

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

November 15, 2022  
6:05 p.m.

**MINUTES**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 p.m. by Jim Vue, Chair.

**II. ROLL CALL**

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

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

**II. 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 Ward.

The motion was approved by roll call vote:

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

**III. RECOGNITIONS**

**BF 32993** Acknowledgement of Good Work Provided by Students

**Alex Le**, a senior at Como Park Senior High School, received the Legion of Valor Bronze Cross award through the Como Park Marine Corps JROTC. The Bronze Cross is an elite honor earned annually by just six exceptional individuals from over 8,000 JROTC cadets across the entire world.

Le's accomplishments in JROTC began during his freshman year and increased over time to include not just higher rank and distinction within the program, but also excellence in challenging academic coursework, extracurricular activities, and community service.

Le is a top student at Como Park Senior High. He has led a Como Park High Knowledge Bowl team to the national JROTC finals in Washington D.C., three times, and has earned AP scholar status, and is a member of the National Honor Society with distinction. He has also earned multiple accolades, ran track and field, Nordic skiing, swimming, tennis and had leadership roles in several service projects within the community in addition to JROTC and school initiatives. Also, Le completed the Commander Naval Air Force Pilot Scholarship program this past summer at the Delaware State University, Dover.

The proclamation for the Legion of Valor Bronze Cross ceremony included roughly 40 other awards, achievements, and accomplishments. Le's resume is extensive, and his uniform is highly decorated. But the quality most admired by both instructors and fellow cadets is Le's determination.

The support Le has received from the Como Park MCJROTC, his teachers, and his parents Thephong Le and Danglan Nguyen will serve as a springboard as he pursues his Armed Forces Academy and college experiences. Alex Le has plans to study aeronautical engineering. The goal is to use the skills and commitment to excellence he's developed as a compass for succeeding in the military or college, career, and life.

#### **BF 32994**      Acknowledgement of Good Work Provided by Outstanding District Employees

**Errol Edwards**, counselor at St. Anthony Park Elementary (SAP), is the 2022 Minnesota Elementary School Counselor of the Year.

Errol is in his fifth year as an SPPS school counselor. Prior to his role at SAP, he was a school counselor at Barack & Michelle Obama Elementary. He was nominated by his elementary counselor peers because of his passion for equitable outcomes for students.

Errol encourages the adults around him to think outside of the box to meet his scholars where they are at. He does this while maintaining high academic and behavioral standards for all. He is a collaborator and has worked to improve mental health teams in our district. Errol has the ability to challenge the status quo and traditional thinking to create a more supportive environment for all students - especially our students of color. His positive attitude is infectious and it is not surprising that students are drawn to him. Colleagues grow from each interaction with Errol. He has helped us all put our beliefs into action in support of our scholars.

**John Eschenbacher**, counselor at Johnson Senior High School, is the 2022 Minnesota High School Counselor of the Year.

John started with SPPS as an Educational Assistant 22 years ago, and has been a school counselor for 19 years. Minnesota's High School Counselor of the Year because he completely represents what this prestigious award is for. As a counselor, he is very knowledgeable and familiar with the American School Counselor Association (ASCA) model, implementing building level and district wide innovations and development related to school counseling where we support every student's career, personal/social, and academic development. He demonstrates strong leadership, advocacy, and collaboration in his work to provide equitable opportunities and access for every student. He works closely with administration, staff, parents and students to provide a rigorous educational experience for all students.

He demonstrates on a daily basis his dedication, talent, effort, and contributions made to our counseling program both in our building and district wide. John is a counselor who is humble, personable, efficient, and hard working. He puts in countless hours above and beyond his daily work schedule.

**Jeanette Vyhanek**, counselor at Wellstone Elementary, is the overall Minnesota School Counselor of the Year for 2023.

Jeanette is in her first year with SPPS. Prior to joining the SPPS counseling team, Jeanette served in the Minneapolis Public School District for five years at the middle school level. Jeanette is a stand out school counselor - her authenticity, her bilingualism, her competency, her humility, and her fun yet serious presence - these are the things that draw students and families of all cultures and backgrounds to her. Her tireless leadership and servant mindset are remarkable. She makes time to connect with our young people, earns their trust quickly, holds space for their voice, advocates for their needs, and works alongside other educators to create better spaces for their learning.

Jeanette has the respect of her peers because of her demonstrated competency in college and career readiness curriculum development (with special attention to the needs of English Language learners and literacy supports), leading professional development, participating in Professional Learning Committees (PLC), her commitment to anti-racist education, and always asking the tough questions that push us all to be our best selves for students and families, day in and day out.

**BF 32995** Acknowledgement of Good Work Provided by Outstanding District Donors

In recognition of National Homelessness Awareness Month, Project REACH would like to lift up several donors and their ongoing support of the students in SPPS who are experiencing homelessness. Because of their generosity, students have winter coats, boots, food, supplies, beds and other needed items to reduce the barriers getting our students to school and ready for their day. The support they have given has allowed our students and their families to better access school and exhale for the first time in a long time. On behalf of the over 650 identified students experiencing homelessness in SPPS today, we are incredibly grateful!

**My Very Own Bed**

**Assistance League Minneapolis/St. Paul**

**ECMC Foundation**

**Saint Paul Regional Labor Federation**

**Mt. Zion Temple**

**Lexington/Hamline Neighborhood Association**

**IV. 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 Henderson | Yes |
| Director Ward      | Yes |
| Director Vue       | Yes |
| Director Allen     | Yes |

|                 |     |
|-----------------|-----|
| Director Kopp   | Yes |
| Director Ellis  | Yes |
| Director Foster | Yes |

## V. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

- A. Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of October 11, 2022
- B. Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Board of Education of October 11, 2022
- C. Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Board of Education of November 9, 2022

**MOTION:** Director Vue moved approval of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of October 11, 2022; Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Board of Education of October 11, 2022; and the Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Board of Education of November 9, 2022. The motion was seconded by Director Henderson.

The motion was approved by roll call vote:

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

## VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. Minutes of the Committee of the Board Meeting of November 1, 2022

At the Committee of the Board Meeting on November 1, 2022, Superintendent Gothard welcomed everyone to the meeting and shared details on the celebration of the first Karen language class.

The first presentation focused on the 2023 Legislative Agenda. Discussion from the Board included details on building a strong presentation at the capitol as a community, common interests amongst legislators, the importance of relationships in our legislative work, and willingness from board members to help in legislative efforts.

Next, an update from the department of Security and Emergency Management was provided. This presentation sparked further requests for information on school emergency plans, data for the stop school violence grants, and the importance of everyone's participation in "active supervision" to keep our students, staff, families, and buildings safe.

Finally, Chair Vue and Vice Chair Kopp presented an introduction to Student Outcomes Focused Governance, and a report out from the Council of the Great City Schools Annual Fall Conference. Superintendent Gothard began by sharing details of this time at the conference, including task force meetings, and the executive meeting, as well as the topics presented by SPPS. He noted that one of the great aspects of the conference is the ability to connect with other urban districts across the country. The fundamentals of student outcomes focused governance were also shared, as well as next steps. From this presentation, board members then requested examples of items that would not be student outcomes focused, and personal experiences with the training. Further information was also provided on the

information provided at the meeting and the full manual of information from the Council of Great City Schools. Hesitation on this work was noted by some, and the need for further discussion in terms of limiting or narrowing the work of the Board, as well as in regards to the cost of the contract. Further discussion also involved the ways to tailor this work to SPPS, and that this work is based on the community, students, and profile of our district.

**MOTION:**        **Director Kopp moved that the Board accept the report of the Committee of the Board Meeting of November 1, 2022, and approve the recommended motions and minutes of that meeting as published. The motion was seconded by Director Foster.**

The motion was approved by roll call vote:

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

## **VII.        SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Superintendent Gothard then introduced the reports for the meeting, which are related, but two different approaches to enrollment - one is an update on the work of the enrollment committee, and the other is an update on current enrollment.

He then welcomed Maggie Brueken, Project Manager, and Jackie Turner, Chief of Staff and Operations to present the Enrollment and Retention Committee Update.

### **A. Enrollment and Retention Committee Update**

The presentation included details on the Enrollment and Retention Committee, including that it is a partnership between the Board of Education, Administration, and SPFE. The committee structure was reviewed, as well as the overall project goal for SPPS, SPFE and the Board of Education to jointly develop a student recruitment and retention plan to increase enrollment at under-enrolled elementary schools. We will meet the overall goal through a phased approach. The phases were also shared, with details and timeline of each phase. The progress of the committee so far was also reviewed. Strategies within Phase 1 were also discussed, including a brand awareness campaign, and district council outreach, Next steps were also shared, including the launch of Phase 2 in November/December 2022, with further details on this phase, including school selection and sustainability of the project.

The full presentation can be found in the BoardBook.

### **QUESTIONS/DISCUSSION:**

- Director Ward noted he is excited for this work, and there have been conversations about this from different parts of the community, including with families. SPFE has also been very vocal in addressing enrollment in an intentional way. He then noted that he presented a proposal to create an enrollment committee, and Chief Turner then reviewed the current work on this topic, and the work started from there. He believes this is an amazing and collaborative effort from SPPS communities with the Board, Administration, and SPFE.

- Director Henderson requested more information on the work with the district councils. Response: This idea came from a visioning session, and we saw the need for community engagement and outreach, and meeting our community where they are and live. Director Ward provided details on the work of the district councils as it relates to his current full-time job. The councils work to cultivate relationships with the communities they serve, and this is one way to utilize existing relationships and to try to ensure communities are aware of events and news that the governmental organizations who serve them. Director Henderson noted she is excited about the ways we can build relationships in other places, and the data of the number of folks who interact with each district council.
- Director Vue requested information on our definition of “stabilization”, and the criteria. Response: We do have outcome measurements related to different phases of the plan, and are able to establish looking at trends. One of the outcomes for Phase 1 measurements around stabilization includes that the number of students enrolled in 2022-23 does not decrease more than 1.5% the following school year. We are looking at trends from the past few years to ensure our goal is reachable as well.
- Director Ellis requested information on the criteria used for under enrolled schools, and determining that they are under enrolled. Response: More information can be provided, but there will be goal setting based on schools and their student population and numbers, with goals for each phase, and individual schools will build out metrics.
- Director Ward requested information on the decisions around which schools are selected in this process, and the criteria for marking them as under enrolled. Response: One of the criteria is physical space within the building, as well as looking within each neighborhood and determining the opportunities for growth.
- Director Ellis noted that she believes schools will feel uneasy if they are targeted as “under enrolled”. They may be nervous about future potential school closings, and we need to get them to a place of trust, especially after the Envision SPPS process of the previous year. There will be messages to community that may make them nervous about their schools, especially if the terms “under enrolled” and “stabilize” are used, and both intended and unintended messages will be conveyed through that. Response: That is a valid point, and will note that as we support schools. For the schools that are under enrolled, there will be a plan to be able to provide resources in human resources, financial services, personalized supports, and analyze data on reasons students may have left the school and other information. We are excited to offer a tailor-made full service model of supports. While we are not in the position to offer this opportunity to all schools, there has not been a shortage of interest from schools, and we will be able to offer this to 5-7 schools.
- Director Ellis noted there is the providing additional support and resources, but we will not be able to do so for every school in the district, which sounds confusing and inequitable. Language is important and actions are important. Chief Turner noted this committee focuses on recruitment and enrollment, not academics. She noted there are some buildings who are at capacity because of Envision SPPS, such as Phalen Lake. We will be working with schools with physical space to accommodate more students.
- It was noted that we are being intentional with efforts and build the baseline if it is successful with targeted supports and additional supports. Schools are willing to make configurations work at their schools to see themselves grow. Administration and families are excited to work with the process to increase enrollment. We need to be intentional and follow up with families, including school tours, and calling families to encourage them. We hope to learn and expand to multiple schools, with 7 as the maximum currently.
- Director Kopp noted that it has been a joy to serve on the planning committee, and there have been difficult conversations; schools are personal and we want them to be good, full of joy and learning spaces, which yield rich ideas and directions. It has been a good experience. Regarding

resources, specifically around marketing, she reflected on her experiences, and the value of a professional marketing role to understand the landscape, and we cannot expect schools to have this expertise. That role will be able to tell everyone about the greatness of that school community, and we hope to learn from this process, and apply it to sustainability going forward. She also appreciates the sensitivity about schools who may be under the microscope, and that language does matter, and that we continue to lift them up, and be mindful of folks in the schools who may be aware their school feel under enrolled. She also thanked Director Ward for his work on the steering committee, as well as Ms. Brueken.

- Director Ward noted that the concerns are important, and while he was not on the Board during the Envision process, he did pay close attention to it, and knew the community felt hurt by it, regardless of the outcomes and trends. He understands that any process where schools are selected as “needing help,” it may bring up memories, and at the same time, this is the kind of process we need to ensure we are giving our schools the best chance to ensure we don’t go through the Envision process again. Conversations were thoughtful, and while all were not in agreement all the time, everyone came forward with this best possible solution with the resources we have for schools to address this trend. He also thanked Director Kopp and the planning committee.

#### B. School Year 2022-23 Enrollment Overview

Next Superintendent Gothard welcomed Dr. Stacey Gray Akyea, Chief Strategy Officer, and Kara Arzamendia, Director of Research, Evaluation and Assessment to present information on the SY2022-23 Enrollment Overview. The presentation included information on the total number of students enrolled, which is 32,969 in PK/VPK-12, as well as K-12 enrollment of 31,888 compared to the projected enrollment of 31,883, and the state funded enrollment of 32,149. Details were also shared on the Fall to Projected Comparison, schools with higher than projected enrollment and schools with lower than projected enrollment. Enrollment trends were also reviewed, including K-12 enrollment from SY68-69 to SY22-23 and timelines and significant events within that time frame and trends in district enrollment by grade for SY19-20 to SY22-23. Details on market share were also discussed, including that in SY21-22 SPPS enrolled 61% of the 52,685 school age children who live in Saint Paul, as well as that approximately 20,000 students enroll outside of SPPS each year with more students enrolling in charter schools, followed by nonpublic schools and then other public districts outside of SPPS. Demographics of students who attend schools outside of SPPS were also reviewed as well as trends. Continuation details were also shared, including that the continuation rate for all grades PK-12 has been at or above 85%, with further figures and trends including trends around continuation for PK to K, continuation for Grade 5 to Grade 6, and continuation data for Grade 8 to Grade 9. Details on the schools affected by Envision SPPS were also shared, including the enrollment details of students in those schools that were impacted by Envision SPPS.

The full presentation can be found in the BoardBook.

#### QUESTIONS/DISCUSSION:

- Director Foster noted her appreciation for the detailed presentation.
- Director Vue requested more information on the projected enrollment figures, and how they align with previous years. Response: We are generally within 1.5% from projected enrollment on October 1. This year, we are coming in above the projected enrollment, but are still within the 1.5% of projected.
- Director Foster requested clarification on information contained within the presentation, which was other public schools with SPPS from the Envision slides. Response: This indicated another SPPS school site, and the individual school was not listed as it may have been 1-2 schools or students, smaller numbers, and to maintain privacy and for easy interpretation, they have been categorized

as “other SPPS school buildings”. Director Foster then encouraged the ease of information and transparency in this work for clear understanding.

C. Human Resources Transactions

**MOTION:** Director Vue moved approval of the HR Transactions for the period October 1 through October 31, 2022. Director Henderson seconded the motion.

The motion was approved by roll call vote:

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

**VII. 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 Henderson | Yes |
| Director Ward      | Yes |
| Director Vue       | Yes |
| Director Allen     | Yes |
| Director Kopp      | Yes |
| Director Ellis     | Yes |
| Director Foster    | Yes |

A. Gifts

**BF 32996** Acceptance of Gift from Horace Mann School PTA

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to accept the gift from Horace Mann School PTA.

**BF 32997** Acceptance of Gift from Minnesota State High School League Foundation

Authorize schools to apply for and the Superintendent (or Designee) to accept the gifts from the Minnesota State High School League Foundation.

**BF 32998** Acceptance of Gift from the Georgianna E. Herman Trust

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to accept the gift from the Georgianna E. Herman Trust.

B. Grants

**BF 32999** — ~~Emergency Connectivity Fund Grant~~

~~That the Board of Education authorize administration to approve the proposal from Apple and T-Mobile for the purchase of iPads and Hotspots, along with reimbursement from the Emergency Connectivity Fund, in the amount not to exceed \$2,400,000.~~

(This item should not have been included on the agenda - it was sent as an example for another item. The Emergency Connectivity Grant item was approved at the Regular Meeting of September 21, 2021.)

C. Contracts

**BF 33000** Request Board approval for Dakhota Iapi Okhodakichiye to serve as our Sole Source Contractor for the NAL grant with the Indian Education Program

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent to approve Dakhota Iapi Okhodakichiye as a Sole Source contractor to provide Dakota Language Expertise for the remainder of our Federal NAL grant.

**BF 33001** Request to sign the Amendment with St. Catherine University to continue CNA Programming

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to sign the amendment with St. Catherine University for FY23.

D. Agreements

**BF 33002** Approval of Memorandum of Agreement Between Independent School District No. 625, Saint Paul Public Schools and Minnesota Teamsters Public and Law Enforcement Employees Union Local No. 320, Nutrition Services

That the Board of Education of Independent School District No. 625 approve and adopt the Agreement concerning the terms and conditions of employment for Minnesota Teamsters Public and Law Enforcement Employees Union Local No. 320, representing nutrition services employees in this school district; duration of said Agreement is for the period of 2022-2023 school year.

**BF 33003** College Preparation and Career Readiness Agreement between St. Olaf College TRIO Educational Talent Search (ETS) and Saint Paul Public Schools

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to sign the agreement with St. Olaf TRIO Educational Talent Search.

**BF 33004** Request to Sign Concurrent Enrollment Joint Powers Agreement with Century College

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to sign the Concurrent Enrollment Joint Powers Agreement between Saint Paul Public Schools and Century College for FY23.

**BF 33005** Request to Sign School Counseling Internship Agreement with University of North Dakota

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to sign the School Counseling Internship Agreement between Saint Paul Public Schools and University of North Dakota.

**BF 33006** Approval of Employment Agreement Between Independent School District No. 625 and American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, District Council 5, Local Union No. 844, Representing Clerical and Technical Employees

That the Board of Education of Independent School District No. 625 approve and adopt the Agreement concerning the terms and conditions of employment for American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, Local Union No. 844, District Council 5, representing clerical and technical employees in this school district; duration of said Agreement is for the period of July 1, 2022, through June 30, 2024.

E. Administrative Items

**BF 33007** Monthly Operating Authority

That the Board of Education approve and ratify the following checks and electronic transfers for the period September 1, 2022 through September 30, 2022

|                           |                                                                            |                               |
|---------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| (a) General Account       | #752449-753536<br>#0004639-0004669<br>#7004535-7004567<br>#0007466-0007577 | \$48,651,215.64               |
| (b) Construction Payments | - 0 -                                                                      | \$3,190,797.28                |
| (c) Debt Service          | - 0 -                                                                      | <u>\$0</u><br>\$51,842,012.92 |

Included in the above disbursements are two payrolls in the amount of \$27,142,367.79 and overtime of \$144,815.42 or 0.53% 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 March 31, 2023.

**BF 33008** 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 November 23, 2022, should they not comply with Minnesota State Health Standards for Immunizations on or before this date. **Crossroads** students would be excluded from school effective November 30, 2022.

**BF 33009** Establishment of the Unclassified Position of Community Education Program Coordinator for Independent School District No. 625 and Relevant Terms and Conditions of

## Employment

That the Board of Education of Independent School District No. 625 approve the establishment of the Community Education Program Coordinator job classification effective August 27, 2022; that the Board of Education declare the position of Community Education Program Coordinator as unclassified; and that the pay rate be in Salary Schedule 2 of the School and Community Services Personnel standard ranges.

### **BF 33010** Purchasing iPads to account for loss

That the Board of Education authorize administration to approve the purchasing of additional iPads for students and staff in the amount not to exceed \$625,000.

### **BF 33011** Upgrade of the Unclassified Position of Labor Relations Assistant for Independent School District No. 625 and Relevant Terms and Conditions of Employment

That the Board of Education of Independent School District No. 625 approve the establishment of the unclassified Labor Relations Assistant job classification effective October 4, 2022 to Grade 34; that the Board of Education declare the position of Labor Relations Assistant as unclassified; and that the pay rate be Grade 34 of the Classified Confidential Employees Association standard ranges.

### **BF 33012** Settlement of Partially Insured 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 33013** Phase Gate Approval of Frost Lake Elementary Building Addition & Renovation (Project # 1100-19-01): Gate #5.1 – Project Close-out; Gate #5.1A – Finance Plan Update

That the Board of Education accept the financial report provided for Frost Lake Elementary Addition and Renovation project (Project #s 1100-19-01) at Phase Gate Check #5.1 – Project Close-out; Phase Gate Check #5.1a – Finance Plan Update.

### **BF 33014** Project Budget Modification Request and Finance Plan Update for Theater and Stage Equipment Upgrades (Project # 0925-22-01)

That the Board of Education approve the budget modification to Theater and Stage Equipment Upgrades project # 0925-22-01.

## F. Bids

### **BF 33015** Phase Gate Approval of Theater and Stage Equipment Upgrades (Project # 0925-22-01): Gate #4 - Contract Award; Gate #4A – Finance Plan Update

That the Board of Education approve the award of Bid No. A23-2908-A for the Theater and Stage Equipment Upgrades project (Project #s 0925-22-01) to Market & Johnson, Inc. for a lump sum base bid plus Alternate #1, 2, 3 and 4 of \$1,880,795.

## G. Change Orders - None

## ITEMS PULLED FOR SEPARATE CONSIDERATION - None

### IX. OLD BUSINESS

Director Ward then introduced the below items. He noted the Board has been discussing these items since the beginning of this year, and it is exciting to put money where our values are. He recapped the process to determine what it would look like to divest from fossil fuels, and in conversation with the Board and Director Allen suggested the Board add a resolution preventing the investment in private prisons as well as divestment from fossil fuels. The Policy Work Group then worked through these suggestions, including the effects, and determination in two separate resolutions.

The first is a resolution preventing investment in private prisons, and the best we can do as an organization to serve our students, and there is also economic power in the ways in which we invest and use our power to cultivate the kind of world we want to build for our students and working towards a future our students deserve. This resolution specifically references the importance that funds go not go to organizations that operate private prisons. There are mass problems with mass incarceration, and the United States has 25% of the world's prison population, but 5% of the population. It is one of the most heavily incarcerated populations in the world, and our BIPOC members are targeted disproportionately. In trying to build the world we believe in for our students, this resolution shows that we do not currently invest in private prisons, and will also prevent any future investments in private prisons. This is exciting and we can be a leader on this issue.

#### A. Adopting a Saint Paul Public Schools Resolution Preventing Investment in Private Prisons

**BF 33016** Adopting a Saint Paul Public Schools Resolution Preventing Investment in Private Prisons

**MOTION:** Director Vue moved approval of Adopting a Saint Paul Public Schools Resolution Preventing Investment in Private Prisons. Director Allen seconded the motion.

The motion was approved by roll call vote:

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

#### B. Adopting a Saint Paul Public Schools Resolution Mandating the Divestment of and Preventing Further Investment in Fossil Fuels

**BF 33017** Adopting a Saint Paul Public Schools Resolution Mandating the Divestment of and Preventing Further Investment in Fossil Fuels

### **DISCUSSION/QUESTIONS:**

- Director Ward noted that climate change is a threat, and that the continuation of continuing to burn and extract fossil fuels without meaningful transitions further harms the planet, and creates less

health environments for our students. This is another way to align our money with our values, and this resolution would change where we invest our dollars.

- In speaking with our bank, they indicated that about \$9M would be moved as a result of this resolution because those funds are invested in fossil fuels and portfolios that include fossil fuels.
- He noted excitement in seeing the community come out to support this resolution and emails that have steadily arrived from community members. It is saying that our values and those of the school district align with the health and safety of our students, and this is exciting it it is bringing folks together.
- It was also noted that if both resolutions pass, SPPS will be the first school district in the country to pass either issue, and it is exciting to be a leader on these issues.

**MOTION: Director Vue moved approval of Adopting a Saint Paul Public Schools Resolution Mandating the Divestment of and Preventing Further Investment in Fossil Fuels. Director Ward seconded the motion.**

The motion was approved by roll call vote:

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

C. Action on Procedure 206.01.01: Guidelines for Public Comment

**BF 33018** Action on Procedure 206.01.01: Guidelines for Public Comment

**MOTION: Director Vue moved approval of changes to Procedure 206.01.01: Guidelines for Public Comment, which include:**

- Submittals of pre-recorded videos in lieu of in-person comments will not be accepted.
- Public comment shall occur during the regular board meeting for a maximum of 45 minutes. If there is less than 45 minutes of public comment, then the Board may proceed with the next item on the agenda.
- These guidelines will go into effect at the January 2023 regular meeting of the SPPS Board of Education (BOE).

**Director Ward seconded the motion.**

The motion was approved by roll call vote:

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

**X. NEW BUSINESS**

#### A. Action on Contract of the Superintendent

Chair Vue then introduced this item.

At the August Committee of the Board meeting, there was consensus among board members to begin the process of renewal of Superintendent Gothard's contract. At that time, the board noted Dr. Gothard's inclusion of systemic equity in his strategic plan, investments in improving communication across language groups, his public advocacy for school funding and district wide efforts to meet students in their classroom settings.

With his strategic plan SPPS Achieves, major capital project SPPS Builds, and ARP investment strategies in place, Superintendent Gothard is expected to work with the board in developing monitoring systems for student outcomes, evaluate implementation of culturally relevant instruction and implement tools of community engagement that are culturally responsive.

#### DISCUSSION/QUESTIONS:

- Director Vue reflected on his experience at the Council of the Great City Schools conference and seeing Superintendent Gothard talking with a former superintendent of SPPS, and in thinking about how far SPPS has come in that time, and where SPPS is going with Superintendent Gothard as its leader. The renewals of the superintendent contract is less about past production, and more about future returns. As Chair, that is what is important to focus on - working in the present to shape the future of SPPS.
- Director Kopp thanked Director Vue and her colleagues for the thoughtful engagement during this process. She noted that in August 2022, following robust discussion, the Board publicly shared the evaluation summary, and based on the 6 areas, rated the superintendent overall to be highly effective, as well as successes and key areas for growth. The Board unanimously agreed to pursue contract negotiations. One of the most important responsibilities of the Board is the hiring and evaluation of the superintendent, and this contract is underpinned primarily by the desire for continuity in 2+ years of disrupted learning. There is belief in the superintendent on the current progress and current initiatives, and to lead SPPS to a bright and beautiful future.

#### BF 33019      Action on Contract of the Superintendent

**MOTION:**      **Director Vue moved to approve the contract of the superintendent. Director Ellis seconded the motion.**

The motion was approved by roll call vote:

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

Superintendent Gothard thanked the Chair and Vice Chair, and Board for this process. He thanked them for their approval, and restated his commitment to the children, families, 6000 staff, and to the Board of Education. As he told the original Board that hired him, the process for SPPS takes time, and that was before the pandemic. The challenges continue to be numerous, and he thanked his senior leaders and

staff for their ongoing support to SPPS Achieves. He stated to the community, and to the Board of Education, that he is grateful to continue leading SPPS and for the opportunity to do so, and for the support.

## **XI. BOARD OF EDUCATION**

### A. Information Requests & Responses

### B. Items for Future Agendas

### C. Board of Education Reports/Communications

- Director Ellis provided a recap of events in which she has recently attended, including the Virtual Social-Emotional Learning Summit, school visits, the 20-Year Celebrations for Farnsworth, watching the new Black Panther movie with 8th grade students from Hazel Park, a tour of AIMS, and the Thinking College Early Fair, with a request to learn more about how SPPS supports students in funding for their post-secondary education, as well as her experience at the AMSD ReImagine conference, and a reminder about the MSBA Delegate Assembly for board members in December.
- Director Allen provided her experiences while on a HBCU tour with students in both Nashville, TN, and Dayton, OH, which was coordinated with her non-profit organization, Love First Community Engagement.

## **XI. FUTURE MEETING SCHEDULE**

### A. Board of Education Meetings (6:05 p.m. unless otherwise noted)

- December 13
- January 3, 2023 | Annual Meeting: 4:30 p.m.
- January 17
- February 21
- March 21
- April 18
- May 23
- June 13 | Special - Non-Renewals: 4:00 p.m.
- July 18

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

- December 6
- January 3, 2023
- February 7
- March 7
- April 11
- May 9
- June 13

## **XII. ADJOURNMENT**

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

The motion was approved by roll call vote:

Director Henderson

Yes

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:23 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