

INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 625
Saint Paul, Minnesota

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

360 Colborne Street
Saint Paul, MN 55102

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

November 29, 2021
5:30 p.m.

MINUTES

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Foster called the meeting to order at 5:36 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

Board of Education: J. Foster, J. Brodrick, C. Allen, J. Kopp, Y. Carrillo, Z. Ellis, J. Vue
Superintendent Gothard
General Counsel Long

III. APPROVAL OF THE ORDER OF THE MAIN AGENDA

Chair Foster moved approval of the order of the main agenda. The motion was seconded by Director Allen.

The motion was approved by roll call vote:

Director Foster	Yes
Director Brodrick	Yes
Director Allen	Yes
Director Kopp	Yes
Director Carrillo	Yes
Director Ellis	Yes
Director Vue	Yes

Motion passed unanimously, 7-0.

IV. 2021-2022 Calendar Update

First on the agenda this evening is 2021-22 Calendar Update and I turn it over to Superintendent Gothard to lead us through this presentation.

Gothard: Begin with the rationale...what families and staff are facing in the pandemic. Encourage everyone to get vaccinated or booster shot, as eligible. THings continue to change in real time for this pandemic, with a new variant. We continue to find ways to support staff. We don't talk everyday about the challenges of the pandemic. And stresses. Share with board member and our community, on one day we had 300 licensed teacher absences -- for a range of reasons. All these things roll into absences for staff, some who may not be feeling well and it's in their contracts take that time. There are more than 150 staff who are not in their assigned staff, 3, 4, 5, 6 class periods in which staff are covering with their prep time. Everyday reality in some if not all of our buildings. Our staff is motivated to help. Continues to be a real challenge. 3rd party party -- teacher on call -- to provide coverage. It isn't just one. Our staff, with extra two days of break, is one way we can support staff and the true breath that they need.

SLIDE: MDE Key Terms -- reviewed by Dr. Gothard.

E-Learning; Unscheduled day....Limit of 5 per year (Snow/weather days)...

Digital learning day: pre-scheduled day (e.g., Election day)

Online learning: full days online -- Our online school has its own identity and school number just like any

I don't have state statute support to make any decision I want about times not in the classroom...closely regulated by state statute to keep things in balance and conclude the school year as expected.

Proposal: Exchange December 20, 2021 (student contact day) w April 15, 2022 professional development. Dec 20 will become a professional dev day for staff (asynchronous)...

December 21, 2021: No school day

April 15, 2022: Digital learning day

If I had known what I know now in July, we would have given a full two weeks, but time and challenges put on staff to do contact tracing, etc....it's all people intensive. It's incredibly onerous and leading to the level of burnout we're seeing right now.

Next steps (See Slide): Districts are reacting in different ways...can we break some of our weeks up as distance learning days...I'd like to collect some data in our district -- some families experience hardship with distance learning...other students have excelled in distance learning. So we are going to gather some data...to consider further days...Team will conduct a survey to learn more about this opportunity to see if that's something we'd like to further explore next semester. THinking of long spans in spring when there is no break. I'm not saying I'm in favor of a day of the week, but we'll probably poll about what day of the week may be preferred. And other considerations they would like to explore.

MOTION -- read directly from MOTION SLIDE....

DISCUSSION/COMMENTS:

- Director Allen: I like this plan. Is there any chance we could organize food distribution on those couple of days...
- Gothard: We did talk about this a little bit.
- Chief Turner: Working with parks on partnerships...if district staff provided this, we would want them to have rest, relaxation and healing, so first preference would be to work with outside partners.
- Director Allen: So all staff do professional development, typically it's just teachers?
- Superintendent Gothard: We will do our best to provide PD to all staff.
- Vice Chair Vue: After school activities, such as the discovery club, would those be shut down as well?
- Superintendent Gothard: We have many activities after school, these days will be treated like winter break days, so they will continue.
- Chief Turner: Discovery Club will continue as usual.
- Vice Chair Vue: We need to manage your staff, have we thought about how much lead time we should give the public about e-learning days?
- Superintendent Gothard: YEs, absolutely, we talked about a 3 week advance notice and we did not want to wait until the next board meeting.
- Director Kopp: It will be celebrated by some and it will be a hardship for others. Acknowledging that it is important and to check with your school if this is not welcome news.
- Director Allen: All staff will be paid for these two days?
- Superintendent Gothard: Different contractual obligations and we will make any adjustments where we have to, but the goal is to follow the contracts and ensure staff are paid. Others may have to change their duties on that day.
- Director Allen: That's confusing to me. So some will have professional development but others will have changed duties.
- Superintendent Gothard: Some staff on the 20th will be operating just like school, on the 21st we will have to look for different duties that will need to work in person.
- Director Allen: But we can't ask them to do food distribution because it's not part of their contracts?
- Chief Turner: We're not prepared to deliver meals...ordering, storing, packaging..not able to meet federal or staff guidelines to have it ready by the 20th and 21st. So we would not be able to do that.
- Director Allen: That answers all of my questions.
- Any closing comments from leadership?

BF 32578 Chair Foster moved approval of the 2021-22 Calendar update as proposed. The motion was seconded by Director Ellis.

The motion was approved by roll call vote:

Director Foster	Yes
Director Brodrick	Yes
Director Allen	Yes
Director Kopp	Yes
Director Carrillo	Yes
Director Ellis	Yes
Director Vue	Yes

Motion passed unanimously, 7-0.

V. ENVISION SPPS

Chair Foster turned the floor over to Vice Chair Vue to read a statement regarding Envision SPPS recommendations. Vice Chair Vue read proposal as follows:

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Modified Envision Proposal

Over the last two months school board members have been listening to community members, parents, teachers, students and administrators about the Envision proposal to close and merge several Saint Paul Public Schools.

Throughout this time, the school board has discussed Envision at length through many public meetings, as well as having conducted site visitations to impacted school buildings, and have held many conversations among one other to come to a consensus towards a modified proposal for which we will present today.

At this time, LEAP, Highwood Hills, and Wellstone along with its subsequent merges including Riverview, Cherokee Heights, J.J. Hill and Obama will be removed from the proposal. This will leave L'etoile du Nord upper and lower campuses, Phalen, Jackson, Maxfield, Parkway, John A Johnson, Bruce Vento, Hamline, Galtier and Capitol Hill on the proposal.

The purpose of tonight's special meeting is to discuss with administration the ramifications of this modified proposal.

Before we begin, there are two points of context that the school board would like administration to understand.

First, for the schools that remain, the board would like to discuss how this modified version of the proposal will be supported.

Secondly, for the schools that the board would like removed from the proposal, the board would like to discuss how best to continue to work with those schools and communities.

Finally, the board would like the public to understand that for the schools that were removed from the proposal, that there remain certain limitations and constraints that these schools and communities must work within. The school board intends to work with these communities and administration to identify these limitations and constraints in order to determine the best course of action going forward.

Adjusted Wellstone Recommendation

Wellstone/Riverview merge is paused until October 2022 while the district works with the Riverview and Wellstone communities to discuss how to build the strongest possible Spanish Dual Language program. Because this pause impacts additional district programs, the following work is also paused: moving Riverview Community to Cherokee Heights, moving Cherokee Heights Montessori program to JJ Hill, and moving Obama students to new programs in anticipation of Obama complex remodel for JJ Hill Montessori and future 6-8 program. What follows are specific directives to support important conversations in each of these communities during the following year, in anticipation of a future action.

1. District will hold monthly meetings beginning in January 2022 to discuss the future of the Spanish DL program, understanding that the district will be in the best position to support a high quality, robust, desirable program if it is housed in one building.
2. Cherokee Heights will be supported to begin a West Side specific recruitment and engagement plan within their community.
3. During the next 12-18 months, Obama families will have the opportunity to learn about the Montessori model through in-person and virtual information sessions as well as site visits to JJ Hill. 4. A committee will be formed to begin to envision the future 6-8 program at Obama.

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DISCUSSION/QUESTIONS:

- Director Kopp: It's been, we've heard a lot. I appreciate the work. That's an initial reaction.
- Director Allen: I want to reiterate my expectation around a future enrollment plan and that the schools are in a crisis and we have to do something now and it needs to be a real clear-cut plan. What direction we're going in those spaces that are remaining open. We want those schools to have a well-rounded education -- it will take everyone to make that happen for them just like for everyone else in the district.
- Director Brodrick: Yes, a question about how we'll conduct the rest of the meeting. I support this modified envision proposal. Is the rest of this evening dedicated to talking to the administration about modified points of the proposal?
Vice Chair Vue: Yes, that's the thinking. YOU are welcome to ask the administration a direct question.

- Director Brodrick: I approve of this modified proposal and I have a few particular questions that will come up during the discussion. At this point in time I'm thinking other board members have something to say. With you introducing this, the ball is back in the court of the administration.
- Director Carrillo: Clarification re Wellstone, will merger be approved on Oct 22 or would there be a new set of recommendations on Oct 22 to review? After a year of data gathering? Correct?
- Chair Foster: Certain limitations and constraints...important to clarify what that means, what are those constraints and will subsidies continue?
- Vice Chair Vue: In response to director Carrillo, we need to revisit the Wellstone recommendation and Oct 22 does not mean it's a re-set but to say that by Oct 22 we need to pose some recommendations.
- Director Carrillo: I want to thank and echo director Allen's comment about enrollment. None of these changes are done flippantly, and that overall picture of enrollment is something we want to address. Talk about enrollment in a global sense and address all schools that have lost enrollment in recent years. Not just pandemic losses or at some school but overall. What can we do as an org to become welcoming and offering an education that truly changes kids lives.
- Vice Chair Vue: Direct question of administration, how does this change impact courses of action going forward. School choice, making sure those proposals move forward.
- Superintendent Gothard: I feel the need to address a couple of things. We need to be very clear about addressing enrollment: 1. WE have 8,000 open seats now...2. I don't have the bullet points of the statement just read, if now the board is creating these recommendations and we need time to analyze them before responding on the dais after hard work these past many weeks. I'd also need to say that delaying these decisions until 2022 tells me that some of our enrollment issues are not going to be addressed with that type of direction (we might, we might not). We need to be clear about what we are being charged to do. We need to ingest what is proposed before responding.
Chief Turner: An example would be, Obama, if we were to leave Obama open for another year, will the recommendation be to close Obama in October 2022 or would it remain open and continue the conversation. Same question for Riverview and Wellstone...Are they closing in October 2022 and we're just allowing for conversation.
- Vice Chair Vue: We are not going to be doing any new closures. These schools will remain open. Obama will not close in fall 2022.
- Chief Turner: That is detrimental to all of those programs, including from a school choice perspective. Obama, Cherokee, Riverview, and wellsonet, we could tell a parent very few determinants about those programs. I would encourage placement to advise a family to choose a school where there is a known determinant. We tend not to highly promote them because we need to be honest and transparent with families. So if you were a parent coming to the table to talk about one of those schools, an administrator would be advised to provide the real situation and the unknowns. A parent would likely say no thank you and choose Adams. It has a never impacted on all other programs. It's also very difficult for staff recruitment; an anticipated change makes it difficult to recruit instructional staff if changes and modifications are expected.
- Assistant Superintendent Collins: To probe a little deeper, to gain a better understanding of the limitations and constraints mentioned in the statement. \$20M reduction based on fewer students, in a presentation by Chief Schrul...we need to be clear with families...parents ask very directly during school choice season.
- Vice Chair Vue: I don't have very specific details for each school. They'll operate at a similar level they're operating now until another plan changes that.
- Assistant Superintendent Collins: Thank you.
- Chief Turner: Any other discussion of Biosmart...it was not mentioned. Was there a suggestion about what would happen with Biosmart?

- Director Kopp: It would make sense to include Biosmart and explore the viability of that as a magnet in the building. I don't know why we would exclude Biosmart...effectiveness, uniqueness of Biosmart. I'm interested in how we get to our goal everywhere. There are parts of this proposal I agree with and others I do not. As a parent at an unsustainable school, you know it's unsustainable. I don't doubt for a minute that it impacts recruitment. It's hard for that school once you're on that list. A year of uncertainty and it's difficult. That's a reason to put a frame around it to put guardrails about what we're talking about so that it's not forever. Here's where we are now and what does this mean. It's difficult, intricate. As a board we need to be 100% aware of what we're asking of our school communities. Asking what's the enrollment plan? It's really hard to accomplish. We're asking schools with the least capacity to do that work. We must acknowledge what we're making of them. We need to factor that into our thinking. We will leave a legacy with this decision...We need to be clear-eyed about it.
- Superintendent Gothard: If I could respectfully ask that we review our legal requirements as we hold a public hearing and review each school to ensure we are asking the public tomorrow night is clear.
- Chief Turner: If we could review by area, that would be extremely helpful. I could call Area A and you could respond? Or how shall we proceed? I'd like to clarify for each school what will happen.
- Area A: LNFI Lower will merge with LNFI upper at upper campus.
- Vice Chair Vue: Yes.
- Chief Turner: Area A Parkway will close in June 2022 as a Montessori and reopen as upper campus of Hmong dual language.
- Vice Chair Vue: Yes.
- Chief Turner: Area B: No change - Highwood Hills remain opens
- Director Vue: Yes.
- Chief Turner: Area C: John A Johnson will close in June 2022 and vmerge with Vento at Vento in fall 2022.
- Vice Chair Vue: Yes.
- Chief Turner: Area D: Riverview Community/Riverview Dual will remain open.
Vice Chair Vue: Yes, will remain open.
Chief Turner: Riverview Community remains intact at Riverview?
- Vice Chair Vue: Yes.
- Chief Turner: Dual and Community both open.
- Chief Turner; Cherokee will remain open as a montessori school.
- Vice Chair Vue: Yes.
- Chief Turner; Area E: Galtier will close in JUnd 2022 and merge with Hamline in fall 2022
- Director Vue: Yes
- Chief Turner: Area E: Leap will remain open.
- Vice Chair Vue: Yes.
- Chief Turner: Area E: Wellstone biosmart & dual immersion will remain open.
Vice Chair Vue: Yes.
- Chief Turner: Area F: Obama will remain open.
Vice Chair Vue: yes.
- Chief Turner: Jackson dual will merge with Phalen at Phalen.
- Vice Chair Vue: YEs.
- Chief Turner: Jackson will close and merge with Maxfield.
- Vice Chair Vue: Yes.
- Chief Turner: Area F: Capitol Hill will distinue Highland pathway.
- Vice Chair Vue: Yes.

- Chief Turner: Additionally, initial recommendations, early childhood recommendations - any modification to those?
Vice Chair Vue: No changes.
- Superintendent Gothard: Public hearing....only for the purpose of closure.
- General Counsel Long: Yes, public hearing to provide testimony for or against closing school. It is not about future use.
- Superintendent Gothard: I just want to make sure we are meeting the legal obligation this week. Thank you.
- Chief Turner: What is the board's intent to do with the Obama BUilding on Holly? The portion that was going to be repurposed as a middle school?
- Vice Chair Vue: Please restate your question.
- Chief Turner: Obama proposal was based on JJ Hill would move, but the modification is silent on that matter.
- Vice Chair Vue: MY understanding is that plan ceases. Cherokee and others will not merge.
- Chief Turner: East Tower ...Will JJ Hill stay on Selby Avenue.
- Vice Chair Vue: Now that the merger is not happening the work on that building ceases in Obama because Cherokee Heights is not merging so it's no longer necessary to do that.
- Assistant Superintendent Collins: If I'm hearing you correct, so there would not be any facility improvement because Obama would remain open. A committee would be formed to review Obama 6-8 programs at the Obama site.
- Director Kopp: One question I would have about this, would it be possible to proceed with envisioning middle school in West Tower without Cherokee & JJ Hill merger? Is that something we could do in 2 steps?
- Director Ellis: In previous conversations about West Tower and the site...move JJ Hill there and then the middle school would be created. The proposal was that two programs of different types would be created there, correct?
- Chief Turner West Tower was going to welcome all elementary montessori feeders to a new middle school with other elementary montessori students.
- Director Ellis: It's confusing to talk about different types of program students to a new school.
- Assistant Superintendent Collins: The goal was to create a scale to develop a middle school 6-8 program with most students coming from Montessori schools. We heard from Montessori families that it was important to come together in a city-wide magnet program in Obama at the middle school level.
- Director Allen: What you're saying is that this 6-8 program could still happen even with this proposal the rest of the schools are not necessarily going to close or change or move to Obama. They could all still feed into this new program.
- Chief Turner: That is true. Though there was going to be some synergy of a Montessori in East Tower and new 6-8 middle school of former Montessori students in West Tower.
- Director Allen: Any chance having a 6-8 program would attract more families and enrollment...parents prefer students to stay k-8 in one building?
- Chief Turner: Not likely, but we will look at that. It's not sustainable with only an Obama feeder.
- Director Allen: Would it be more appealing to parents to be able to keep their child in the same building k-8.
- Chief Turner: Could be.
- Assistant Superintendent Collins: It could. The context we were thinking of as a comprehensive plan...The original intent to create more economies of scale with the merger....Looking at data of current students where their currency goes to...It was about maximizing space and keeping students there. We are trying to reduce transitions, as we've heard from the community.
- Director Allen: Thank you.

- Chief Turner: Obama and JJ Hill -- JJ Hill was going to be repurposed as early childhood so that plan would no longer be possible.
- Vice Chair Vue: Yes, JJ Hill would remain as it is.
- Chief Turner: Where would be put preK students in that neighborhood?
- Vice Chair Vue: We have no new proposals tonight.
- Superintendent Gothard: We are in a good place to enroll 3 & 4 pre k Programs. We need the BOard's support to ready buildings for new pre-K Programs. We need the board to be nimble to meet these needs for 3&4 yr olds in wonderful programs.
- Chief Turner: We need general counsel's advice and allow administration time to gather with the core team and provide real data around modified recommendations...that may have unintended outcomes. Would not want the board to make a decision without full consideration of those implications...impact on community, long-term impacts of decisions. Board should know and understand based on upcoming projections what situation you would be leaving a school like Obama and Cherokee. As I look at October enrollment count and how some schools could be reading 100 students or less. I don't think that's the board's intention either to leave a school with so few students. How might we go about doing that?
- Baker; In addition to what chief tuern is saying we want to ensure you all have the information you need and to clarify what you want within the time frame you have given us. I want to make sure the public understands some changes around budgets for schools may happen as a result of these modifications. We need to ensure we can balance a budget. We will do as much as we can to support these schools but budget changes may be needed based on enrollments.
- Vice Chair Vue: Thank you chief Baker.
- Superintendent Gothard: Are you suggesting we delay our meeting plans this week.
- Chief Turner: I'm suggesting we not do this in real time. I want to get facts and numbers. We have built these recommendations based on data and I'd like the modification to be based on data. We have 24 hours to get back together...Could tomorrow be a presentation and hearing? Is that possible?
Chair Foster: Is this timeline possible?
- Superintendent Gothard: Wednesday night would allow us to develop a presentation with some analysis.
- Chief Turner: Yes, that could work. We do it through public hearing and in presentations....
- Chair Foster: The goal is quality school configurations to ensure this is working for everyone. When did we last work on closing schools?
- Chief Turner: 2015.
- Chair Foster: How many schools?
- Chief Turner: Less than 5 schools at that time.
- Director Foster: What are schools going to get and what are they not going to get? We cannot continue to operate the status quo. We have critical decisions to make. The point is to get the message right the first time. If I don't feel excited and I'm hearing some misunderstanding tonight.
- Chief Turner: IF we could hear some of the rationale for the modifications, it would be helpful for our conversation. If we could look at Wellstone, Riverview and Cherokee pieces. Am I misunderstanding this piece? Will they remain separate or would they be housing in one program by Oct 2022? Is that not correct?
- Director Carrillo: The thought is that we want to respect administrations direction to house the dual language programs in one location, but we were also very concerned that one well-rounded school would be changed/moved when I have experience with that not working....There's a domino effect with Cherokee, Riverview, Wellstone. We understand the package was a little bit problematic. The core issue is enrollment on the West Side. We do not think business as usual on the West Side to support Cherokee Heights neighborhood school as a pathway to middle and

high school programs. The following conversations we had about dual language programs and hope the administration will continue community conversations about dual language programs about possible location at one school, but that was not part of this current Envision plan.

- Vice Chair Vue: Wellstone for me the ends don't justify the means. It needs to be a different proposal. We understand the vision of combining, but it needs to happen another way. Continue to work with those communities to find out what that way is.
- Chief Turner: Dual Spanish would be the only language in more than one school building. We have a belief that a combined program is better in one building. So our only language program not in one building is Spanish. It was the intent to give honor to all of our languages and to offer a strong academic program and thus be in one physical location. This modified plan does not allow us to get there for those two programs unlike our other dual immersion programs.
- Assistant Superintendent Agbamu: Chief Foster, Superintendent Gothard, Board members. I've had the privilege to work with dual immersion programs since returning to SPPS in 2011. For years we have tried everything possible to align our curriculum across schools. I cannot say the same about the Spanish immersion program. The Chinese language school is rated the #4 schools in the state of MN! I cannot say the same of the Spanish language programs. For Wellstone, we have two separate programs with two separate philosophies. If we have in a school one science teacher and one social studies teacher, but in this case the biosmart students are primarily African American students. We really do not have a biosmart program there... We have tried and yet we do not really have it. We have struggled to deliver a 50-50 model of language delivery. Our Mandarin program is very very diverse and very successful. When I was approached to give my input, to give a student fair justice we can do this work in one building just like with Hmong Immersion program and French Immersion program. One science teacher and one social studies teacher does not amount to a well-rounded program.
- Director Ellis: So , you're saying Wellstone has not been aligned in 11 years. It requires us to do something different. I have a hard time believing that is the case. To say that closing it is the best option does not address the real issue. I struggle with that. This is the work of the district to educate our students and we have been trying for 11 years, it's on us to not change it sooner. About Biosmart, we have not specifically talked at great length about Biosmart and what we're trying to achieve. We cannot be putting this on the community.
- Assistant Superintendent Agbamu: There was a proposal once to merge these two programs, but there was a switch and the work was left hanging. What I'm saying is this: We have been able to align with Hmong Immersion program. For some reason it has not been aligned as we hoped. The focus was to merge to allow for the work that has been happening on Hmong, French programs.
- Director Ellis: My point being that if we are at this point now. My point is that this is probably a larger issue of program assessment. That needs to be part of this conversation. What is well-rounded? And what are we trying to do in concrete terms? Programs and how we want them aligned is not just on school staff but on us as a district. Need to document the how, why, when, who...if it really has not been working it's on us, not the school community. Is it possible to re-set? I have not heard details about how we have tried to align this program. I don't know what this alignment is?
- Superintendent Gothard: I'd like to ask, Wellstone is not on the list for tomorrow night? I feel like we are having necessary questions, but this week in 24 hours we need to make sure the community understands what is at stake tomorrow night.
- Director Ellis: I was just talking about impacts on other programs.
- Superintendent Gothard: The Wellstone piece...Our ongoing work is to ensure
- Chief Turner: The rationale to keep Wellstone open..would be helpful.

- Director Carrillo: 1. Wellstone is one of few schools with more than 500 students, from a budgetary perspective it hurts and it's not productive. If enrollment was guaranteed to increase, that would be different, but a decrease is likely for a magnet; 2. North End needs access to a well-rounded, dual language program; 3. School culture is good at Wellstone. It has had issues, but Wellstone has thrived and should be looked at and understood. What are we looking at in schools that will attract families? That provides a strong culture. We respect the administration's thought process to align, but there has been no intentionality to make it happen prior to this decision.
- Chief Turner: Can you say more about a hyper-dependent plan?
- Director Carrillo: We heard that this was a package deal and no single school could be pulled out and thus hyper-dependent. We thus were not allowed to discuss needs at a specific school. We are treating them all alike.
- Director Kopp: I am in the minority on this board when talking through the adjusted recommendation and I struggled with the Wellstone one...I've taken to heart what I've learned. And I'm concerned about the legacy that we leave. I also think instructional and curricular excellence is needed. JieMing -- draws people! Bc of it's excellence. If we split that in two parts in the city, would it be as strong? Probably not. We are trying to build as strong as possible programs. This gets to our alignment being off. We have struggled to do a really good job in two places. We cannot be as good everywhere...yet Wellstone also did not fit with other schools on the recommendation list. I'm looking at, my preference would be to work backwards from Highwood Hills. They are isolated. Their struggles are in families who are not staying there in those apartments as families move on. We cannot solve that through programming, but I'm excited to see what is possible....Highwood Hills is something to work on without tails/dependence. LEAP always felt somewhat ill-fitting...I learned there are concerns about level 1 students...who cannot communicate...and the love they receive...How do we capture that LEAP magic in the future to benefit the entire district? Committed partners there. I struggle with the Wellstone recommendation primarily because of my desire to have educational excellence everywhere and its tails. How do we tell those other schools to wait a little longer? It will fall to the schools to do that work...I'm interested to hear my colleagues' rationales. This is good because I want our legacy to be the best possible one. I'm sure my colleagues' intentions are the same.
- Director Brodrick: I'd like to return to Supt Gothard's remarks about urgency involved with this decision we have to make very soon. Administration brought forward Envision SPPS recommendation which was very comprehensive. And pointed out many times, individual elements were intertwined and thus difficulty of voting on something like that -- the entire proposal. Enrollment, well rounded education, and financial woes are all part of why we were looking for a comprehensive plan. During the last several weeks everyone on this board has been very diligent and conscientious to get feedback from folks affected. Now, tonight, I'll simply return to Dr. Gothard is absolutely correct about how we are going to handle the process in the next 24, 48 or 24 months. This modified proposal is actually a statement of disagreement with many elements of Envision SPPS. So, consequently, I ask Supt Gothard about our impasse right now -- administration's Envision SPPS plan and a 7 member board with a modified proposal which contradicts several elements of the original proposal. It will impact everyone in this district. I ask Supt Gothard to try and respond to what I tried to say.
- Superintendent Gothard: I cannot disagree with anything you've said. This is not a surprise. But I want to be clear but we wake up and we Envision for this district. I'm hearing some emotion that's been bottled up in you. YOu will get really thoughtful work from us to strengthen education in the district. We try to reduce the amount of area we need to cover with declining resources. Without exercising some of our area, we will have a hard time getting those resources out. We are not going to get quite the reset we were recommending, but it does not mean Chief Tuern, staff, and

workgroups did not do important work. It was. We need to make sure we have properly posted public hearing Tuesday night. Board members are there additional questions you want us to prepare for so you know the ramifications of your choices or your decision? We want to bring back thoughtful analysis so you know full well what our work will entail going forward. I hope that addresses Director Brodrick's comments.

- Director Brodrick: I so enjoy Supt Gothard's responses from the mind and from the heart. I'd like to hear Vice Chair Vue and Chair Foster's thoughts about what we should be thinking about.
- Foster: Everyone is working really hard at this. Last week I asked the administration if we make changes will the egos from the board and the administration collide? I acknowledge we are dumping something in the last few minutes on the administration. This is a huge decision to make. We are not all in alignment as 7 individuals and to note the decision is on this board. What we decide (action or inaction) will be charging Dr. Gothard and team to make that happen...in buildings, with families and kids to envision and support our communities. As you can see we will be rolling into that vote on the vision at the very last moment...Thinking about restructure, resign, and realign. Does that have to happen at once? We'll be living in this together...trends and data tell us that we're robbing one school against another and I do not want to be a part of that. We have the opportunity to re-envision and realistically say what worked, what was tried and what did not work. I know what my role is, I would love to hear from you all tomorrow about this current plan...and be creative and come back to us.
- Director Allen: A 5-year projection when implemented rather than just what would happen in 5 years if we did nothing.
- Chief Turner: I appreciate Chair Foster's comments. We all agree things cannot remain the same. I wanted to hear the rationale to move to next steps in our discussion so we could work that in our presentation for Wellstone. And for other schools. More rationale for Obama?
- Vice Chair Vue: This was an interconnected piece for Wellstone, so we heard over and over again not to approve that without Wellstone.
- Chief Turner:
- Vice Chair Vue: I understood it that is
- Chief Turner: If wellstone does not happen...it has an impact on other schools. If the board were to hear the impact of keeping Highwood Hills, Wellstone, and LEAP...the Board may wish to modify it. If we have 100 kindergartens next year in the district, every school will need to have students and thus spread them out across all schools...making them very small and unsustainable. With an enrollment campaign and working with SPFE and community, we have to have something to promote and to sell but we won't have that with small, unsustainable schools. If we could make some modification to the modifications that would take that into account. I would like to have an opportunity to allow those other schools, impacted by Wellstone, to not provide an equitable program (e.g., Riverview, Cherokee, Obama). It's very difficult for a school to do that.
- General Counsel Long: We have noticed the public meeting and public hearing to provide public opportunity to provide comments on those schools. For the purposes of the public hearing tomorrow everything is on the table as we have noticed it.
- Director Kopp: Two things about the impact of adjustments: 1. More information about recruitment and retention plans -- impacts of modification.
- Director Ellis: Clarify a few things: There are parts to the modification I agree with and other parts I am trying to figure out what 1, 2 & 3 look like. Who does the work? Cherokee Heights has very specific recommendations...Re Obama too. How these recommendations would happen, in real time. This was a lot...What are we actually asking families to do? It's a lot..There needs to be more clarity about what we will do as a district to support families. What are we doing over the next 12 to 18 months?

- Director Allen: It's about the original proposal, 12 to 18 months would give Obama families exposure to Montessori pedagogy...rather than moving people out to move new people in; it did not feel ethical as a board member. If we are going to build another middle school in the Obama area, I'm concerned about enrollment. So, when I'm looking at point #3, we need a clearer process of transition under Obama. Let's make it a process that's ethical to the community to folks working there now and future users too.
- Director Ellis: Thank you. I appreciate that. Can you explain how we got to #2 regarding Cherokee.
- Director Kopp: Wanted to give Cherokee a boost. It was to name the specific implications for changing the Wellstone recommendation. To provide a glimpse of the future for Cherokee.
Superintendent Gothard: We have a legal obligation to meet this week and vote on Weds not. A lot of this discussion is strategic and important. I just ask given the time we have, it is your desire to consider a vote for action on Weds? Are we still on track for that this week?
- **Board Directors: Yes.**
- Superintendent Gothard: Chief Turner will give a brief presentation tomorrow and then public hearing. Then Weds evening there will be time for a presentation too. And discussion before calling the recommendation.
Vice Chair Vue: Thank you.
Director Brodrick: I have a procedural question: Should we be formally presenting this proposal to the administration tonight so we have modified the proposal on the table...that we want to present it to the administration so on Weds we are clear about what we have been talking about tonight.
- General Counsel Long: I'm still processing your question.
- Director Brodrick: Vice Chair Vue began this meeting by reading the modified Envision proposal. Which contradicts the original Envision recommendations and the wonder whether this proposal would be formally presented to the administration. Something of substance on the table....
- Long: It would be my recommendation that this come up on Weds night. There's been no motion yet tonight. The purpose of Weds is for the board to make a decision via motion or amendments to motions. We cannot have a vote on whether to close a school prior to a public hearing...So Weds a motion could be made for board action would be the appropriate time.
- Director Brodrick: Has this modified plan been entered formally tonight?
Vice Chair Vue: Administration will come back with alternate proposals. General Counsel Long suggests we make it official through a motion on Weds.
- Director Brodrick: So you, Vice Chair Vue, are satisfied with this process?
Vice Chair Vue: Yes.
- Chief Baker: If there's a concern about what we can do...we can post the modified document online...Whatever the board wants us to put into motion to be agreed upon, we will do that.
- Superintendent Gothard: We wanted very clear direction from the Board tonight and that's what we got tonight.
- Chair Foster; Any other questions or comments?

V. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Foster provided a reminder of upcoming meetings of the Board of Education, including the public hearing on Tuesday, November 30, 2021 at 5:30 p.m.; a Special Envision SPPS Meeting on Wednesday, December 1, 2021 at 6:05 p.m.; a Committee of the Board Meeting on Tuesday, December 7, 2021 at 4:30 p.m. and a Regular Meeting of the Board of Education on Tuesday, December 14, 2021, beginning with public comment at 5:30 p.m.

Chair Foster then motioned to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Director Brodrick.

The motion was approved by roll call vote:

Director Foster	Yes
Director Brodrick	Yes
Director Allen	Yes
Director Kopp	Yes
Director Carrillo	Yes
Director Ellis	Yes
Director Vue	Yes

Motion passed unanimously, 7-0.

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:

Brian Hammer

Secretary to the Board (Interim), St. Paul Public Schools Board of Education