

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

March 22, 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, C. Allen, J. Kopp, J. Foster, U. Ward
Superintendent Gothard

Z. Ellis and J. Foster were absent.

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 with a few changes - to move these items to precede the Superintendent's Report in this order - Old Business: Resolution Accepting Bid on Sale of \$21,455,000 Certificates of Participation, Series 2022, and then Old Business: Review of Resolution Adopting a Saint Paul Public Schools Resolution Regarding the Use of Masks in all Saint Paul Public School Settings.
The motion was seconded by Director Ward.

The motion was approved by roll call vote:

Director Allen	Yes
Director Kopp	Yes
Director Henderson	Yes
Director Ward	Yes
Director Vue	Yes

III. RECOGNITIONS

BF 32708 Acknowledgement of Good Work Provided by Students

The Randolph Heights Elementary Lego Robotics Team, the #Lego Serpents, recently participated in the First Lego League state competition. When they qualified for state, the #Lego Serpents received a very special award that is presented to the team that best exemplifies the core values of First Lego League including discovery, innovation, impact, inclusion, teamwork and fun. Judges look for a team that works well together and focuses on task-specific activities. The judges said, “the #Lego Serpents showed excellent teamwork and creativity in coming up with an innovative, practical, elegant, simple and implementable idea to solve their well-documented problem of Porch Piracy.” The state competition was held on February 26, 2022.

Ann Pelletier, Science and STEM Specialist, coaches the team.

The team includes:

Fifth Graders

- **Reese Ronneberg**
- **Alex Halland**
- **Matteo Alejandro-Provenzo**
- **Caleb Manfred**
- **Francie Wotipka**

Fourth Graders

- **Jack Cunningham**
- **Sage Berg**
- **Mabel Krebs**
- **Ben Erickson**
- **John Westbrook**

Six SPPS seniors will be attending Macalester College in the fall thanks to a full-tuition scholarship award from the Posse Foundation. The foundation’s partner universities and colleges award Posse Scholars four-year, full-tuition, leadership, merit scholarships and meet full need beyond that. Last spring, Posse expanded its footprint and partnered with Macalester College to launch a new initiative to recruit students from the Twin Cities. Ten scholarships were awarded to current seniors, of which six went to SPPS students, totaling over \$2M. The Posse Scholars include:

- **Calla Lee**, Harding Senior High School
- **Tsion Hatte**, Highland Park Senior High School
- **Hamza Mohammed**, Humboldt High School
- **Christian Jones**, Johnson Senior High School
- **Hope Moua**, Johnson Senior High School
- **Jaeden Sims**, Washington Technology Magnet

The concept of a Posse works for both students and college campuses and is rooted in the belief that a small, diverse group of talented students – a Posse – carefully selected and trained, can serve as a catalyst for increased individual and community development.

Posse Scholar selection is focused on leadership and academic potential. Posse is looking to form diverse groups of high school seniors who are dynamic and ambitious. Strong Posse candidates are students who have done well academically but may be missed by some of the top universities in the country who often rely more heavily on traditional admissions measures such as SAT scores.

Nominations for current juniors will open in May 2022.

BF 32709 Acknowledgement of Good Work Provided by Outstanding District Employees

Janice Bisch and **Emily Manson** were named in the initial list of 77 candidates for Minnesota Teacher of the Year. Although they were not named finalists, SPPS is very proud of their work and their prestigious nomination. Janice is an Adult Basic Education (ABE) teacher at the Ronald M. Hubbs Center, and Manson is an itinerant teacher for students who are hard of hearing/deaf, teaching at multiple SPPS campuses.

Janice started as an educational assistant in Early Childhood Family Education (ECFE) in 1985, discovering her passion for working with young children and their families. After graduating from college, she worked as an ECFE educator and then became a kindergarten teacher in SPPS. She's been at the Hubbs Center since 2011.

This is Emily's 10th year as an itinerant teacher for students who are deaf and hard of hearing. She said that she always knew that she wanted to work with kids. In high school, she took American Sign Language (ASL). After getting her bachelor's degree in secondary education, she decided to pursue her master's in deaf education, and work with students with hearing differences.

This year's Education Minnesota program will name the 58th Minnesota Teacher of the Year in early May. They recently narrowed the list to 25 semifinalists.

Brad Moening, a computer science and engineering teacher at Highland Park Senior High School, was selected as the 2021 girls cross country coach of the year by the U.S. Track & Field and Cross Country Coaches Association.

State-by-state winners were recently selected based on their teams' performances throughout the 2021 cross country season. Among the factors taken into consideration were team score and placement at the state championships, margin of victory, performance against rankings if available, individual championships, and how their teams' performances stacked up to previous years. In December, the Highland Park Senior High girls cross country team became the first SPPS cross country team ever to win a state title.

Moening is also head coach of the Highland Park girls nordic team. This year, he led the team to win the state championship at the Minnesota State Nordic Skiing Meet in Biwabik.

Brian Hare, E-STEM Middle School science teacher, was recently selected by the White House for a Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching (PAEMST) from Minnesota in the Science award category. This achievement reflects the vital contributions he has made to the teaching profession.

Hare, who will receive a \$10,000 grant from the PAEMST Team at the National Science Foundation (NSF), has taught sixth-grade physical science at E-STEM Middle School for the past two years. He spent the previous six years of his eight-year teaching tenure teaching sixth-grade physical science, eighth-grade earth science, and Makerspace at Capitol Hill Magnet School.

Hare creates an inquiry-based curriculum and allows students to experience science at their own level. He continually incorporates real-world experiences that bring students closer to how science "is done" in the field. Hare balances having fun in the classroom with challenging students to push themselves further to become physical science content experts.

Hare has received multiple grants to help students use engineering to advance their study of science content. While at Capitol Hill, he wrote, received, and implemented a grant-based curriculum where students built catapults to study simple machines and Newtonian physics. At E-STEM, Hare wrote and received a grant to have students build a Rube Goldberg device with reusable materials in order to study Newtonian physics.

Farnsworth Elementary Lower Campus counselors recently earned Recognized ASCA Model Program (RAMP) designation from the American School Counselor Association (ASCA). The RAMP designation recognizes schools that are committed to delivering an exemplary school counseling program. Honorees are awarded for aligning their program with the criteria in the ASCA National Model, a framework for a data-informed school counseling program. Since the program's inception, more than 900 schools have earned the RAMP designation. Research findings indicate fully implemented school counseling programs are associated with a range of positive student educational and behavioral outcomes.

SPPS 2022 RAMP recipients are: Farnsworth Elementary Lower Campus, Counselors, **Emily Spofford** and **Abigail Whalen** and **Principal John Bjoraker**. This school has been designated as a RAMP School of Distinction which means that they have received exemplary scores on their applications.

SPPS now has ten RAMP schools. The 2022 RAMP school listed above join these previously designated SPPS RAMP schools: Adams Spanish Immersion, Battle Creek Elementary, Bruce Vento, Capitol Hill Gifted & Talented Magnet, Eastern Heights, John A. Johnson, Randolph Heights, Saint Paul Music Academy and Washington Technology Magnet. Minnesota currently has 15 RAMP designated schools - 10 of which are SPPS schools!

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 Kopp.

The motion was approved by roll call vote:

Director Allen	Yes
Director Kopp	Yes
Director Henderson	Yes
Director Ward	Yes
Director Vue	Yes

V. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

- A. Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of February 22, 2022
- B. Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Board of Education of February 22, 2022
- C. Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Board of Education of February 28, 2022
- D. Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Board of Education of March 4, 2022
- E. Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Board of Education of March 5, 2022

F. Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Board of Education of March 7, 2022

MOTION: Director Vue moved approval of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of February 22, 2022; Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Board of Education of February 22, 2022; Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Board of Education of February 28, 2022; Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Board of Education of March 4, 2022; Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Board of Education of March 5, 2022; Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Board of Education of March 7, 2022. The motion was seconded by Director Henderson.

The motion was approved by roll call vote:

Director Allen	Yes
Director Kopp	Yes
Director Henderson	Yes
Director Ward	Yes
Director Vue	Yes

VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Minutes of the Committee of the Board Meeting of the Board of Education of March 8, 2022

At the Committee of the Board Meeting on March 8, 2022, Superintendent Gothard welcomed everyone and acknowledged the tentative agreement with SPFE. He thanked the Board, as well as the administrative team, and shared that this tentative agreement with our educators and staff is how our organization comes together to collaborate on important issues.

Next, our partners from Wells Fargo presented the SPPS Investment Report. Discussion from the Board involved questions on the OPEB trust, the future of the equity market, and the process for the District to divest in companies that invest in fossil fuels, as well as private prisons. Future steps would include examining the District's policies, as well as Board determination of businesses and percentage of investments in fossil fuels, and timing.

Next, the team presented on the review of the Resolution Adopting a Saint Paul Public Schools Resolution Regarding the Use of Masks in All Saint Paul Public School Settings. Superintendent Gothard recapped the presentation from the Saturday Special meeting, including details on the framing of the changes to the mask mandate resolution. A presentation was also shared, with Board action on this item to take place at the Regular Meeting of March 22nd. Questions and discussion from the Board included details on a potential surge after Spring Break, the rationale for the recommendation to not wear masks in medium case rates, engagement with staff on this topic, as well as information on homebound instruction and online school. Further discussion involved the potential of mask mandates at the building level, COVID testing for students prior to returning to school after Spring Break, vaccine opportunities, and demographics of positive test cases, as well as the mitigation of spread by wearing masks.

Next, the Board learned more about the Fiscal Year 2022 First Budget Revision. Questions included the relation of this revision to the projected future budget shortfall and criteria used to project enrollment. The Board then approved the recommended motion of approval of the FY22 First Budget Revision as presented. It passed by acclaim.

Next was the presentation of the Fiscal Year 2022 December Quarterly Financial Report, including highlights of the Financial Projection Report. Further details were requested on the General Fund dollars and consistency in the formatting of the dollar amounts within the report. The Board then approved the recommended motion of approval of the FY22 December Quarterly Financial Report as presented. It passed by acclaim.

Finally, the Board learned more about the progress of Envision SPPS. This presentation sparked comments and questions involving the repurposing of buildings, future steps within Phase 4 of the overall plan, student enrollment, process for name changes of buildings, school choice, support for the Hmong Language and Culture program, a reminder for the Board to be accountable and monitor the progress of this plan, updates on both the successes and challenges, as well as updates in future presentations regarding Early Learning, LEAP, Highwood Hills, and programs on the West Side.

MOTION: Director Kopp moved that the Board accept the report on the March 8, 2022 Committee of the Board meeting 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 Allen	Yes
Director Kopp	Yes
Director Henderson	Yes
Director Ward	Yes
Director Vue	Yes

VII. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

A. Human Resources Transactions

MOTION: Director Vue moved approval of the HR Transactions for the period February 1 through February 28, 2022. Director Allen seconded the motion.

The motion was approved by roll call vote:

Director Allen	Yes
Director Kopp	Yes
Director Henderson	Yes
Director Ward	Yes
Director Vue	Yes

VII. 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 Allen	Yes
Director Kopp	Yes
Director Henderson	Yes
Director Ward	Yes

Director Vue

Yes

A. Gifts

BF 32710 Donation from Ecolab to Cherokee Heights Elementary School

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to accept the donation and have the funds used to support student achievement outcomes at Cherokee Heights Elementary School. Funds to be put in unrestricted code 19-428-291-000-5096-6001.

BF 32711 Gift Acceptance for Belwin Outdoor Science

1. That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to accept the gift of \$6,000.00 from the James Ford Bell Foundation

2. That the Superintendent (designee) send a letter of appreciation to Ellen M. George, Executive Director of the James Ford Bell Foundation located at 1818 Oliver Avenue S. Minneapolis, MN 55405

- Fully financed budget 19-005-203-000-5096-9211

BF 32712 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 92 bicycles from Allina Health System with a letter of appreciation to follow.

BF 32713 Donation from Ecolab to Cherokee Heights Elementary School

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to accept the donation and have the funds used to support student achievement outcomes at Cherokee Heights Elementary School. Funds to be put in unrestricted code 19-428-291-000-5096-6001.

BF 32714 Gift Acceptance from United Family Medicine

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to allow Health and Wellness to accept a gift of 765 Quidel QuickVue At-Home OTC COVID-19 test kits from United Family Medicine with a letter of appreciation to follow.

B. Grants

BF 32715 Request for Permission to Submit a Grant to the Carlson Family Foundation

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to submit a grant to the Carlson Family Foundation for the funds to expand Innocent Classroom; to accept funds, if awarded; and to implement the project as specified in the award documents.

BF 32716 Request for Permission to Submit a Grant to the ECMC Foundation

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to submit a grant to the ECMC Foundation for the funds to provide resources to children and families experiencing homelessness; to accept funds, if awarded; and to implement the project as specified in the award documents.

BF 32717 Request for Permission to Submit a Grant to the Lifetime Fitness Foundation

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to submit a grant to the Lifetime Fitness Foundation for the funds to purchase cardio drumming equipment; to accept funds, if awarded; and to implement the project as specified in the award documents.

BF 32718 Request for Permission to Submit a Grant to the Minnesota Department of Education, Expansion of Rigorous Course Opportunities and Support

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to submit a grant to the Minnesota Department of Education for the funds to provide writing support to students in advanced courses; to accept funds, if awarded; and to implement the project as specified in the award documents.

BF 32719 Request for Permission to Submit a Grant to the Minnesota Department of Education – Grow Your Own Grant Pathway for Adults

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to submit a grant application to the Minnesota Department of Education to sustain the SUTR program and pilot undergraduate teacher licensure programs; to accept funds, if awarded; and to implement the project as specified in the award documents

BF 32720 Request for Permission to Submit a Grant to the Minnesota Department of Education – IEL Civics

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to submit a grant to the Minnesota Department of Education for the funds to create an Integrated English Literacy and Civics program for Information Technology; to accept funds, if awarded; and to implement the project as specified in the award documents.

BF 32721 Request for Permission to Submit a Grant to the Minnesota Department of Education – Introduction to Teaching

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to submit a grant to the Minnesota Department of Education for the funds to hire an itinerant teacher to teach Introduction to Teaching concurrent enrollment courses during 2022-23; to accept funds, if awarded; and to implement the project as specified in the award documents.

BF 32722 Request for Permission to Submit a Grant Application to No Kid Hungry

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to submit a grant application to No Kid Hungry for funds to support the Saint Paul Public Schools Summer Food Service Program; to accept funds, if awarded; and to implement the project as specified in the award documents.

BF 32723 Request for Permission to Submit Grants Project Lead the Way

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

BF 32724 Request for Permission to Accept a Grant from the Children's Defense Fund

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to accept a grant from the Children's Defense Fund for STEM experiences in Freedom Schools; to accept funds; and to implement the project as specified in the award documents.

BF 32725 Resolution Supporting the Boost Grant for Safe Routes to School Funding from the Minnesota Department of Transportation

WHEREAS, the Minnesota Department of Transportation Safe Routes to School Program assists schools and communities by making it so youth in Minnesota can safely, confidently, and conveniently walk, bike, and roll to school and in daily life.; and

WHEREAS, the Minnesota Department of Transportation Safe Routes to School Program solicits applications to enable school and communities to implement Safe Routes to School planning, implementation, and programmatic activities; and

WHEREAS, if Saint Paul Public Schools was awarded Boost funds these grant funds would be used to provide implementation activities to local communities to develop Safe Routes to School initiatives that increase safety and encourage more children to walk and bicycle to school; and

WHEREAS; No local match funding is required; and

WHEREAS; SRTS programmatic activities will commence after the grant agreement is fully executed.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED 1. That Saint Paul Public Schools authorizes the Superintendent to enter into a grant agreement with the Minnesota Department of Transportation for financial assistance to fund a Safe Routes to School program and eligible expenses. 2. That the Superintendent is authorized to execute such Agreement and any amendments without further approval by the Saint Paul Public Schools Board of Directors.

1. That the Board of Education approve the resolution language and

2. That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to accept a grant from the Minnesota Department of Transportation to expand biking options for students; to accept funds; and to implement the project as specified in the award documents.

C. Contracts

BF 32726 Request for Permission of Contract Amendment with First Student Inc.

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to award contracts based on the District's increased need for yellow school bus vendors.

BF 32727 RFP #A219429-A | Amendment of Request for Non-Food Supplies

That the Board of Education authorize the amendment of RFP # A218951-A to increase the dollar amount of the contract with Trio Supply by \$400,000 to a total of \$1,000,000 for furnishing and delivery of non-food supplies.

BF 32728 RFP # A218951-A | Amendment of Request for Prime Vendor Food

That the Board of Education authorize the amendment of RFP # A218951-A to increase the dollar amount of the contract with Indianhead Foodservice Distributor by \$3,500,000 to a total of \$10,000,000 for furnishing and delivery of food supplies.

BF 32729 RFP #A224279-DW | Bananas

That the Board of Education authorize the award of RFP #A224279-DW to Russ Davis Wholesale, Inc. for furnishing and delivery of bananas for the period of July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023, for an estimated value of \$245,000.

BF 32730 RFP A224278-DW | Prime Vendor for Produce

That the Board of Education authorize the award of RFP A224278-DW to Bix Produce Company as a primary vendor and to Russ Davis Wholesale as the secondary vendor for the furnishing and delivery of produce for the period of July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023, for the estimated value of \$1,800,000 and \$1,200,000, respectively.

D. Agreements

BF 32731 Enter Into a Lease Agreement for School Buses

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to enter into a Lease Agreement with Santander Leasing LLC (as assigned by Høglund Bus. Co., Inc.) for six school buses for a total of \$86,100.00 over a fourteen month lease.

BF 32732 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 FY22.

E. Administrative Items

BF 32733 Monthly Operating Authority

1. That the Board of Education approve and ratify the following checks and electronic transfers for the period January 1 through January 31, 2022

(a) General Account	#744764-745662	\$60,799,338.01
	#0004358-0004389	
	#7004317-7004343	
	#0006558-0006676	
(b) Construction Payments	- 0 -	\$1,846,466.30
(c) Debt Service	- 0 -	<u>\$41,499,106.97</u>
		\$104,144,911.28

Included in the above disbursements are three payrolls in the amount of \$60,027,768.07 and overtime of \$145,439.96 or 0.24% of payroll.

(d) Collateral Changes

Released: None

Additions: None

2. That the Board of Education further authorize payment of properly certified cash disbursements including payrolls, overtime schedules, compensation claims, and claims under the Workers' Compensation Law falling within the period ending July 31, 2022.

BF 32734 Authorization of Saint Paul Public Schools Adult Basic Education to Work in Conjunction with Saint Paul Community Literacy Consortium to Complete and Submit a Re-Compete application for Federal Adult Basic Education Funding

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to submit an application to the Minnesota Department of Education for a re-compete of Adult Basic Education federal funding and act as fiscal agent for funding through the SPPS Adult Education program and the Saint Paul Community Literacy Consortium.

BF 32735 Construction Manager as Advisor Services for Barack & Michelle Obama Elementary Major Renovation (Project # 3210-23-01)

That the Board of Education authorize award of pre-design construction manager as advisor services to H + U Construction for the not-to-exceed fee of \$10,960.

BF 32736 Construction Manager as Advisor Services for Bruce Vento Elementary - New Construction (Project # 1020-22-01)

That the Board of Education authorize award of Construction Canager as Advisor services to RJM Construction for the not-to-exceed fee of \$15,667.

BF 32737 Crossroads Elementary Flexible Learning Year Application

The Board of Education authorize and Board Chair sign, as well as approve the Superintendent (designee) to sign and submit to MDE the completed flexible learning year application by April 1, 2022.

BF 32738 Request for Proposal (RFP) – No. A22-2067-A Network Equipment and Services –

Section 1: Network Switches

That the Board of Education authorize award of RFP No. A22-2067-A to Insight Public Sector, Inc, for the purchase of network switching equipment, licenses, maintenance, and support in the amount not to exceed \$5,624,766.80.

BF 32739 Request for Proposal (RFP) – No. A22-2067-A Network Equipment and Services –
Section 2: Wireless Access Points

That the Board of Education authorize award of RFP No. A22-2067-A to Insight Public Sector, Inc, for the purchase of wireless access points, licenses, maintenance, and support in the amount not to exceed \$3,163,926.76.

BF 32740 Request for Proposal (RFP) – No. A22-2067-A Network Equipment and Services –
Section 3: Wireless Access Point Installation

That the Board of Education authorize award of RFP No. A22-2067-A to Heartland Business Systems for the installation of wireless access points in the amount not to exceed \$675,585.00.

BF 32741 Request for Proposal (RFP) – No. A22-2067-A Network Equipment and Services –
Section 4: Network Switch Installation

That the Board of Education authorize award of RFP No. A22-2067-A to Heartland Business Systems for the installation of network switching equipment in the amount not to exceed \$1,551,595.63.

BF 32742 Request for Proposal (RFP) – No. A22-2067-A Network Equipment and Services –
Section 5: Cabling

That the Board of Education authorize award of RFP No. A22-2067-A to Heartland Business Systems for the purchase of cabling and installation in the amount not to exceed \$2,714,709.30.

F. Bids

BF 32743 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 for \$175,270 for work at Battle Creek Elementary 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 32744 Phase Gate Approval of FY23 Fire Safety Systems Program (Project # 0652-23-01): Gate #3 – Project Budget; Gate #3A – Finance Plan Update

That the Board of Education approve the FY23 Fire Safety Systems Program (Project #0652-23- 01) at Phase Gate Check #3 – Project Budget; Gate Check #3a –Finance Plan Update.

BF 32745 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 approve the FY23 Fire Safety Systems Program (Project #0652-23- 01) at Phase Gate Check #3 – Project Budget; Gate Check #3a –Finance Plan Update.

BF 32746 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 \$885,548 for work at Washington Technology Magnet 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.

G. Change Orders - None

ITEMS PULLED FOR SEPARATE CONSIDERATION - None

IX. OLD BUSINESS

A. Resolution Authorizing Execution Of Third Amendment To Ground Lease, Third Amendment To Lease Purchase Agreement, And Third Supplemental Declaration Of Trust And Accepting Offer On Sale Of \$21,215,000 Certificates Of Participation, Series 2022D

Superintendent Gothard welcomed Arleen Schilling and Ryan Feters from Baker Tilly to provide more details on this item, which is to proceed with the remodeling of Jie Ming School.

Mr. Feters then provided details on the sale, including that there were 5 interested bidders, with Robert Baird being the winning bidder at 3.09, which is a bit higher than in February, which is indicative of factors in Ukraine, inflation and the Fed. This is a good result for the District, and proceeds will be available on April 21.

QUESTIONS/DISCUSSION: None

BF 32707 Resolution Authorizing Execution Of Third Amendment To Ground Lease, Third Amendment To Lease Purchase Agreement, And Third Supplemental Declaration Of Trust And Accepting Offer On Sale Of \$21,215,000 Certificates Of Participation, Series 2022D

MOTION: Director Vue, seconded by Director Henderson, moved that the Board of Education approve the Resolution Authorizing Execution Of Third Amendment To Ground Lease, Third Amendment To Lease Purchase Agreement, And Third Supplemental Declaration Of Trust And Accepting Offer On Sale Of \$21,215,000 Certificates Of Participation, Series 2022D.

The motion was approved by roll call vote:

Director Allen	Yes
Director Kopp	Yes
Director Henderson	Yes
Director Ward	Yes

Director Vue

Yes

B. Review of Resolution Adopting a Saint Paul Public Schools Resolution Regarding the Use of Masks in all Saint Paul Public School Settings

Superintendent Gothard then provided a brief recap of mask use in SPPS, including from Executive Order 20-02 to the surge of Omicron. He noted his conversations with colleagues across the country and metro and state. The recommendation from Administration, with guidance from the CDC, is a modification to the resolution to end the mask requirement at the end of this week, and to have masks be optional starting on Monday, April 28th.

Mary Langworthy, Director of Health and Wellness, then shared a presentation similar to past presentations. The full presentation can be found in the BoardBook.

QUESTIONS/DISCUSSION:

- Director Henderson requested information on the community case levels for Ramsey County. Response: That information is related to the healthcare capacity, as well as the case rate information.
- More details were requested on the move for individual buildings. Response: The recommendation is to move to masks optional as a district, not at a building level. There are other resources like testing, quarantine of a classroom. The correlation between high community levels and high cases in schools does exist.
- More details on the demographics of vaccination rates in SPPS were shared, with the question if families of color will be disproportionately affected? Response: This is a concern at a national level, and we continue to offer testing and vaccine options for families. When cases decrease, the urgency also decreases, and there was a greater participation at the vaccine clinics in January. We need a shift in behavior and trusted relationships with families and students with open dialogue. There is also personal choice, and misinformation about the vaccine, but our job is to ensure there is access to accurate information to make an informed decision.
- Director Ward also raised the concern about students in the district with special needs and their inability to wear a mask, and reiterated that the response at the Committee of the Board meeting was that it would be difficult to differentiate between staff. Response: This is a reality that families face and there are risks for their children in school and community. Some students at Bridge View and Focus Beyond have chosen homebound instruction because there are too many risks. It would be difficult to monitor as students go into and out of classrooms and which staff would be required to wear a mask.
- Director Ward also noted concerns about the option of mask-wearing for teachers in a homebound setting. He also noted the relationships between students and teachers when students are being told to wear their mask. There is not an easy answer, but his inclination is to ensure our community is safe.
- Director Henderson asked for the rationale for the March 28th implementation date versus after spring break. Response: The initial recommendation is to make immediate change in the adoption of the resolution. We wanted to give the week to ensure there is thoughtful communication to families and felt Wednesday-Friday, with change effective on Monday would be appropriate. Regarding spring break, there was not a surge last year. With Omicron, folks were traveling and connecting with others, and they were excluded and isolated and quarantined. More testing options are available, and we are working with Communications to publicize those options. We also have ample supply of test kits for students to take home over break if they wish.

Students are in groups in the community, and we urge them to stay home when sick, testing opportunities, and vaccine opportunities. Our job is to provide and inform. We don't expect the latest variety to be like Omicron - but more information is coming. It is likely to be infectious, but with mild symptoms. This resolution is adaptable and flexible to the changing environment.

- Director Allen raised concerns about the timing on information, and the potential delay that if there is a surge, we may not have masks during that time if there is a time lag on information. Superintendent Gothard noted the 2-week delay was in the Safe Learning Plan and the previous 14-day case rate. There will be indicators for community spread. This is to manage and hope that it will become an endemic.
- Director Kopp requested information on partnering with community and rec centers, or libraries, for more testing options - maybe where tests could be picked up by students to take home. Response: The tests we have are through grant funding that is specific to schools. There are opportunities for daycares, ECFE programs, afterschool programs also that are eligible for different COVID testing options. More details were also provided on testing, including that rapid test are more user-friendly versus testing sites.
- Director Kopp also noted the helpful information from the Osseo district.
- She reflected on the current pandemic and that we are living through it. It has been profound and life changing in many ways, and in reflecting on the ability to balance multiple community needs for mental health, physical health, social well being, and it means something different for everyone. This resolution is not a victory over COVID. It is a tool by which we can adapt when needed and is a metric that is visible to the community. We know that some will cheer and others may cry at this decision - it is the nature of decisions like this and hopes that all are mindful of the complexity. She noted the feedback from the community, and it's less about yes or no and more about telling people why and what they need to feel safe. She noted the frustration in the timeframe, and learning what the community needs to find the path forward to walk together. She also thanked Dir. Langworthy and her colleagues.
- Director Vue also requested information on the timing, when the CDC lifted the recommendation on February 25th, as well as the positive case rates for the weeks of February 28, March 7, and March 14. Rates have been low, and have dropped drastically since the end of January.
- He also stated that he is relying on past experiences to drive his decision, even as he sits in the seat previously occupied by our former Chair Marny Xiong, who died of COVID-19 in June 2020. It weighs on him, and the one item that has helped him to navigate through this time was the data, and the different crossroads to make critical decisions to move forward.

BF 32747 Review of Resolution Adopting a Saint Paul Public Schools Resolution Regarding the Use of Masks in all Saint Paul Public School Settings

MOTION: **Director Vue, seconded by Director Kopp, moved that the Board of Education approve the Resolution Adopting a Saint Paul Public Schools Resolution Regarding the Use of Masks in all Saint Paul Public School Settings.**

The motion failed by roll call vote:

Director Allen	No
Director Kopp	Yes
Director Henderson	No
Director Ward	No
Director Vue	Yes

X. NEW BUSINESS

A. Elementary Science Curriculum Adoption

Superintendent Gothard then welcomed members of the district's science team to present information on the elementary science curriculum adoption. They reviewed the mission statement of the district, the new Minnesota state science standards, the rationale for SPPS students to need a science curriculum adoption, and the selection process and timeline. Details were also provided on the TWIG Education curriculum, including culturally responsive materials, and supports for students in MLL and with specialized services. A video showing TWIG in the classroom was also presented. Materials for teachers were also reviewed, as well as materials for students, and kits and videos. Details on the K-12 coherence in SPPS Science were also provided, as well as opportunities for stakeholders to learn more about the curriculum.

The full presentation can be found in the Board Book.

QUESTIONS/DISCUSSION:

- Is phenomena-based curriculum similar to inquiry-based? Response: This is beyond inquiry-based, and incorporates that but is also so much more. It is deeper, more culturally-responses, and phenomena-based for driving questions, with professional development opportunities. In inquiry-based education, the questions are based from the teacher, but in this, the questions are from the students, and the students drive their learning. It is very student-directed.
- Board members also congratulated Marty Davis on his retirement.
- Director Allen noted excitement about the new curriculum, and is glad that we are bringing innovative ways to use technology into the classroom. She thanked the team and the community for their work.
- Director Ward also thanked the team and also noted the age of the former curriculum.
- Director Vue requested details on the timeline for full implementation. The vision is that TWIG will be implemented next year, and teachers will then look at what worked, and what areas didn't, and work through curriculum writing process over the summer. It will be evolving more as we work with this curriculum and improve upon it.
- Superintendent Gothard thanked the team, including Marty Davis, and noted the literacy and fluency and complexities of the language in the curriculum. There is a strong literacy connection, with books for students to read through their iPad, articles, videos within labs and simulations and videos.

BF 32748 K-5 Science Curriculum Adoption

MOTION: Director Vue, seconded by Director Allen, moved that the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to enter into a purchase agreement with TWIG.

The motion was approved by roll call vote:

Director Allen	Yes
Director Kopp	Yes
Director Henderson	Yes
Director Ward	Yes
Director Vue	Yes

XI. BOARD OF EDUCATION

A. Information Requests & Responses

- Director Ward provided a statement on divesting in fossil fuels and asking the Policy Work Group to look into a revision of the policy on investments.
- Director Vue requested an update on solar power in SPPS.
- We will continue to revisit the mask resolution.
- Director Allen requested information about how the children are doing, and what we can do to bring student voice to the Board. When we know how the children are doing, we know how the community is doing.

B. Items for Future Agendas

C. Board of Education Reports/Communications

- Director Vue provided an update on his attendance at the committee to create a memorial for Marny Xiong. Tomorrow is her birthday. He will be working with the committee, and community and Marny's family with leaders and staff at Washington Tech on this memorial.
- Director Allen provided a report on the girl's state basketball tournament and the amazing team of students with high GPAs and excellent basketball skills, and told the story of players on the team. She encouraged more opportunities for Black and Brown students.
- Director Kopp shared her experience at a training by the Council of the Great City Schools on school board governance, with a focus on student outcomes.

XI. FUTURE MEETING SCHEDULE

A. Motion to Reschedule the November Committee of the Board Meeting to November 1, 2022, and Reschedule the November Regular Meeting of the Board of Education to November 15, 2022.

MOTION: Director Vue, seconded by Director Henderson, moved that the Board of Education reschedule the Committee of the Board Meeting previously scheduled for November 15, 2022 to November 1, 2022; and to reschedule the Regular Meeting previously scheduled for November 22, 2022 to November 15, 2022.

The motion was approved by roll call vote:

Director Allen	Yes
Director Kopp	Yes
Director Henderson	Yes
Director Ward	Yes
Director Vue	Yes

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

- March 22
- April 19
- May 24
- June 7 | Special | Non-Renewals | 4:00pm
- June 21
- July 19

- August 23

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

- March 8
- April 5
- May 10
- June 7
- August 10 (Wednesday)

XII. ADJOURNMENT

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

The motion was approved by roll call vote:

Director Allen	Yes
Director Kopp	Yes
Director Henderson	Yes
Director Ward	Yes
Director Vue	Yes

The meeting adjourned at 8:24 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