

**INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 625
Saint Paul, Minnesota**

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
360 Colborne Street
Saint Paul, MN 55102, and**

Available Streaming Online at www.spps.org/boe and Saint Paul Cable Channel 16

**August 23, 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: J. Vue, J. Kopp, Z. Ellis, J. Foster, H. Henderson, U. Ward
Superintendent Gothard

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

C. Allen was absent. H. Henderson was absent following Old Business.

II. APPROVAL OF THE ORDER OF THE MAIN AGENDA

MOTION: Director Vue moved approval of the order of the main agenda with one change - to move Old Business to precede the Superintendent's Report. The motion was seconded by Director Ward.

The motion was approved by roll call vote:

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

III. RECOGNITIONS

BF 32907 Acknowledgement of Good Work Provided by Outstanding District Employees

1. **Welcoming new leaders:**
Stacey Gray Akyea, Chief of Equity, Strategy & Innovation

Jim Vollmer, Interim Executive Director, Human Resources
 Patricia Pratt-Cook, Executive Chief of Human Resources and Talent Acquisition
 Lisa Rider, Controller, Office of Business & Financial Affairs
 Lori Doehne, Controller, Office of Business & Financial Affairs
 Kiel Walker, Assistant General Counsel
 Adam Kunz, Assistant Superintendent
 Nancy Paez, Assistant Superintendent
 Tom Parent, Executive Director, Operations & Administration
 Erica Wacker, Director, Office of Communications
 Kara Arzamendia, Director, Office of Research, Evaluation & Assessment
 Myla Pope, Director, Office of Equity
 Ben Harri, Director, Transportation
 Dana Abrams, Director, Office of Family Engagement & Community Partnerships
 Cherise Ayers, Principal, Central Senior High School
 Matthew Severns, Principal, Highland Park Elementary
 John Andrastek, Principal, Highland Park Middle School
 Guillermo Maldonado Pérez, Principal, Chelsea Heights Elementary
 Valerie Littles-Butler, Principal, Humboldt High School
 Sofia Bossard, Principal, L'Etoile du Nord French Immersion
 Jill Knudsen, Interim Principal, Barack & Michelle Obama Elementary
 Abdul Sannie-Ariyibi, Assistant Principal, Creative Arts Secondary
 Camille Erickson, Assistant Principal, Humboldt High School
 Jayson Spence, Assistant Principal, Harding Senior High
 Jonathan Jones, Assistant Principal, Washington Technology Magnet
 Lauren Bolopue, Assistant Principal, Capitol Hill
 Luis Saenz, Assistant Principal, Highland Park Middle School
 Lynn Bourgoyne, Assistant Principal, Global Arts Plus Upper
 Michael Krech, Assistant Principal, Central Senior High
 Michaela Smith, Assistant Principal, Bridge View/Focus Beyond
 Nick Revak, Assistant Principal, Maxfield Elementary
 Nicole Staab, Assistant Principal, E-STEM Middle School
 Lois Pantoja, Assistant Principal, SPPS Online School
 Ryan Fell, Assistant Principal, SPPS Online School
 Talisha Jackson, Assistant Principal, Wellstone Elementary
 Rebecca Magnuson, Assistant Principal, Benjamin E. Mays Elementary
 Melissa Kuhl-Schuehle, Assistant Principal, Battle Creek Middle School
 Bethany Franz, Assistant Principal, Central Senior High
 Tamiko Montgomery, Assistant Principal, Central Senior High
 Stivaliss Licon-Gervich, Principal, Riverview Elementary
 Michelle Odeen, Assistant Principal, Como Park Senior High
 Theresa Thao-Yang, Principal, Nokomis North Montessori

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 Ellis.

The motion was approved by roll call vote:

Director Vue	Yes
Director Allen	Absent
Director Kopp	Yes
Director Ellis	Yes

Director Foster	Yes
Director Henderson	Yes
Director Ward	Yes

V. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

- A. Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Board of Education of July 19, 2022
- B. Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of July 19, 2022
- C. Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Board of Education of July 20, 2022

MOTION: Director Vue moved approval of the Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Board of Education of July 19, 2022; Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of July 19, 2022; and Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Board of Education of July 20, 2022. The motion was seconded by Director Foster.

The motion was approved by roll call vote:

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

VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Minutes of the Committee of the Board Meeting of August 10, 2022

At the Committee of the Board Meeting on August 10, 2022, Superintendent Gothard began by welcoming everyone to the meeting, and provided a brief recap of the great work throughout the summer at S-Term and Freedom Schools, and that more information will also be provided regarding school readiness at the August 23rd Regular Meeting. He also noted that we welcomed back our Division of Schools with principals, leaders, and staff to prepare for the upcoming school year. He also shared a brief update on staffing and thanked our Human Resources team for their work to ensure we are ready to support our students and families.

Next, staff presented an update and recommendation for future action for the COVID-19 Vaccination and Testing Resolution. Details included data on the current vaccination and testing resolution, as well as challenges of the implementation, and recommendation by Administration to rescind the resolution effective on 8/23/2022 at midnight, while continuing to message out information and education on opportunities for vaccination and continue to offer test kits as they are available from the State. Discussion by board members included the information on Ramsey County's plan regarding this topic, expectations for test availability for the upcoming school year, possibility of staff acknowledgment of either vaccination or not vaccinated, current practices of surrounding districts and agencies, implementation timeline within SPPS, ways to continue to educate and reach out to the community, as well as the impact of this resolution on the ability of our community partners to work within SPPS. Further discussion and action on this item are scheduled to occur at the August 23rd Regular Meeting.

Director Ward then introduced a presentation on updates to the procedure for public comment, including extension of public comment time and incorporating public comment into the regular meeting agenda. Discussion amongst board members included a request for information on past public comment sessions and timing, as well as future discussion and steps.

Next, the Board presented the Summary of the Annual Performance Evaluation of the Superintendent based on the standards of Implementation of the Strategic Plan, Communications, Community Engagement, Operations, Teaching and Learning, and Ethical Leadership and Equity. Overall, the Board finds the Superintendent to be highly effective in his role and acknowledges more growth is both necessary and possible and identified Key Areas for Growth. Within the discussion regarding this topic, the Board thanked Superintendent Gothard for this work as he has been a stabilizing force for education for students, and the significant gains in the district, particularly regarding equity. Superintendent Gothard noted that it is a great honor and privilege to serve as the Superintendent for Saint Paul Public Schools, and his motivation to lead the premier educational institution for the children of this community, and work for the students, staff, and families. He also thanked his team as success is never done in isolation.

MOTION: Director Kopp moved that the Board accept the report of the Committee of the Board Meeting of August 10, 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 Vue	Yes
Director Allen	Absent
Director Kopp	Yes
Director Ellis	Yes
Director Foster	Yes
Director Henderson	Yes
Director Ward	Yes

VII. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

A. School Readiness Report 2022-23

Superintendent Gothard then introduced the School Readiness Report for SY 2022-2023. He noted that there will be departmental updates, updates from Academics, central office supports, school site readiness, and planning for the school year and work underway.

He also noted that enrollment is a common question, however we will not have a precise number initially, and data will need to be verified the first three weeks as there are shifts, and the pattern subsides after the first few weeks for a more accurate count.

Metro Transit will also be present during this presentation, and will include information on the challenges in shortages, and their top priority of public safety.

Within the presentation, an overview was provided on the state of readiness for the first day of school on Tuesday, September 6, 2022. Information from Schools and Learning, Finance and Human Resources, and Operation, including Security and Emergency Management, Technology Services, Facilities, Nutrition Services, Family Engagement and Community Partnerships, and Transportation was included.

Within the Metro Transit portion of the presentation, highlights include the SPPS Student Pass, Student Pass usage, route information, Metro Transit's response to new SPPS travel patterns, future steps, student and staff resources and training, and Metro Transit Police overview and police reporting.

The full presentation can be found in the BoardBook.

QUESTIONS/DISCUSSION:

- Director Ellis requested further information on the availability and distribution of Metro Transit bus passes. Metro Transit is extremely flexible with students the first few weeks of school, and accepts student IDs as passes, or if the student identifies themselves as a SPPS student to allow them to ride the bus. Information was also discussed on the distribution of passes, such as at high school open house events.
- Director Ellis also noted the comfort of riding on a bus or train, and differences between comfort and safety issues/concerns.
- Director Ellis requested information on the Metro Transit app, and how we are sharing that information with students.
- Director Foster requested information on the timing of the yellow bus notifications and information to families. They will be sent on 8/23, and we wait as long as possible as we want to capture as many students as possible in that sending of postcards with information about route and bus stop. We tend to wait within 2 weeks of school starting, and students who enroll after they have been sent are told their bus route and stop when enrolling because they will not have been in the mailing system for the postcards. Transportation staff are a wonderful resource in helping to alleviate anxiety, as they know the city very well and will be able to inform families about other families who may be at their same bus stop, as well as coordinating stops to ensure they are in areas with clear corners, lights, and avoiding busy streets. Also credit to our older students for supporting the younger students to ensure they are crossing safely. Our Transportation team stays until the last students make it home safely and ensure that every route is clear. Principals also stay until each student is home safely, especially during the first week of school. SEM will also be out to assist, and monitoring streets in mobile units, as well as our school safety liaisons.
- Director Foster also thanked Chief Grates for his service and commitment, and appreciated his comments about college and career readiness.
- Director Vue is encouraged to hear about the building leaders and staff preparing for the near school year with training and PD, and requested information about information in schools in which parents can also learn about that training and how staff are prepared. Administration noted ways in which to highlight and communicate our strategy and why, and framing it in a way to be open to input and feedback. The Administrative Leadership Academy was also noted, and how to communicate to administrators to ensure students feel seen and heard, and so students can then go home and share with their families through their lens and voice about their excitement for school.
- Director Vue also requested more information on staffing opportunities. We have been working on virtual recruiting sessions, for Special Education and ELL teachers specifically, and other teaching positions as well. There have also been numerous interviews in the media with SPPS, and a recent hiring fair at Allianz Field, as well as posting online on the district website and social

media and websites such as Indeed. Also, as part of our ARP funding, we have created a recruiting and training office, and are beginning to see the progress from that initiative.

- Director Vue requested information on the utilization of the SPPS food truck. It will be used at special events and activities throughout the school year. It was extremely popular during the summer, and we will continue to see that.
- Director Vue requested information about Parent Academy, and how it may look different. We will engage with our parent advisory groups on how to monitor and adjust Parent Academy to align with post-COVID work, including a virtual Parent Academy. We will also work with alumni to help us as well. It will likely roll out in the latter part of the first semester, or in the second semester. We will use the same standard of curriculum, and framework, which has been successful and the national model we have adopted.
- Director Vue also requested information on the process of reports on Metro Transit buses and trains verses on SPPS property. Clarification was provided, as well as information on the process, including tracking in the system, classified information involving juveniles, and officers to contact parents. If it was an issue that happened while boarding, the school would process that incident. Information was also provided on student support from staff, and helping students to board the bus and trains, as well as support from our ECC, SEM, and Metro Transit police. There is also a larger team who meets to discuss higher incident areas, and other issues to remedy situations.
- Director Ellis requested information from the presentation on “new school day trips”. It is adjusted routes to better align with schedules.
- Director Ellis also requested information on the start of Parent Academy, with the priority to be at schools affected by Envision SPPS, and start at 5-7 sites, and elementary schools first.
- She also requested information on the history and background of Parent Academy in order to go forward with the program, as well as challenges we experienced in the past and how to remedy those for the next cohort.
- Director Ellis also requested clarification on the numbers for staffing, and if those figures included the fairs, such as at Allianz Field, and online recruiting. These figures may contain some of these events, but not all, and there are also additional hiring fairs scheduled.

B. American Rescue Plan Community Partners Request for Proposal

Superintendent Gothard then introduced Dana Abrams, Director of Office of Family Engagement and Community Partnerships to present.

Topics included ARP background, with details on community partnerships and communication services for families, districtwide collaboration, request for proposals process, planning and implementation timeline, priority areas, percentage of partners by priority, a map showing the opportunities/programs for students and families across Saint Paul by area, and next steps.

The full presentation can be found in the BoardBook.

QUESTIONS/DISCUSSION:

- Director Kopp thanked the team for the presentation and thoughtful, good work, as well as the map which showed access across the city to resources.
- For the focus areas, those are based on community-driven needs? Response: Yes. It's important to note that these are based on community input.

- Director Vue requested information on the program evaluation and progress monitoring process. Response: That is one of the areas we are working on - we need to be fiscally responsible for the dollars and use them with intent. We need to ensure we are monitoring and evaluating these programs because we can't wait until the end of the year to determine if they are working or not. It will start early in the first quarter, and partners will also be supported through this process as much as possible. Chief Turner also noted that we will be working with the Office of REA and Innovation Office to develop the official evaluation and framework for the reporting.
- Director Vue noted that because he is on the board of one of the organizations approved to receive the funds, that he will be recusing himself from the vote on this item.

BF 32908 Request to Authorize Awards for Community Partners Request for Proposal (RFP) A22-2156 for 2022-2022 American Rescue Plan (ARP) Grants

MOTION: Director Kopp moved that:

1. Board of Education accept the Community Partners ARP Grant recipients for the 2022-23 school year, 2023 summer, 2023-24 school year and summer 2024.
2. That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to award Community Partners ARP Grant recipients for the 2022-23 school year, 2023 summer, 2023-24 school year and summer 2024.

The motion was seconded by Director Foster.

The motion was approved by roll call vote:

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

B. Human Resources Transactions

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

The motion was approved by roll call vote:

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

VII. **CONSENT AGENDA**

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

The motion was approved by roll call vote:

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

A. Gifts

BF 32909 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 32910 Minneapolis Foundation (Twin Cities' Dunkers) Donation to SPPS Athletic Department and SPPS High Schools Athletic Programs

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to receive and disbursement the donated funds as listed herein.

BF 32911 Good Sports, Inc. Donations to SPPS Athletics Department

That the SPPS Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to submit requests and receive donated athletic sports equipment, apparel and/or athletic training equipment and equitably distribute to SPPS athletic programs as provided by Good Sports, Inc., for a two-year period, expiring in 2024.

BF 32912 Request for Permission to Accept a Donation from the Minnesota State Agricultural Society

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent to allow Como Park Senior High School to accept this gift from Minnesota State Agricultural Society. This gift of \$5,000 will be deposited into the intra-school fund 19-212-291-000-5096-J001.

B. Grants

BF 32913 Request for Permission to Accept a Grant from the Coalition of Asian American Leaders

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to accept a grant from the Coalition of Asian American Leaders; to accept funds, if awarded; and to implement the project as specified in the award documents.

BF 32914 Request for Permission to Accept a Grant from the Minnesota Department of Education - Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent or designee to accept a grant from the Minnesota Department of Education's Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program for funds to provide fresh fruit and vegetables in the district; and to implement the project as specified in the award documents.

BF 32915 Request for Permission to Accept a Grant from Save the Music Foundation

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to accept a grant from Save the Music Foundation for music education support at American Indian Magnet School, Dayton's Bluff Elementary, Hazel Park Academy, and Nokomis South Montessori; to accept funds, if awarded; and to implement the project as specified in the award documents.

BF 32916 Request for Permission to Accept a Grant from the Ecolab Foundation

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to accept a grant from the Ecolab Foundation for funds to support the Ecolab Teacher Grants Program; to accept funds; and to implement the project as specified in the award documents.

C. Contracts

BF 32917 Request for authorization to award ITB#A225624-A Food Service Equipment for Nutrition Center

That the Board of Education authorizes the award of ITB#A225624-A Food Service Equipment for Nutrition Center to TriMark Equipment for the value of \$230,000.00.

BF 32918 Request to Sign Concurrent Enrollment Contract with Saint Paul College

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

BF 32919 Construction Manager as Advisor Services for Barack and Michelle Obama School Addition and Renovation Project (Project #3210-23-01) - Contract Amendment

That the Board of Education authorize award of construction manager as advisor services to H+U Construction for the total not-to-exceed fee increase of \$2,489,313.

BF 32920 Construction Manager as Advisor Services for Bruce Vento Elementary - New Construction (Project # 1020-22-01) – Contract Amendment

That the Board of Education authorize award of construction manager as advisor services to RJM Construction for the total not-to-exceed fee increase of \$3,781,550.

BF 32921 Commissioning and Testing and Balancing Services for the Hidden River Middle School (previously Ramsey Middle School) Renovation (Project # 3140- 20-02)

That the Board of Education authorize award of commissioning and testing and balancing services to KFI for the not-to-exceed fee of \$179,470.

BF 32922 Design Services for Bruce Vento Elementary - New Construction (Project # 1020-22-01)
– Contract Amendment

That the Board of Education authorize award of design services to Cuningham Architects for the total not-to-exceed fee increase of \$4,200,004.

BF 32923 Design Services for Barack and Michelle Obama School Addition and Renovation Project
(Project #3210-23-01) - Contract Amendment

That the Board of Education authorize award of design services to Snow Kreilich Architects for the total not-to-exceed fee increase of \$3,467,351.

D. Agreements

BF 32924 Approval of an Employment Agreement with International Union of Painters and Allied
Trades District Council 82/Local 1324 representing Glaziers, to Establish Terms and
Conditions of Employment for 2022-2025

That the Board of Education of Independent School District No. 625 approve and adopt the Employment Agreement concerning the terms and conditions of employment of those employees in this school district for whom the International Union of Painters and Allied Trades District Council 82 Local 1324 representing Glaziers, is the exclusive representative; duration of said agreement is for the period of June 1, 2022 through May 31, 2025.

BF 32925 Approval of an Employment Agreement with Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers Local
Union No. 1 of Minnesota to Establish Terms and Conditions of Employment for
2022-2025

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 employees in this school district for whom Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers Local Union No. 1 of Minnesota, is the exclusive representative; duration of said Agreement is for the period of May 1, 2022 through April 30, 2025.

BF 32926 Request to Sign Memorandum of Agreement between Saint Paul College and Saint Paul
Public Schools for the 3M/SPPS/MinnState Grant PSEO by Contract Classes

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to sign the Memorandum of Agreement between Saint Paul Public Schools and Saint Paul College for FY23.

BF 32927 Request to Sign Memorandum of Agreement between Saint Paul College and Saint Paul
Public Schools for the Schulze Grant PSEO by Contract Classes.

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to sign the Memorandum of Agreement between Saint Paul Public Schools and Saint Paul College for Fall 2022.

BF 32928 Memorandum of Understanding between Bethel University and Saint Paul Public Schools

That the Board of Education approve this MOU and authorize the Superintendent (or designee) to execute the Memorandum of Understanding between Bethel University and Saint Paul Public Schools.

BF 32929 Request to Sign Joint Powers Agreement with State of Minnesota pertaining to the Direct Admissions Minnesota pilot program.

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to sign the Joint Powers Agreement between Saint Paul Public Schools and the State of Minnesota for SY2022-23.

E. Administrative Items

BF 32930 Monthly Operating Authority

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

(a) General Account	#749760-750900 #0004524-0004559 #7004457-7004480 #0007135-0007255	\$77,151,615.36
(b) Construction Payments	- 0 -	\$2,890,771.69
(c) Debt Service	- 0 -	<u>- 0 -</u> \$80,042,387.05

Included in the above disbursements are two payrolls in the amount of \$52,873,145.03 and overtime of \$213,036.07 or 0.40% of payroll.

d) Collateral Changes

Released:

Additions:

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 December 31, 2022.

BF 32931 Designation of an Identified Official with Authority for Education Identity Access Management

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent to authorize Cheryl Carlstrom, Cheryl.Carlstrom@spps.org, to act as the Identified Official with Authority (IOWA) for Saint Paul Public Schools ISD 625.

BF 32932 Establishment of the Classified Position of Duplicating Equipment Operator (Two-Color) 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 Duplicating Equipment Operator (Two-Color) job classification effective July 1, 2022; that the Board of Education declare the position of Duplicating Equipment Operator (Two-Color) as classified; and that the pay rate be Grade 26 of the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees standard ranges.

BF 32933 Variance Request for Nancy Paez

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to apply for a Variance for Nancy Paez for a Superintendent license.

BF 32934 Phase Gate Approval of the Bruce Vento Elementary - New Construction Project (Project #1020-22-01): Gate #2 – Project Charter; Gate #2A – Finance Plan Update

That the Board of Education approve the Bruce Vento Elementary - New Construction project (Project # 1020-22-01) at Phase Gate Check #2 – Project Charter; Gate Check #2a –Finance Plan Update.

BF 32935 City of Saint Paul Proposal to Purchase Rights to District Property

That the Superintendent (or designee) approve the City of Saint Paul's proposal to purchase rights to District property located at 65 East Kellogg Boulevard in the amount of \$9,100 for the Highway 94 improvement project.

BF 32936 Phase Gate Approval of the Hidden River Middle School (previously Ramsey Middle School) Renovation (Project # 3140-20-02): Gate #3 – Project Budget; Gate #3A – Finance Plan Update

That the Board of Education approve the Hidden River Middle School (previously Ramsey Middle School) Renovation (Project #3140-20-02) at Phase Gate Check #3 – Project Budget; Gate Check #3a –Finance Plan Update, setting the final project budget at \$54,200,000 and indicating direction to proceed with construction bidding.

BF 32937 Phase Gate Approval of the Barack and Michelle Obama School Addition and Renovation Project (Project #3210-23-01): Gate #2 – Project Charter; Gate #2A – Finance Plan Update

That the Board of Education approve the Barack and Michelle Obama School Addition and Renovation project (Project # 3210-23-01) at Phase Gate Check #2 – Project Charter; Gate Check #2a –Finance Plan Update.

F. Bids

BF 32938 Phase Gate Approval of Highland Park Middle School ARP HVAC Upgrades (Project # 3081-22-02) – WS 23A: Gate #4 - Contract Award; Gate #4A – Finance Plan Update

That the Board of Education approve the award of Bid No. A22-2601-A HVAC for the Highland Park Middle School ARP HVAC Upgrades project (Project #s 3081-22-02) to General Sheet Metal Company, LLC for a lump sum base bid of \$2,494,860.

BF 32939 Phase Gate Approval of Highland Park Middle School ARP HVAC Upgrades (Project # 3081-22-02) – WS 09C: Gate #4 - Contract Award; Gate #4A – Finance Plan Update

That the Board of Education approve the award of Bid No. A22-2598-A acoustical ceiling tile for the Highland Park Middle School ARP HVAC Upgrades project (Project #s 3081-22-02) to Twin City Acoustics, Inc. for a lump sum base bid of \$230,151.

BF 32940 Phase Gate Approval of Highland Park Middle School ARP HVAC Upgrades (Project # 3081-22-02): WS 26A Gate #4 - Contract Award; Gate #4A – Finance Plan Update

That the Board of Education approve the award of Bid No. A22-2602-A electrical & low voltage for the Highland Park Middle School ARP HVAC Upgrades project (Project #s 3081-22-02) to Gunnar Electric for a lump sum base bid of \$442,140.

BF 32941 Phase Gate Approval of Highland Park Middle School ARP HVAC Upgrades (Project # 3081-22-02) – WS 01A: Gate #4 - Contract Award; Gate #4A – Finance Plan Update

That the Board of Education approve the award of Bid No. A22-2594-A general trades for the Highland Park Middle School ARP HVAC Upgrades project (Project #s 3081-22-02) to Meisinger Construction Company, Inc. for a lump sum base bid of \$735,000.

BF 32942 Phase Gate Approval of Jie Ming Phase II Addition & Renovation (Project # 3090-21-01) – WS 05C: Gate #4 - Contract Award; Gate #4A – Finance Plan Update

That the Board of Education approve the award of Bid No. A22-2438-A steel erection for the Jie Ming Phase II Addition and Renovation project (Project #s 3090-21-01) to High Five Erectors for a lump sum base bid of \$269,475.

BF 32943 Phase Gate Approval of Maxfield Elementary School ARP HVAC Upgrades (Project # 4180-22-01): Gate #4 - Contract Award; Gate #4A – Finance Plan Update

That the Board of Education approve the award of Bid No. A22-22-2605-A for the Maxfield Elementary School ARP HVAC Upgrades project (Project #s 4180-22-01) to Market & Johnson, Inc. for a lump sum base bid of \$1,727,242.

BF 32944 Phase Gate Approval of Education and Operation Services ARP Kitchen HVAC Upgrades (Project # 4000-22-01): Gate #4 - Contract Award; Gate #4A – Finance Plan Update

That the Board of Education approve the award of Bid No. A22-2606-A for the Education and Operation Services ARP Kitchen HVAC Upgrades project (Project #s 4000-22-01) to Morcon Construction Corporation, Inc. for a lump sum base bid of \$1,426,314.

BF 32945 Phase Gate Approval of Mississippi Creative Arts ARP HVAC Upgrades (Project #

4190-22-01) – WS 06A: Gate #4 - Contract Award; Gate #4A – Finance Plan Update

That the Board of Education approve the award of Bid No. A22-2560-A carpentry & interior demolition for the Mississippi Creative Arts ARP HVAC Upgrades project (Project #s 4190-22-01) to Morcon Construction for a lump sum base bid plus Alternate #1 of \$887,000.

BF 32946 Phase Gate Approval of Mississippi Creative Arts ARP HVAC Upgrades (Project # 4190-22-01) – WS 26A: Gate #4 - Contract Award; Gate #4A – Finance Plan Update

That the Board of Education approve the award of Bid No. A22-2571-A electrical for the Mississippi Creative Arts ARP HVAC Upgrades project (Project #s 4190-22-01) to Gunnar Electric for a lump sum base bid of \$435,675.

BF 32947 Phase Gate Approval of Mississippi Creative Arts ARP HVAC Upgrades (Project # 4190-22-01) – WS 23A: Gate #4 - Contract Award; Gate #4A – Finance Plan Update

That the Board of Education approve the award of Bid No. A22-2570-A HVAC for the Mississippi Creative Arts ARP HVAC Upgrades project (Project #s 4190-22-01) to Pioneer Power, Inc. for a lump sum base bid plus Alternate #1 of \$2,957,500.

G. Change Orders - None

ITEMS PULLED FOR SEPARATE CONSIDERATION - None

IX. OLD BUSINESS

A. Policy Update

1. THIRD READING: Policy --- Smudging

Superintendent Gothard noted it is a great honor to be at this third, and final reading, for the new policy on smudging. He introduced John Bobolink, Supervisor of American Indian Education, and guests to introduce this presentation and share the significance of this potential action, as well as the work on this item. Smudging is a cultural and SEL intervention - it is not exclusive to spiritual ceremonies, and can be an every day use for social-emotional purposes. Guests then shared their thoughts and perspectives on smudging, including support, use of smudging in safe spaces for students, the effects of smudging for social-emotional and mental health needs, and inclusiveness for all students. Staff and guests then thanked the district, teachers, and leaders for their work in bringing this policy forward. This will be an impactful policy for SPPS, and the hope is for this policy to be the spark and inspiration for other districts to follow.

QUESTIONS/DISCUSSION:

- Director Vue requested further information on the ways in which non-Native students can learn and benefit from smudging. Response: Smudging is not exclusive to American Indian students, but is a benefit to all humans regardless of ethnicity or background. We hope to be able to share this cultural practice and learn about each other in the process.

- Staff also thanked Ms. Julia Littlewolf and the American Indian staff at Johnson, because this policy is student-driven and student-led.
- Feedback from students and staff was also shared, as well as the process for the student-led policy, which included a presentation to the Student Council, and the entire student body at Johnson.
- Following the vote by the Board, Director Foster noted that she is happy to see our district transforming, but also encouraged all to think further about our ADOS and Black students, and the curriculum. She sees the progress, and listening to our young people to make change, but continues to push back on the norm, and we need to do things differently. She reflected on her thoughts as a leader in this district, and the policies to create equitable space for all students. But we still have a lot of work to do. She noted the new leaders recognition, and it will set the tone for our new folks to the district. We are doing phenomenal work, with a powerful collective and cultural leaders in Saint Paul, but we need to continue to do things differently to change outcomes. There is a state of urgency, and we need to be focused. She reflected on her community, and the challenges and barriers that exist. There is urgency in this work, and with the new school year, we need to change our attitudes to dig deep in our buildings and in the community to truly make change for positive outcomes for our students and families.

BF 32948 THIRD READING: Policy --- Smudging

MOTION: **Director Vue moved approval of the third reading of the new Policy --- Smudging. Director Ellis seconded the motion.**

The motion was approved by roll call vote:

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

B. COVID-19 Vaccination and Testing Resolution

Superintendent Gothard then introduced this presentation, as a follow-up from the conversation at the Committee of the Board meeting, and to determine the direction from the Board as it relates to the current resolution.

Mary Langworthy, Director of Health and Wellness, then presented information relating to this resolution such as the current vaccination and testing resolution, vaccination and testing resolution implementation, vaccine and testing resolution timeline, COVID-19 vaccine clinic opportunities, comparisons and status of resolution details across the state and other districts, vaccination and testing resolution challenges, and Administration's vaccination and testing resolution recommendation.

The recommendation included the rescission of the vaccination and testing resolution effective 8/23/22 at midnight.

Considerations relating to this action were also discussed, including the promotion of local vaccination opportunities, and continue to offer test kids as supplies are available.

The full presentation can be found in the BoardBook.

QUESTIONS/DISCUSSION:

- Director Ellis requested more information on the test kit availability. There could be potential grant opportunities for funding for more tests, or working with our partners. Another option is purchasing test kits from the District funds, should the State rescind their offer of kits.
- She also requested information on the number of test kits that are allocated to SPPS. We are eligible for 1 test kit per student and 1 per staff member. They are available for summer school and the fall, in bulks of 3 months of supply, but is also dependent on the supply chain and requests from other districts. The State has been vague about the program and the availability and timeline.
- The test kits available are Binex, which has shown to be user-friendly for staff and families, and a reliable test.
- Director Ward requested information on the process if there are more spikes in cases, and if this resolution could be reinstated at some point. Staff provided information that with the CDC change of screening, if exposed or live with another with positive case, to be tested, and we will continue messaging about test availability. It would be a continued strategy to encourage and education, rather than a requirement.
- Director Vue requested confirmation that SPPS has exhausted every effort for staff and students to be vaccinated. Response: We have been very purposeful during this time with access to clinic opportunities, and regular communications from the Office of Communications with regular messaging to folks, and we have reached the 80% mark. With new employees, we will continue to educate and focus on the WHO guidelines to boost confidence as well. Details were also shared about the clinic opportunities, with over 100 participants regularly at the start. Information was also provided on the Pfizer booster, which also contains coverage for the Omicron variant, so we may see an increase in interest for the booster.
- Information was also shared about the participation of folks at the vaccine clinics, as well as how to target the hesitations and provide education and support, and effectively address those barriers.
- Work with the County was also shared, including healthcare providers visiting sites to discuss with families, and talk through questions and offer accurate information on the vaccine. We are also working with schools with lower vaccination rates, and offering vaccine clinics at those sites.
- We will continue to look at ways for improvements, as well as recommendations from the CDC, to stay current and make shifts as needed.

MOTION: Director Vue moved approval of the rescission of the Resolution Adopting An Amended Saint Paul Public Schools Resolution Requiring All Staff Either To Be Vaccinated Against COVID-19 Or To Submit To Regularly Scheduled Covid-19 Testing. Director Foster seconded the motion.

The motion was approved by roll call vote:

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

Director Ward

Yes

The Board also provided the below statement regarding this topic:

In September 2021, the Saint Paul Public Schools Board of Education approved a COVID-19 vaccine or testing resolution for its employees and became the first school district in Minnesota to institute this practice. The resolution required all staff, contractors, volunteers and visitors to acknowledge if they had been vaccinated against COVID-19, and if not, to test weekly and submit their results.

This resolution allowed Saint Paul Public Schools to stress the importance of vaccination in keeping our school community protected from severe illness caused by COVID-19. Since this policy went into effect, 78% of employees have acknowledged being fully vaccinated. The policy was updated in January 2022 to incorporate the booster shot; 80% of vaccinated employees have also acknowledged being fully boosted.

Throughout this timeframe, SPPS offered regular opportunities to become vaccinated and to pick up free COVID-19 tests at schools and administrative buildings throughout the district. Frequent communication was shared with staff as well as families about these opportunities, with reminders about staying home when sick, quarantine and isolation guidelines, and other protective measures.

As we approach the start of a new school year, the Board of Education voted [tonight] [on August 23] to rescind this resolution. At this point in the pandemic, the Board of Education has concluded that Saint Paul Public Schools has exhausted every effort for as many of its employees and community members who wish to be vaccinated and provided numerous opportunities to do so. Instead of acknowledging vaccinations, the district will move forward by continuing to offer vaccination and testing opportunities within the district and promote opportunities available in the broader community, along with other protective measures.

The Board appreciates the leadership of Superintendent Gothard during this time and the confidence that he has in Director Mary Langworthy and her team to lead this effort.

Finally, the Board would like to acknowledge the countless family members, students and employees that made this resolution a success. COVID-19 is still very much in the greater community, and for SPPS to have reached the same vaccination threshold as the nation speaks to the commitment that this district has to mitigate its spread.

X. NEW BUSINESS - None

XI. BOARD OF EDUCATION

A. Information Requests & Responses

- Director Foster requested further information on the awardees of the ARP grant funds. They are included in the BoardBook, and those organizations have been notified if they were awarded or not awarded the funds.
- There was an information request for summer school information, which will be provided at a September meeting.
- Director Ward spoke about a potential change to public comment procedure at the previous Committee of the Board Meeting. He requested further discussion on this topic at an upcoming meeting.

- He also provided an update on his meeting regarding the Board budget, and initial ideas about exploring the idea of shifting to a full-time school board, as well as community engagement on this topic, and the request to discuss at a future meeting.

B. Items for Future Agendas

C. Board of Education Reports/Communications

- Director Vue noted the SPPS food truck, and his experience, as well as acclaim for the representation of SPPS throughout the city, and strategic schedule of stops. Chief Turner thanked Stacy Koppen and her team, and noted it is a licensed food truck, in which food can be prepared on it.

XI. FUTURE MEETING SCHEDULE

MOTION: Director Vue moved to cancel the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of October 18, 2022, and Schedule a Special Regular Meeting of the Board of Education on October 11, 2022. Director Kopp and Director Ellis seconded the motion.

The motion was approved by roll call vote:

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

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

- September 20
- October 11
- November 15
- December 13
- January 4, 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)

- September 6
- October 4
- November 1
- 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 Vue	Yes
Director Allen	Absent
Director Kopp	Yes
Director Ellis	Yes
Director Foster	Yes
Director Henderson	Absent
Director Ward	Yes

The meeting adjourned at 9:27 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