

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  
Livestream: <https://SPPS.eduvision.tv/Share.aspx?q=3SfVi13wT7TFFfI0oeXW5A%253d%253d>

March 21, 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, C. Allen, J. Vue, 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. 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

**4. RECOGNITIONS**

**BF 33120** Acknowledgement of Good Work Provided by Students

1. **Keira Pursell**, a sixth grader from Hidden River Middle School, was honored recently during the Lions Club Mid-Winter Convention, where she received a plaque and monetary award among other prizes. She is the local and state (13 districts) level winner of the Lions Club Peace Essay. The essay contest is open to students who are visually impaired and between the ages of 11- 13. Keira read her essay, "Compassion Through Change," during the luncheon. Keira has been invited to

attend the Lions state level luncheon in St. Cloud in May. The winner at the state level wins an award and a cash prize. The Lions Club works with local schools and area families to identify young people who are interested in participating and who could benefit from this program.

2. SPPS Online High School student **Kelly Yang** has placed in the top five of the BestPrep 2023 Educational Forum Student Spotlight Competition. The competition was created to broaden awareness of national and global issues affecting our community through a thoughtprovoking discussion. Students who entered the competition were asked to respond to the following prompt: "Using written word, art, sculpture, music, theater, or another art form of your preference, share your thoughts on what you want the future to look like. If you had the opportunity to reimagine and create a more equitable society, what would that look like in your world? What can we do now to get closer to the world you imagine?" Winners and their teachers attended the Educational Forum held this past January at the Minneapolis Convention Center. BestPrep is a Minnesota-based nonprofit organization that provides educational programs to students in grades 4-12, with the mission of preparing students with business, career and financial literacy skills through hands-on experiences that inspire success in work and life.
3. Forty-eight SPPS teams competed in the SPPS FIRST LEGO League (FLL) Regional Tournament in January at Capitol Hill Gifted and Talented Magnet School. Teams from the following schools advanced to the state competition: Capitol Hill (3 teams), Farnsworth Aerospace Upper, Humboldt, Jie Ming (2 teams), Murray Middle School, Open World Learning and Randolph Heights.

Ten SPPS teams participated in the FLL state tournament at Roy Wilkins Auditorium on February 12, 2023. The SPPS teams scored very well during the regular match play rounds.

The teams and their coaches that advanced to the FLL state tournament were:

- Capitol Hill Elementary, "**They Who Must Not Be Named**" coached by **Vergene Downs**
- Capitol Hill Middle, "**The LEGO Wizards**" coached by **Riley McArdle**
- Capitol Hill Middle, "**The LEGO Llamas**" coached by **Riley McArdle**
- Farnsworth Aerospace (upper), "**The Galactic Gears**" coached by **Keesha Pfeifer**
- Humboldt High School/Open World Learning (combined team) "**Better with Legos**" coached by **Clara Raineri**
- Jie Ming Mandarin Immersion, "**Power Pandas**" coached by **Brad Mennicke**
- Jie Ming Mandarin Immersion, "**Static Dragons**" coached by **Bonnie Laabs**
- Murray Middle School, "**Misguided Steering Wheels**" coached by **Nick Altringer**
- Open World Learning Middle School, "**Brick Birds**" coached by **Clara Raineri**
- Randolph Heights, "**#SPARK SERPENTS**" coached by **Anne Peltier**

Three SPPS teams also competed in FIRST Tech Challenge (FTC) Qualifying events. One team from SPPS qualified to advance to the FTC State Tournament at Roy Wilkins Auditorium on February 10-11, 2023.

The team and their coach that advanced to the FTC State Tournament was: Central High School, "**MillisecondBots**" coached by **Jay Paska**. This is the second time an SPPS team advanced to the FTC State Tournament.

**Awards won either at a Qualifying or State Tournament:**

**Twyla Paska** from Central High School won the Stratasys Project Leadership Scholarship. This award is presented to a student who demonstrated project leadership through team organization, the engineering notebook or team business plan.

The FIRST LEGO League (FLL) and FIRST Tech Challenge (FTC) competitions are organized through HighTech Kids. Thanks to a generous grant from 3M, SPPS had 48 FLL teams and three FTC teams across the district this year.

**René Gervais & Jenni Ratté**, Department of Alternative Education, coordinate the FLL program for SPPS. René Gervais also coordinates the FTC program for SPPS.

**5. PUBLIC COMMENT**

1. **Katherine Edwards** Districtwide Career Pathways Program
2. **Charlotte Steen** Holding Administration accountable, re: Devin Scott murder
3. **Michelle Wall** Well-rounded education and budget
4. **Thomas Lucy** Solar on schools
5. **Peter Hendricks** Human Resource Transactions-Board of Education Board Book for March 21, 2023
6. **Roxanne Draughn** Incident of racism at Farnsworth Upper Middle School

**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 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

**7. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

- A. Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of February 21, 2023
- B. Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Board of Education of February 27, 2023
- C. Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Board of Education of February 28, 2023
- D. Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Board of Education of March 3-4, 2023
- E. Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Board of Education of March 7, 2023

**MOTION:** Director Vue moved approval of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of February 21, 2023; Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Board of Education of February 27, 2023; Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Board of Education of March 3-4, 2023; Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Board of Education of March 7, 2023. The Minutes of the

**Special Meeting of the Board of Education of February 28, 2023 were pulled for separate consideration. The motion was seconded by Director Kopp.**

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

## **MINUTES PULLED FOR SEPARATE CONSIDERATION**

### Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Board of Education of February 28, 2023

Director Allen pulled these minutes to discuss the rationale for not including the speaker comments in the minutes; only the names were provided. Superintendent Gothard noted that we compiled the minutes in a similar template as previous meetings.

Director Allen went on to note that only a certain amount of people were privileged to attend, and the notes should be available to the broader public as it is important to stay engaged on this topic in conversation around safety and to understand where we are in the process.

Superintendent Gothard noted that we do have a website that is curating information as well, and the livestream recording is available on this website as well. Chief Turner provided additional information as well, including that in looking back at historical records, public comment is typically not detailed in the minutes, and the listening session was operated as a public comment session. As the minutes are considered the official record of the meeting, it would be difficult for the secretary to capture exactly what was said by speakers. A summary of the information is available. She also suggested that to listen to the exact comments made by speakers, the livestream recording is a helpful resource.

Director Allen noted that the link to the livestream recording in BoardBook would be helpful for the community to stay engaged in these conversations. (NOTE: this has been updated on the minutes and in BoardBook)

Director Ward noted the work of the secretary in taking the minutes, and also asked if folks would like to learn more about the conversation, where they could go to view information. Superintendent Gothard noted the website is: [www.spps.org/safety](http://www.spps.org/safety). On the side, there is a link to engagement opportunities, and the link to the recording of the meeting of February 28, 2023 is included.

**MOTION: Director Vue moved approval of the Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Board of Education of February 28, 2023. The motion was seconded by Director Henderson.**

The motion was approved by roll call vote:

Director Foster	Yes
Director Henderson	Yes
Director Ward	Yes
Director Vue	Yes

Director Allen	No
Director Kopp	Yes
Director Ellis	Yes

## 8. COMMITTEE REPORTS

### A. Minutes of the Committee of the Board Meeting of March 7, 2023

At the Committee of the Board Meeting on March 7, 2023, Superintendent Gothard welcomed everyone to the meeting, and provided a brief update on the winter weather plan for the professional development scheduled for that week. He also congratulated the SPPS teachers recognized as semi-finalists for the Minnesota Teacher of the Year Award.

The first presentation was the K-12 Math Adoption. As a follow-up from the previous presentation, board members requested information on the available language supports for the final two programs, the role of FAST testing and ways to assess knowledge of students in math, feedback and frequency of feedback on the programs from teachers, the data dashboard and access for families, the timeline for adoption, supports available by providers, assessment of the change to these programs by staff, and further information on the teacher feedback of programs. Further information was also requested on the role of these programs in the increase of student outcomes, discussion on Black Excellence in these programs and within education, trainings from teachers in the district, and questions on MCA scores and the next steps for these statewide assessments, including the current opening for feedback for the next version.

Next, board members provided their reflections on the February 28, 2023 special meeting and listening session on school safety. Discussion points included the need to engage with students and other stakeholders in different ways, times, and venues, modes of engagement, clear timelines and steps for community, the overall ask for restorative justice practices and mental health supports, future engagement opportunity details, questions on thorough engagement, and culture in our buildings.

Board members then provided their thoughts on the Student Outcomes Focused Governance Workshop and Retreat held on March 3-4, 2023. Questions for reflection included learnings that could be applied to the work of the board, as well as a question or wondering to be answered. Board members noted they enjoyed the community engagement portion of the workshop in order to gain information on the goals and vision from community, the importance of progress monitoring, and a request for information from other districts that have implemented SOFG. Other notes included the appreciation of setting guardrails and monitoring in order to show community our progress of the identified goals. Other wonderings included the possibility of creating our own framework aside from the Council of the Great City Schools framework, or how we may adapt, and next steps, including the review of the proposed contract for professional services regarding this work.

**MOTION: Director Kopp moved that the Board accept the report of the Committee of the Board Meeting of February 7, 2023, and approve the recommended motions and minutes of that meeting as published. The motion was seconded by Director Allen.**

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

## 10. SUPERINTENDENT'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Superintendent Gothard thanked the community in supporting our schools and safe spaces. We continue to evaluate systems for student safety and well-being. He thanked the principals for developing support structures and their efforts to create systems and share them as a unit is impress and work we all need to do. He noted that board member meetings with students has been enjoyable and he thanked the Board for their work. He went on to note that tomorrow we are hosting our PACs for conversations and engagement. On March 30<sup>th</sup>, we will be hosting a Marnita's Table event for the entire community around the topic of keeping our schools safe.

He also provided a brief update on student events in April in May, a series titled "How are the children?" More information will be provided in the coming weeks. He also mentioned the website for school safety – [www.spps.org/safety](http://www.spps.org/safety), with links to engagement opportunities, and announcements.

He also shared an update on the recently announced hiring and retention bonuses for the 23-24SY. We are anticipating more than 70 job openings in special education, social workers, and counselors, science, physical education, Montessori, and language immersion. More details were also provided on the \$10,000 bonuses and other incentives available. He thanked Chief Pratt-Cook and her team, as well as Leah VanDassor and Josh Loahr for their collaboration to fully staff our buildings to achieve success.

He also provided a brief reflection on the Council of the Great City Schools' Legislative Conference, with the focus on how districts are using their ARP funds. Secretary of Education Miguel Cordona mentioned SPPS and our WINN strategy teachers, and Superintendent Gothard is proud of the dedicated energy to this work.

He also provided a brief update on the Minnesota state budget discussions and the historic investment in public education to stabilize funding for students in Saint Paul and across the state.

## **11. AGENDA ITEMS THAT REQUIRE BOARD ACTION**

### **A. Consent Agenda**

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

#### **1. Gifts**

##### **BF 33121 Winter Leadership Program**

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

##### **BF 33122 Gift Acceptance of Bicycles from Allina Health System**

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to allow Health and Wellness to accept a gift of 104 bicycles from Allina Health System with a letter of appreciation to follow.

##### **BF 33123 Scholarship-Funded New York Times Digital Access for SPPS Students and Teachers**

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to accept this donation from the New York Times for free digital access for all high school students (9-12) in Saint Paul Public Schools.

**BF 33124** South Robert Street Business Donation

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to accept the \$5,000 from the South Robert Street Business and provide a letter expressing appreciation for the gift.

2. Grants

**BF 33125** Request for Permission to Accept a Grant from the Minnesota Office of Higher Education's Get Ready/GEAR UP Program

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to accept a grant from Minnesota Office of Higher Education's Get Ready/GEAR UP to fund college and career readiness program at Freedom Schools; to accept funds; and to implement the project as specified in the award documents.

3. Contracts

**BF 33126** Transportation Department FY 23/ FY 24 Purchases/Contracts over \$100,000

That the Board of Education authorize the purchase order/contract listed for the Transportation Department anticipated to be over \$100,000 In total.

**BF 33127** Phase Gate Approval of FY23 Fire Safety System Program (Project # 0652-23-01): Gate #4 – Contract Award; Gate #4A – Finance Plan Update

That the Board of Education authorize award to Egan Company for the lump sum base bid of \$242,540 for work at Harding High School as part of the FY23 Fire Safety Systems Program (project # 0652-23-01) at Phase Gate Check #4 – Contract Award and Phase Gate Check #4a – Finance Plan Update.

**BF 33128** Phase Gate Approval of FY23 Fire Safety System Program (Project # 0652-23-01): Gate #4 – Contract Award; Gate #4A – Finance Plan Update

That the Board of Education authorize award to Egan Company for the lump sum base bid of \$1,105,870 for work at Harding High School as part of the FY23 Fire Safety Systems Program (project # 0652-23-01) at Phase Gate Check #4 – Contract Award and Phase Gate Check #4a – Finance Plan Update.

**BF 33129** Phase Gate Approval of the FY23 Flooring Replacement Program (Project # 0225-23-01): Gate #4 - Contract Award; Gate #4A – Finance Plan Update

That the Board of Education approve the award of flooring for the FY23 Flooring Replacement Program project (Project # 0225-23-01) to H2I Group for a lump sum base bid of \$261,890.

**BF 33130** Construction Manager as Advisor Services for the Highland Park Middle School Entry Addition, Renovation and Cafeteria Project (Project #3081-23- 01) - Contract Award

That the Board of Education authorize award of construction manager as advisor services and pass through general conditions to Kraus-Anderson for the total not-to-exceed fee of \$1,701,797.

**BF 33131** Phase Gate Approval of the John A. Johnson Renovations for LEAP (Project # 1140-23-01): Gate #4 - Contract Award; Gate #4A – Finance Plan Update



That the Board of Education approve the award of the John A. Johnson Renovations for LEAP (Project # 1140-23-01) project to RAK Construction, Inc. for a lump sum base bid of \$813,516.

**BF 33132** Contract Amendment for the Jie Ming Phase II Addition & Renovation (Project # 3090-21-01)

That the Board of Education authorize award of Amendment #2 for Knutson in the amount of \$208,893 for the Jie Ming Phase II Addition & Renovation (Project #3090-21-01).

**BF 33133** Phase Gate Approval of the Jie Ming Phase II Addition & Renovation (Project # 3090-21-01) – WS 31A-SL: Gate #4 - Contract Award; Gate #4A – Finance Plan Update

That the Board of Education approve the award of Bid No. A23-3273-A for the Jie Ming Phase II Addition and Renovation project (Project #s 3090-21-01) to Rachel Contracting for a lump sum base bid of \$417,800.

4. Agreements

**BF 33134** Memorandum of Understanding between Right Track and Saint Paul Public Schools

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to sign the Memorandum of Understanding between Saint Paul Public Schools and Right Track for the remainder of the 2022- 23 school year.

5. Administrative Items

**BF 33135** Monthly Operating Authority

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

(a) General Account	#756661-757664	\$106,497,572.52
	#0004770-0004799	
	#7004670-7004690	
	#0007919-0008059	
(b) Construction Payments	- 0 -	\$3,184,600.39
(c) Debt Service	- 0 -	<u>\$2700.00</u>
		\$109,684,872.91

Included in the above disbursements are two payrolls in the amount of \$42,562,691.64 and overtime of \$281,440.45 or 0.21% 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 Workers' Compensation Law falling within the period ending July 31, 2023

**BF 33136** Recommendations for Exclusion of Students Non-Compliant with Minnesota Statute

121A.15 Health Standards: Immunizations

That the Board of Education exclude noncompliant students from school effective March 29, 2023, should they not comply with Minnesota State Health Standards for Immunizations on or before this date.

**Human Resources Transactions**

**BF 33137** Transactions for January 1-31, 2023

**BF 33138** Phase Gate Approval of the FY23 A/V Replacement Program at Central High School and LEAP at John A. Johnson (Project # 0680-23-01): Gate #3 – Project Budget; Gate #3A – Finance Plan Update

That the Board of Education approve the FY23 A/V Replacement Program at Central High School and LEAP at John A. Johnson project (Project # 0680-23-01) at Phase Gate Check #3 – Project Budget; Gate Check #3a –Finance Plan Update, setting the final project budget at \$2,500,000 and indicating direction to proceed with construction bidding.

**BF 33139** Phase Gate Approval of the FY23 Flooring Replacement Program (Project # 0225-23-01): Gate #3 – Project Budget; Gate #3A – Finance Plan Update

That the Board of Education approve the FY23 Flooring Replacement project (Project # 0225-23- 01) at Phase Gate Check #3 – Project Budget; Gate Check #3a –Finance Plan Update, setting the final project budget at \$1,113,000 and indicating direction to proceed with construction bidding.

**BF 33140** Phase Gate Approval of the John A. Johnson Renovations for LEAP (Project # 1140-23-01): Gate #3 – Project Budget; Gate #3A – Finance Plan Update

That the Board of Education approve the John A. Johnson Renovations for LEAP (Project # 1140-23-01) at Phase Gate Check #3 – Project Budget; Gate Check #3a –Finance Plan Update, setting the final project budget at \$1,154,000 and indicating direction to proceed with construction bidding.

**BF 33141** Non-Employee Chaperone Approvals for Robotics Overnight Field Trip to La Crosse, WI

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent to approve the attendance of the listed non-employee personnel for the field trip to La Crosse, Wisconsin.

**BF 33142** Non-Employee Chaperone Approvals for Robotics Overnight Field Trip to Duluth, MN

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent to approve the attendance of the listed non-employee personnel for the field trip to Duluth, MN.

6. Bids

**BF 33143** Bid No. A23-3261-A Contract Award for the Crossroads I-Zone Space Reimagined Project (Project # 4120-24-01)

That the Board of Education authorize the award of Bid No. A23-3261-A Crossroads I-Zone Space Reimagined project (Project # 4120-24-01) to Versacon, Inc. for a lump sum base bid of \$355,500.

**BF 33144** Furniture Acquisition Award for Jie Ming Phase II Addition & Renovation project (Project # 3090-21-01)

That the Board of Education authorize award of furniture for the Jie Ming Phase II Addition and Renovation project (Project #s 3090-21-01) to ACRE for a lump sum base bid of \$919,234.

7. Change Orders

**ITEMS PULLED FOR SEPARATE CONSIDERATION - None**

**B. Further Items that Require Board Action**

1. K-12 Math Adoption

**BF 33145** K-12 Math Curriculum Adoption

Superintendent Gothard then introduced Craig Anderson, Executive Director, Office of Teaching and Learning; and Maijue Lochungvu, Assistant Director, Office of Teaching and Learning, to present the K-12 Math Adoption. Details included process overview updates, K-12 math curriculum recommendations, and the board agenda item recommendation. Within process overview updates, information was shared on the engagement sessions, which included 25 sessions and over 301 educators who participated. Within K-12 math curriculum recommendations, details were shared on the elementary recommendation with 70% of K-5 teachers ranking HMH Into Math as their first choice. The middle and high school recommendation of SAVVAS enVision was also shared. Details on the choice ranking for middle school and high school were also presented. The board agenda item recommendation was also shown, including “that the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to enter into a purchase agreement with Houghton Mifflin Harcourt (HMH) and SAVVAS Learning Company. The total cost of this adoption may not exceed \$10,000,000.00.

**QUESTIONS/DISCUSSION:** None

**MOTION:** Director Vue moved to authorize the Superintendent (designee) to enter into a purchase agreement with Houghton Mifflin Harcourt (HMH) and SAVVAS Learning Company. The total cost of this adoption may not exceed \$10,000,000.00. 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

2. Executive Audit Summary Presentation for Saint Paul Public Schools

**BF 33146** Executive Audit Summary Presentation for Saint Paul Public Schools

Superintendent Gothard then welcomed Tom Sager, Executive Chief of Financial Services, Lisa Rider, Controller, and Michelle Hoffman of Clifton Larson Allen to present the Fiscal Year 2021-2022 Audit. Details within the presentation included the audit results for the year ended 6/30/2022 with an audit opinion of “clean” or “unmodified” and no Yellow Book compliance issues. Internal controls were also reviewed, as well as the single audits of Special Education, Education Stabilization Fund, and State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds. Legal compliance was also reviewed. Graphs showing the fund balance as a percentage of expenditures was shown for 2013 through 2022, the General Fund – fund balance activity, and General Fund expenditures per student ADM were shared, as well as graphs showing the General Fund percentage of expenditures; revenue, expenditures and balance of the Food Service Fund as well as Community Service Fund, and student enrollment for aid.

**QUESTIONS/DISCUSSION:**

- Director Vue requested further information on the meaning of “unmodified” or “clean” opinion within the audit report.
- Director Vue requested information on next steps for identified areas of deficiencies or material weaknesses. Response: When issued a clean, unmodified opinion, typically school districts will receive areas of findings – findings are those areas to create an action corrective plan. Most are related to tightening up documents, and we know what they are, and are easily remedied. We are looking forward to guidance with our continuous improvement process and ways to move forward.

**MOTION: Director Vue moved to accept and approve the Fiscal Year 2021-2022 financial statement audit issued by Clifton Larson Allen LLP. 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

**12. AGENDA ITEMS THAT ARE INFORMATIONAL**

A. Riverview Name Change

Superintendent Gothard then introduced Principal Licon-Gervich and Maggie Bruecken, Project Manager, to present the second presentation (of three total) of the Riverview Name Change. Details included in the presentation included the rationale for the change, options presented, engagement process, and voting results. The proposed name change is: Riverview Spanish/English Dual Immersion Program.

The full presentation can be found in the BoardBook.

**QUESTIONS/DISCUSSION:**

- Director Kopp thanked the team for the presentation and it’s helpful for everyone to know what is happening in our school communities, including with our prospective families, partners and community. She likes the tagline and how it is clear about Riverview. She congratulated Principal Licon-Gervich on a thorough process, and looks forward to the third and final reading next month.

Principal Licon-Gervich thanked the Board for their support, and noted that many families do not know Riverview offers dual immersion program, and she is very happy with the process and results.

- Director Henderson noted that it's exciting to see the overwhelming amount of parents, students, and staff who voted for option 2 (Spanish/English Dual Immersion Program), and why was it important to have Spanish listed first and what it meant for our students. Response: It means that our students are proud of their learning and their heritage language. Riverview has a different language allocation, in which by 4<sup>th</sup> grade students are bilingual and biliterate.
- Director Foster thanked the team for their engagement of students and it is model that is effective and works in buildings. She thanked them for their work, and noted it can be a model for other schools in terms of engagement.
- The third reading will make the change official – when is the effective date of the change? Response: It will be effective immediately, and the change will be seen in materials prior to the next school year, with time for transition.

#### B. Policy Update

##### 1. SECOND READING: Policy 716.00 Advertising in the Schools

Superintendent Gothard then introduced Erica Wacker, Director of Communications, to present the second reading of the policy update to Policy 716.00 – Advertising in the Schools. Details included the rationale for the overall changes, which include that it was last updated in April 2012, does not meet current partnership standards and best practices; current language is overly limiting, unclear and not consistently implemented; and the need to update to clarify impacts on partners, vendors and prospective advertisers.

Proposed changes and rationale for those changes within the policy were also reviewed, as well as a link to the proposed updated policy. Details on the procedure were also reviewed, including the new process being created for partners/vendors to request use of the district name or logo as part of their contract, the District will determine which vendors/partners are granted permission as part of the contract process, and permission to use the name/logo will expire along with the contract. Tracking and reporting within the procedure was also reviewed. Next steps, including the third reading at the Regular Meeting on April 18<sup>th</sup>, were also shared.

**QUESTIONS/DISCUSSION:** None

### **13. BOARD OF EDUCATION**

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

- Director Henderson requested information on the process for school safety, and when the Board can expect to receive a report.
- Director Allen followed-up on her request for information on investments in restorative practices and the plan for the next three years. Superintendent Gothard noted that the team is working on this report and hopes to send it to the Board by the end of this week. Director Allen wondered if the report would be public, and if it would include how we have are investing and how we have invested in restorative practices. Superintendent Gothard noted he would prefer to the share with the Board first, and then allow time for additional feedback and compile a public document to be shared with the community. Director Allen noted she wanted to ensure the community is involved.
- Director Allen also requested information around Equity and while it is included in the strategic plan, how it is folding into the work and the decisions that are being made since it was implemented.

- Director Ward noted that at the April regular meeting, the plan is to consider the Student Outcomes Focused Governance contract with CGCS, and he would like to request a conversation on how to come to a consensus on how to proceed, and any changes or arrangements to SOFG to use. He does not feel he can vote on a contract if he does not know what we are getting and agreeing to in it.
- Director Ward also resubmitted a request to look into streaming Committee of the Board meetings.

B. Board of Education Reports/Communications

- Director Ellis provided a report on her time at the Lego League competition.
- She also thanked the Office of Family Engagement and Community Partnerships for their work in Parent Academy, which she was also able to attend, as well as provided feedback on broadening the event and communicating it to families.
- Director Allen shared her time at local high school basketball games, including a recent game between Murray and Journeys. She noted the discipline of the players, and also the demographics of the Journeys players. She encouraged the Board and Administration to look further into the student population at Journeys, and what is happening in the District. She also noted the need to focus on students with IEPs and on their success, including four-year institutions, and how athletics and extracurricular activities can contribute to the success of students.
- Director Henderson provided an update on her work on the EELAC committee, and their finished recommendation to present to the city council. She is excited about the idea of serving children as early as possible through walking in our schools.
- Director Kopp provided an update on the student engagement sessions regarding school safety. These are valuable and powerful conversations, and noted the Board should continue this practice of engaging with students at least once a year going forward. She thanked principals and other staff for their help in arranging the sessions, our Board Administrator, Administration, and staff from REA. It is a powerful experience and looks forward to hearing from her colleagues about their sessions.
- Director Vue provided a recap of his school visit to Como Park Senior and his learnings from students in that they feel safe within the building, but have concerns on transportation and events in community outside the school building. He encouraged his colleagues to further the communication with students and ask and draw that information from them.
- Director Vue also shared his experience in visiting an Ethnic Students classroom, and the questions posed to students on society, culture, and systems of oppression. There is a lot of good working happening in SPPS.

**14. ADJOURNMENT**

**Director Vue moved to adjourn the meeting; 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

The meeting adjourned at 7:23 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