels in conjunction with snow, and it may not

be as expansive as we'd like, but will look at a re-occurring program as opportunities become available and often coincide with roofing.

- Washington and Harding were slated for roofing – will those buildings be able to handle solar installations? Response: We do expect Washington because of the type of structure. We are less confident about Harding because of the age of the building.
- It was noted that on the piece about inclusive toilets, the planning will start in 2028, so it may be later, but for the projects happening right now, several will have inclusive toilets, such as Bruce Vento and Obama
- Director Allen requested information about the HVAC systems in our buildings. Response: We do use natural gas in creating heat that is then sent to classrooms, but the air that is getting to classrooms isn't from the burning source – there is a natural gas source, and then the heat from that heats the water that is sent to classrooms. Further information was also provided on the different systems, including a unit on the roof that pumps air throughout the building and provides recirculated air with outdoor air and filters in the system, and there are also systems where the unit provides heated air to a unit in the classroom with filters. Geothermal energy was also discussed, and used where it makes sense economically, and investigations for all major projects where we are changing out the entire mechanical system.
  - It was also noted that the federal government will cover up to 60% reimbursement for replacements to geothermal systems, and we are looking into that opportunity.
- Director Foster requested more information on the “transformational” projects that were mentioned in the presentation. Response: Those projects are AIMS, Jie Ming, Hidden River, Bruce Vento, Obama and projects at Highland Park Middle School, as well as Farnsworth Lower and BridgeView. These are projects that will transform learning for a different time and different modes of education for current learning, including suites for learning spaces, breakout classrooms, and space for hand-on work and audio/visual. We are also looking at dining spaces that are respectful and support students. It also includes space to suppose all staff, and space for outside agencies that are in our buildings to serve our students as well.
- Director Ellis requested information on the alignment of ARP funds with the projects.
- She also requested further information around furniture, athletics, and fire suppression, and if those are updates, or included in new construction. Response: It depends on the case and project. We are looking at a reasonable furniture replacement cycle.
- Director Ellis requested further details on the Highland project, and the new configuration. More details were provided including the expansion of the link and management of the middle school and high school areas.
  - Where will students eat lunch during construction? Response: The plan is to have as much work as possible occur over the summer.
- Director Kopp thanked the team for the presentation, and thanked Facilities staff for the monthly updates, which have been helpful to see the progress. She also thanked them for updating the conceptual visions and changes about what spaces might be going forward.
- She noted questions on the criteria for prioritization. The utilization study was noted.
- With the use and utilization of joint use sites, is the joint space included? Response: It is limited to the school-specific space, even if it is shared.
- She also requested information about HVAC improvements – specifically air conditioning. Response: This is another area that is determined if enough conditions are met, and if it is large enough and the system is being replaced, cooling is added. We are increasingly trying to do that at a number of sites.
- Director Kopp also noted in the criteria items such as “ease of opening windows” or “outside noise” to keep in mind.

- She also requested information on the process for the plan. Response: It is a five-year plan, and when one year is done, another is added. It will still cover five years, only not the same five years.
- Director Foster noted questions about the plan and if something happens, and how the plan is adjusted. Response: The plan is a target and goals and way to proceed. We do understand that things change, and there are emergency issues or programs change, and there is a certain amount of discretionary activity to respond to those emergency or urgent needs. One of the larger shifts was due to Envision.
- Director Vue requested information on the community engagement, especially for schools such as JJ Hill and Bruce Vento, for current families. Response: We believe that when we engage in talking about the design of facilities, and the project is likely to carry through, that this project will impact at this time, and the activities are supporting the legacy of the school. The dashboard on the website is also helpful in finding information. The principal is also integral with communications with families, including the project status.
- Chief Turner also noted that Bruce Vento will continue the community school and Achievement Plus programming that was previously at John A. Johnson, and that was intentional for families to continue that programming as the schools merged.
- Director Vue also requested information on the structural design for Obama, as the JJ Hill Montessori program is moving to that space.
- Director Vue also noted questions on the timeline of projects.
- Superintendent Gothard noted the history of the facilities master plans, and about this work. Five years ago, there were tough conversations, an expansive external review which included best practices in facilities master planning, and we are seeing the results of those in SPPS Builds. There are monthly updates, and a level of transparency. Many projects are on time and under budget because we are able to project out and work together. The structure and framework of the program is beyond the vision for what was asked five years ago, and he is proud of the incredible and hard work. He also thanked the Facilities and Operations team for their great work.

**BF 33313** Resolution for SPPS Builds: FY 2024 – 2028 Five-Year Facilities Maintenance and Capital Implementation Plan

**MOTION:** Director Vue moved to approve that the Board of Education approve Resolution for SPPS Builds: FY 2024 – 2028 Five-Year Facilities Maintenance and Capital Implementation Plan. Director Ellis seconded the motion.

The motion was approved by roll call vote:

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

2. FY 25 Long-Term Facilities Maintenance

- FY25 Long-Term Facilities Maintenance (LTFM) Revenue Program Submittal to Minnesota Department of Education (MDE)
- Resolution Adopting the School District's Fiscal Year (FY) 25 Long-Term Facilities Maintenance Ten-Year Plan
- Long-Term Facility Maintenance Ten-Year Expenditure Application (LTFM)

- d. FY 25 Long-Term Facilities Maintenance (LTFM) Ten-Year Revenue Projection
- e. Notice Relating To General Obligation Facilities Maintenance Bonds, Series 2024 of Independent School District No. 625 (Saint Paul), Minnesota
- f. Resolution Stating Official Intent To Proceed With And Authorizing The Issuance Of \$44,900,000 General Obligation Facilities Maintenance Bonds, Series 2024; Approving The Revised Ten-Year Facility Plan, 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

Superintendent Gothard welcomed Executive Chief of Financial Services, Tom Sager, to present the Fiscal Year 25 Long-Term Facilities Maintenance items. Chief Sager noted there are five documents provided in the board packet, and reviewed each. This is the first action in the planning for the FY25. As part of the FY25 LTFM plan, the District does intend to issue \$44.9M of General Obligation bonds to be used for LTFM revenue to pay the debt service incurred from the bond sale. The broader financing structure will be presented at the August Committee of the Board meeting.

**BF 33314** Resolution Adopting the School District's Fiscal Year (FY) 25 Long-Term Facilities Maintenance Ten-Year Plan

**MOTION:** Director Vue moved to approve that the Board of Education approve the FY25 Long-Term Facilities Maintenance Plan documentation for submission to the Minnesota Department of Education, including the Resolution Adopting The School District’s Fiscal Year (FY) 25 Long-Term Facilities Maintenance Ten-Year Plan. Director Foster seconded the motion.

The motion was approved by roll call vote:

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

**QUESTIONS/DISCUSSION:**

- Director Vue requested information on the exact amount of the resolution and how the funds will be utilized within the LTFM plan. Response: When a school district sells bonds as part of the LTFM approval, the district will then use those proceeds as resources for the ongoing SPPS Builds projects. This is one mechanism to fund those projects. The relation to LTFM revenue was also reviewed, in using the LTFM revenue to pay on the debt of the bond sale. Michael Hart from PMA, also provided more details. In LTFM, there are two pieces of the revenue component – one is also funded via the tax levy. The remainder of LTFM is through General Obligation bonds, will allow for projects, and through analysis of past projects, we have ensured we are borrowing the correct amount to complete the work. The \$44.9M is for the projects scheduled for actual expenses now through June 30, 2025.

**BF 33315** Resolution Stating Official Intent To Proceed With And Authorizing The Issuance Of \$44,900,000 General Obligation Facilities Maintenance Bonds, Series 2024; Approving The Revised Ten-Year Facility Plan, 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 \$44,900,000 General Obligation Facilities Maintenance Bonds, Series 2024; Approving The Revised Ten-Year Facility Plan, 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 Foster seconded the motion.**

The motion was approved by roll call vote:

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

3. Policy Update

Superintendent Gothard then introduced Executive Chief Pat Pratt-Cook to present the third, and final readings for the below policies.

- a. THIRD READING: Updates to Policies 204.01, 205.00, 206.00 and 210.00

Background details were provided, including the rationale for the proposed changes to these policies, overview of the proposed changes to these policies, and links to the policies with the proposed changes.

**BF 33316** THIRD READING: Updates to Policies 204.01, 205.00, 206.00 and 210.00

**MOTION: Director Vue moved to approve the proposed revisions to Policy 204.01, 205.00, 206.00 and 210.00. Director Ward seconded the motion.**

The motion was approved by roll call vote:

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

- b. THIRD READING: Rescission of Policy 213.00

**BF 33317** THIRD READING: Rescission of Policy 213.00

Next, the rationale for the proposed rescission of this policy was presented, including that it is redundant to Policy 211.00 – Board Member Development, and that the two paragraphs that comprise Policy 213.00 are included in Policy 211.00.

**MOTION: Director Vue moved to approve the rescission of Policy 213.00. Director Foster seconded the motion.**

The motion was approved by roll call vote:

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

c. THIRD READING: Adoption of New Policy 214.00

**BF 33318** THIRD READING: Adoption of New Policy 214.00

Details were shared, including that this is a new policy, and it is required by statute to have a policy on out-of-state travel for board members.

**MOTION: Director moved approval of the adoption of the new Policy 214.00. Director Ward seconded the motion.**

The motion was approved by roll call vote:

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

## **10. INFORMATIONAL AGENDA ITEMS**

### **A. Policy Update**

1. SECOND 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 second reading of this policy. 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.

**QUESTIONS/DISCUSSION:**

- Director Ellis requested information if families would be contacted if a search occurred. Response: Yes.
- What does that process look like? Response: It would depend on the seriousness of the searched item and timing. A search for liquor will look different than a search for a firearm, and the notice to family is contingent on that, and would be immediate after the item was found.
- Director Vue noted that school property can be searched for any reason at any time, but do personal possessions require prior notice? Response: Personal possessions can be searched with reasonable suspicion without prior notice.
- A hypothetical situation was then reviewed, which included receiving information that a firearm was seen in a backpack. Staff would then go to the locker, search the locker, and if they believe the firearm could be in the backpack, they will then search the backpack. Even if they don't find anything, the student will still be informed that their personal possessions were searched. School property will be searched first, and then personal possessions after is the order of searched.

B. Summary of the Annual Performance Evaluation of the Superintendent

Chair Vue then read aloud the below summary:

**BF 33319** Summary of the Annual Performance Evaluation of the Superintendent

**2023 Summary of the Annual Performance Evaluation of the Superintendent  
Saint Paul Public Schools Board of Education, July 2023**

At the Closed Meeting of the Board of Education on June 21st, 2023, board members discussed the annual performance evaluation of Superintendent Joe Gothard. Please note that what follows is a high-level summary.

Overall, the Board is encouraged by Superintendent Gothard's sustained excellence in leadership in the areas of Community Engagement, School District Operations and Ethical and Inclusive Leadership. However, the Board also acknowledges continuing work in the areas of Implementation of Strategic Plan, Communications, and Teaching and Learning.

The Board used Minnesota School Board Association's Superintendent Standards-Based Evaluation this year, choosing to focus on standards evaluated last year (with minor adjustments) to identify progress over time. These standards are related to Implementation of the Strategic Plan, Communications, Community Engagement, Operations, Teaching and Learning, and Ethical Leadership and Equity with a rating scale ranging from ineffective, to developing, to effective, to highly effective. The ratings of participating Board Members have been averaged meaning individual board members rating may be higher or lower than stated average.

The Board would like to offer the following observations as it considers the overall performance of the Superintendent.

**Considering the key area for growth focused on monitoring reports on student outcomes, the Board rates the Superintendent as highly effective.** The Board gratefully acknowledges the Superintendent's strong understanding of the value of high-quality monitoring reports on student outcomes and appreciates his participation, alongside his Senior Leadership Team and board members, in training related to this topic. The Board looks forward to working with the Superintendent and his team in the coming year to develop and deliver monitoring reports that track progress towards positive student outcomes and will retain this as a Key Area for Growth.

**Considering the key area for growth: evaluate impact of implementation of culturally relevant instruction on students, the Board rates the Superintendent as effective.** The Board acknowledges the efforts to continue to refine and improve the practice of culturally relevant instruction districtwide, including the annual Culturally Relevant Instruction Expo. As this has been a key area of investment, the Board wishes to retain this as a Key Area for Growth for the coming year. It is the expectations of the Board that the Superintendent demonstrates further the impact that culturally relevant instruction has on student outcomes, identifies any obstacles that prevent full and effective implementation, and creates strategies for overcoming those obstacles.

**Considering the key area for growth: explore and implement tools on community engagement that are culturally relevant, the Board rates the Superintendent as effective.** The Board appreciates the diversity and complexity of community engagement work and notes the success of the Marnita's Table event, and others, related to school safety. The Board wishes to see continued development of approaches to engagement that allow for greater comfort and participation for SPPS' many cultural communities and look forward to seeing examples of this. The Board will retain this as a Key Area for Growth in the coming year.

**Considering the standard focused on Standard One Implementation of the Strategic Plan, the Board rates the Superintendent as effective.** The Board appreciates Superintendent Gothard's thoughtful attention to student needs following a pandemic and his continued efforts to adapt and implement the district's strategic plan, SPPS Achieves, to meet those needs. One example is Superintendent Gothard's investment in WINN (What I Need Now) teachers, a strategy that appears to show promising results. The Board would like to see continued improvement in the areas of developing monitoring reports that integrate SMART goals to better track continuous improvement.

**Considering the standard focused on Communications, the Board rates the Superintendent as effective.** The Board values Superintendent Gothard's work in proactively partnering with local media outlets and SPPS Communications to highlight the good work happening in SPPS and the incredible people who make it happen. The Board expects to see continued improvement in effectively communicating district processes and decision-making as well as bringing forth plans for more effective surveys.

**Considering the standard focused on Community Engagement, which includes Relationships with the Community, Engagement, Advocacy, and Visibility and Approachability, the Board rates the Superintendent as highly effective.** The Board values Superintendent Gothard's work in the areas of Maxfield Collaboration with St. Thomas University and his attendance at numerous community events. The Board gratefully acknowledges his advocacy at the state legislature and his presence and voice in local and national conversations about education and related topics, including with U.S. Department of Education Miguel Cardona, advocating for real solutions on youth community and school safety. The Board sees a need for continued improvement in the development of casting a wider net on student engagement to include middle schools, establishing structures for more consistent building level engagement with their communities as well as community engagement around the budget process.

**Considering the standard focused on Operations, which includes Facilities, Transportation, Food Service, Technology, Maintenance, and Personnel, the Board rates Superintendent Gothard as highly effective.** The Board values Superintendent Gothard's continued work to build effective and high quality district operations and notes in particular the ongoing work of SPPS Builds and the work of the Human Resources and Finance departments. The Board acknowledges the lingering challenges of providing yellow buses to all comprehensive high schools and looks forward to continued progress in this area.

**Considering the standard focused on Teaching and Learning, which includes Staff Development, School Improvement, and Curriculum and Instruction, the Board rates Superintendent Gothard as effective.**



The Board values Superintendent Gothard's work in the areas of continuous improvement in the areas of Job Embedded Professional Development and the first math curriculum adoption in 20 years. The Board wishes to see a plan for creating greater awareness of the services the Equity Department can provide to support educators and students as well as a survey of current and expected professional development related to instruction.

**Considering the standard focused on Ethical and Inclusive Leadership, which includes Ethics and Professional Behavior, Interactions with Students, Staff, and the Community, Professional Practice, and Diverse Cultural Competency, the Board rates Superintendent Gothard as highly effective.** The Board congratulates Superintendent Gothard on being honored as a Junior Achievement Hall of Fame Laureate and becoming the President of the Minnesota Association of School Administrators this year. They are reflections of how his work and leadership is being recognized and celebrated in the community. The Board appreciates the many student convenings Superintendent Gothard held this spring. The Board encourages him to continue to find ways to meet with students for meaningful conversations in the coming year. The Board also wishes to see continued improvement in the area of increasing diverse cultural competency representative of student demographics in SPPS by the development of relationships between Superintendent Gothard and staff and community members with relevant cultural expertise.

**Considering the standard focused on Ethical and Inclusive Leadership, which includes Equity Plan Implementation, the Board rates Superintendent Gothard as developing.** The Board appreciates Superintendent Gothard's candid reflections about the challenges of implementing the Equity Plan and what may be necessary to see more success. As a result of Superintendent Gothard's own rating of himself as developing and the Board rating his performance as developing, the Board has added Equity Plan Implementation as a Key Area of Growth in the coming year. The Board looks forward to working with Superintendent Gothard to make progress in this area.

The Board thanks Superintendent Gothard for his time throughout this process which included completing a self-evaluation that included a 27-page executive summary backed by 200+pages of documentation and additional reflection, and two hours of conversation on June 21, 2023, where he responded to board members' questions related to his self-evaluation. The board notes overall growth in **Community Engagement, School District Operations and Ethical and Inclusive Leadership**. Overall, the Board finds Superintendent effective in his role and acknowledges more growth is both necessary and possible and has identified the following as Key Areas for Growth:

1. Develop monitoring reports for student outcomes
2. Explore and implement tools for culturally responsive community engagement
3. Evaluate impact of Culturally Relevant Curriculum
4. Equity Plan Implementation

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

- Director Foster thanked Dr. Gothard – for his work in staying on focus, on target and knowing that our students' success and outcomes are the focal point in this work. In a time with considerable and consistent change and challenges, he has persevered. He has a team that is committed to the work, and that is significant in the picture of a reflection of a leader who has the capacity and the capacity to create a change agent. She was a part of the group who hired him and she stands by that decision, as he is the best person at the time, and the best person at this time to lead this district. There is trust, passion, and purpose and his intention is real for students, families, and staff. She thanked him for the work. She encouraged him to be seen and heard, especially by our young people.

### 13. BOARD OF EDUCATION

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

- Director Ellis requested information as a follow-up from the Public Comment speakers regarding athletic field permit costs, and if ARP funding is available as a resource for community partners, or grant opportunities. She noted her concerns about our young people incurring the cost, or creating a hardship for their families. She also requested a usage report of summer programs in our facilities.
  - Superintendent Gothard noted he will provide a summary of the fee rental policy set by the Board, and certain circumstances and room for negotiation with partners.
  - Chief Turner reminded the Board about the policy around permits, and provided a recap of the ARP funding and nearly \$4.5M that was allocated to community-based agencies. She will reach out to the organization of the Public Comment speakers for more information. She also noted the cost for permits is a real cost to the district, including personnel, custodial services, or athletics staff to be on the premises and those costs are aligned to our labor agreements agreed upon by the Board. She also reviewed the implications of waiving those costs. She also noted other opportunities for permits that may be less in terms of permit costs.
- Director Ellis requested further information on the data from Marnita's Table.
- She also requested information on a school safety update, and wondering how it may look different in the fall with the start of a new school year, as well as communications. Director Vue reiterated the request around school safety and would like to see it as an agenda item in a future meeting.

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

- Director Allen provided an update on the Ignite Your Heart Scholarship and working with allies and churches to donate funds to create and expand a scholarship for SUTR candidates. She also provided her experience at the Our Collective Power Conference with School Board Partners, and her fellowship with the organization. She noted there were two school board members who are 18-years old and elected officials. She also provided information on the filming of a TV show that will premiere on the CW on August 5 of hosting a youth talk show. It was also the 10-year anniversary of Black Lives matter, and she and ten other young people traveled to Los Angeles.
- Director Ellis noted she was able to read at CDF Freedom Schools, and also attended the Our Collective Power Conference, and she had never been in a space with that amount of school board members of color, and how she was felt, heard, and seen, welcomed, and shared tears in that space, as well as the heaviness and feelings of being looked after and cared for. She spoke of her experience in a session with Dr. Howard Fuller regarding "The Issues of The Current Generation: How Will We Wage Struggle?"
- Director Vue provided his experience at the Our Collective Power Conference, and that one takeaway was that a strong board cannot be strong without the adoption of goals around student outcomes, and it needs to be the core of this work, and the compass that guides us. He also noted the feeling of being "in a room of onyls" and was one of the only Asian male school board members in the space. One of the sessions he attended was "First Generation Politicians: Politicking Instead of Being Politicked", and a power mapping tool and navigating systems of power. It was a great conference and also read an excerpt from the welcome package.

### 14. ADJOURNMENT

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

The motion was approved by roll call vote:

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:56 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