

INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 625  
Saint Paul, Minnesota

REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

360 Colborne Street  
Saint Paul, MN 55102, and

Available Streaming Online at [www.spps.org/boe](http://www.spps.org/boe) and Saint Paul Cable Channel 16

November 16, 2021  
6:05 p.m.

**MINUTES**

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Foster called the meeting to order at 6:07 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

Board of Education: C. Allen, J. Kopp, Y. Carrillo, Z. Ellis, J. Vue, J. Foster, J. Brodrick

Superintendent Gothard  
General Counsel Long

III. APPROVAL OF THE ORDER OF THE MAIN AGENDA

**Director Foster then moved approval of the main order of the agenda. The motion was seconded by Director Ellis.**

The motion was approved by roll call vote:

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

Motion passed unanimously, 7-0.

IV. APPROVAL OF THE ORDER OF THE CONSENT AGENDA

**Director Foster moved approval of the order of the Consent Agenda, with the exception of C-7 - Request for Permission to Contract with St. Paul Youth Services for Behavior Specialist Program Support SY 2021-22, which was pulled for further discussion. The motion was seconded by Director Vue.**

The motion was approved by roll call vote:

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

Motion passed unanimously, 7-0.

## **V. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

Chair Foster then moved approval of the following meetings:

- A. Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Board of Education on October 11, 2021
- B. Minutes of the Special (Closed) Meeting of the Board of Education on October 18, 2021
- C. Minutes of the Regular Board of Education Meeting on October 19, 2021
- D. Minutes of the Special (Closed) Meeting of the Board of Education on November 1, 2021
- E. Minutes of the Special Election Canvass Meeting of the Board of Education on November 9, 2021
- F. Minutes of the Special (Closed) Meeting of the Board of Education on November 15, 2021

The motion was seconded by Director Allen.

The motion was approved by roll call vote:

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

Motion passed unanimously, 7-0.

## **VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Chair Foster turned the floor over to Vice Chair Vue who explained that the Board was working on the Committee of the Board (COB) meeting minutes from November 9th. There will be a report of the meeting minutes at the next BOE meeting, therefore there were no COB minutes to approve at this meeting.

## **VIII. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Chair Foster turned the floor over to Superintendent Gothard for discussion of the Superintendent's Report.

Superintendent Gothard began his comment was noting how great it was to have Chair Foster back: "We are happy that you have your health with you and congratulations on your election."

Superintendent Gothard then provided an update on Covid-19 in SPPS, including that case numbers have increased each week. He expressed appreciation for support from the Board during these challenging times. He said they were aware things are not perfect, but the support has been incredible and that collective wisdom is important but also does not always have the answer about next steps. He noted the work being done in SPPS was comparable to anyone's in a district of this size and complexity. He then turned the floor over to Mary Langworthy, Director, for general comments about Covid realities and to Chief Turner with updates regarding the mask mandate and others.

#### **A. ENVISION SPPS: Our plan for well-rounded programs**

Please note Envision SPPS minutes are provided at the end of the Covid-19 Update. There was no formal Envision SPPS presentation during this meeting.

#### **B. COVID-19 UPDATE**

Director Langworthy began by noting this was a really tough time in the district: "We want answers but we do not have a lot of them." With rising case rates there has been more testing and more positive test results. She said she receives complaints and questions and concerns from a variety of people that the district was not doing enough or doing too much, but there's no single solution. Mask wearing and contact tracing help, but they also place a heavy burden on school administrators, not to mention that social-emotional issues that also arise at the building level. People are stressed and having their own personal life challenges -- every day life challenges, plus Covid. The district is also trying to keep up with staffing challenges and chronic fatigue. It is not perfect. The district does make mistakes, but everyone is are trying their best and she asked everyone to have grace when mistakes happen. Sometimes we have forgiveness and other times we don't. Sometimes parents yell at us. We are one of the few districts doing contact tracing at the building level and she said they were evaluating whether that practice was sustainable. While staying vigilant to reduce the spread, there's also fatigue; who were the actual close contacts? It's difficult to keep up with it and therefore the need to have more conversations about the future of that practice.

She noted the start of vaccines at two elementary school-based clinics and additional 9 schools would be hosting vaccine clinics in the district, with partners. She noted kids are showing up which is fantastic and there were not many unhappy kids..

Director Langworthy said she was only a piece of the vaccine and testing program. People in HR are hired and they are managing that process. From the testing of the unvaccinated, we are getting reports of positive tests thus it is a successful program.

Superintendent Gothard added that the Board gets emails about testing and questions like whether staff and children take them home.

Director Langworthy noted the roll-out of rapid test kits last week and all test kits had been delivered to schools so each school could send home tests -- 30,000 test kits in total. SPPS was prioritizing sick kids to send them home with them and for their families. She said there are bulk test kits for staffing, typically on Tuesday and they are recommended for everyone, adding that reducing the spread is important.

#### QUESTIONS/COMMENTS:

- Director Allen thanked Director Langworthy for the report. She then noted getting reports from paraprofessionals that teachers were being notified of contacts but paraprofessionals were not being notified about contact with positives. She said she really wanted to encourage Director Langworthy to contact everyone about possible exposure. Two, she wanted to understand what the exceptions are. If you cannot wear a mask and you're not vaccinated, is that safe for the students they contact? Is that okay? Is there another protocol to mitigate risk?
- Director Langworthy said there is a checklist of individuals to contact and that they were looking to include close contacts. She added it's possible a paraprofessional may not have had a close contact, though it can be more challenging to remember to include those who are floating among classrooms to notify everyone. There have been some misinterpretations of the policy/protocol. She said that having her know what the issues are she can then work through those with everyone. She then requested clarification regarding question number two.
- Director Allen said she understood there were regular tests, but what asked about the risks of exposure.
- Director Langworthy noted that those who cannot wear a mask would need to apply for an exception through HR. Some students cannot wear masks either, and staff are given special PPE to help provide another layer of protection. It does look different across the district.
- Director Allen could we not give them the option of online school in that case? Why wouldn't that be an option for that particular teacher?
- Superintendent Gothard added that he would need to understand the process and details.
- Director Allen asked about the process that would allow such unmasked and unvaccinated conduct.
- Superintendent Gothard said it would be necessary to know more about this situation.
- **Mary:**
- **See Video for details....**
- Director Carrillo asked whether, when a majority of our students were vaccinated, would the district foresee a change in protocols, e.g., in the 10-day quarantine.
- Director Langworthy noted her hope was that the the quarantine could end in January. She said she was aware some districts were excluding family members, but for now there's a need for more information and processing and conversation with senior leadership.
- Director Carrillo thanked Director Langworthy for her work and stated that everyone is in this together. "We can get over this hump. Thank you."
- Director Foster asked why SPPS can't vaccinate in all of our schools and asked about the district's capacity for that.
- Director Langworthy stated that right now, the people who can vaccinate in SPPS schools are her staff. With all the complex health needs beyond Covid, her staff are very busy -- managing test kits and working families and staff. She said her office was understaffed and there are gaps every day. Her office has 20 plus new staff and they are filling the gaps in our buildings. As a result, SPPS was looking to its partners to do vaccine clinics in 9 schools. Many are burnt out and many of SPPS staff are burnt out.
- Director Ellis: "Thank you, Mary! How long it will take to get rapid test results and what is the reporting process like? Who do the results get to you?"
- Director Langworthy noted tests take about 20 minutes and there are videos to help with the testing process. The SPPS Covid team follows up with students: If a student tests negative and they are fever free, then the student is welcome to come back to school. If a parent comes to school to pick up a sick child, we can do the test on the spot, if they give consent.

- **Director Ellis:**

- Director Langworthy said SPPS received 35,000 test kits, based on district enrollment. This was to ensure the needy had access, but she was not sure what the future would hold in terms of testing kit availability. The district was ordering test kits for employees and students as a backup plan. She noted Roy Wilkins was a great local testing option.
- Director Ellis returned to contact tracing and asked how many people were doing that now and whether that number was more or less than the number previously.
- Director Langworthy noted it was not the same as in the spring because there were many fewer people in buildings. With many more people in buildings now, a team of Mary's staff, principals, clerks and counselors are all involved, though it varies from building to building.
- Director Ellis then asked to clarify whether with everyone back there were more people on the team.
- Director Langworthy noted that at the building level, this is an additional responsibility for people in buildings and that there are no staffing shortages at the building level as people there are taking this on in addition to the rest of their duties.
- Superintendent Gothard turned to Chief Baker for an update.
- Chief Baker provided additional context regarding the Safe Learning Plan -- approved on August 17, 2021 -- regarding the mask mandate. He noted that the Board agreed to review this resolution as necessary. While review is a few days later than originally planned, but based on case rate and not having any additional requirements or changes from CDC or Dept of Health, he noted the district's request for permission to continue the mask mandate as previously approved. He added that no approval was needed now.
- Director Foster asked Board members whether there was general consensus to continue as currently practiced. Following review of Board members, she noted there was a consensus.

Superintendent Gothard added it was important to discuss this publicly and noted that all Board members have stated how important it was to be consistent and ready at all times. He noted he'd like to learn more about that school that just had its first case because there was something to learn from that perhaps.

Regarding Envision SPPS, Superintendent Gothard noted the December 1, 2021 meeting for a vote, in addition to a public hearing on November 30.. He said that since the district first announced this plan, the administration had worked hard to provide details about the plan to provide a well-rounded education. This plan began with data and did not have any particular schools in mind. On Oct 11, the administration announced the plan, with the primary goal of providing a culturally responsible well-rounded education. He said he continued to stand behind this vision and over these past several weeks he had heard many comments. He noted he would work with a team to develop a school recruitment plan and the district has the opportunity to continue to provide a strong education to its students. He then reiterated the administration would be there for school communities throughout the transition and that he was committed to keeping the district accountable to providing well-rounded programs. He then thanked Board Directors for their time and efforts, and for attending the series of Envision SPPS meetings, adding that he appreciated everything Board Directors do for St Paul public schools.

At this time the final report is to please approve HR transactions for the month of October.

### **C. Human Resources Transactions**

**BF 35553** Chair Foster moved to approve the Human Resource Transactions for the dates October 1 through October 31, 2021. The motion was seconded by Director Ellis.

The motion was approved by roll call vote:

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

Motion passed unanimously, 7-0.

## **IX. CONSENT AGENDA**

**MOTION:** Chair Foster moved to approve all items within the Consent Agenda with the exception of item C-7 Request for Permission to Contract with St. Paul Youth Services for Behavior Specialist Program Support SY 2021-22. The motion was seconded by Director Ellis

The motion was approved by roll call vote:

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

Motion passed unanimously, 7-0.

### A. Gifts

**BF 32555** Gift Acceptance from 3M Company for Air Purifiers

That the Board of Education, authorize the Superintendent (or Designee) to accept a gift of \$450,973.75 in air purifiers and filters at various sites.

### B. Grants

**BF 32556** Request for Permission to Accept a Grant from the Amherst H. Wilder Foundation (Saint Paul Promise Neighborhood - SPPN)

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to accept a subgrant from the Amherst H. Wilder Foundation to support families and children at Freedom School in SPPS; to accept funding; and to implement the project as specified in the award documents.

**BF 32557** Request for Permission to Submit a Grant to the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to submit a grant application to the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development for funds to prepare adult participants for in-demand careers as K-12 paraprofessionals; to accept funds, if awarded; and to implement the project as specified in the award documents.

**BF 32558** Request for Permission to Submit a Grant to the Minnesota Department of Education

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to submit a grant application to the Minnesota Department of Education for funds to enhance the city's Program Finder online tool; to accept funds, if awarded; and to implement the project as specified in the award documents.

**BF 32559** 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 32560** Request for Permission to Submit a Grant to the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to submit a grant application to the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development for funds to prepare adult participants for small business ownership; to accept funds, if awarded; and to implement the project as specified in the award documents.

**BF 32561** Request for Permission to Submit a Grant to the Minnesota Department of Education -- Grow Your Own grant pathway for secondary students

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to submit a grant application to the Minnesota Department of Education to increase participation and persistence in the high school Education Career Pathways; to accept funds, if awarded; and to implement the project as specified in the award documents.

**BF 32562** Request for Permission to Submit a Grant to the Minnesota Professional Educator Licensing and Standards Board

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to submit a grant application to the Minnesota PELSB for funds to support the Mentor-Mentee program and to provide support to Tier 2 licensed teachers to pass required exams for Tier 3 licensure; to accept funds, if awarded; and to implement the project as specified in the award documents.

C. Contracts

**BF 32563** Request to Sign Memorandum of Agreement with Minneapolis College

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to sign the Concurrent Enrollment Memorandum of Agreement between Saint Paul Public Schools and Minneapolis College for FY22.

**BF 32564** Phase Gate Approval of FY22 Fire Safety System Program (Project # 0652-22-01): Gate #4 – Contract Award; Gate #4A – Finance Plan Update

That the Board of Education authorize award of FY22 Fire Safety Systems Program (project # 0652-22-01) to Egan Company for the lump sum base bid for \$279,741 at Phase Gate Check #4 – Contract Award and Phase Gate Check #4a – Finance Plan Update.

**BF 32565** Phase Gate Approval of FY22 Fire Safety System Program (Project # 0652-22-01): Gate #4 – Contract Award; Gate #4A – Finance Plan Update

That the Board of Education authorize award of FY22 Fire Safety Systems Program (project # 0652-22-01) to Egan Company for the lump sum base bid for \$189,720 at Phase Gate Check #4 – Contract Award and Phase Gate Check #4a – Finance Plan Update.

**BF 32566** Phase Gate Approval of FY22 Window Replacement Program (Project # 0201-22-01): Gate #4 - Contract Award; Gate #4A – Finance Plan Update

That the Board of Education authorize award of FY22 Fire Safety Systems Program (project # 0652-22-01) to Egan Company for the lump sum base bid for \$240,729 at Phase Gate Check #4 – Contract Award and Phase Gate Check #4a – Finance Plan Update.

**BF 32567** Phase Gate Approval of FY22 Window Replacement Program (Project # 0201-22-01): Gate #4 - Contract Award; Gate #4A – Finance Plan Update

That the Board of Education approve the award of Bid No. A22-1687-A FY22 Window Replacement Program at Riverview Elementary (Project #s 0201-22-01) to Huot Construction and Services, Inc. for a lump sum base bid of \$1,373,666.30.

**BF 32568** RFP A21-1516-A – Trash, Recycling, and Organics Hauler Services

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to award of Request for Proposal No. A21-1516-A contract for district-wide trash, recycling, and organics hauler services for a three year period beginning February 1, 2022 to the best value proposer Republic Services for an estimated annual cost of \$1,100,000.

#### D. Agreements

**BF 32569** Approval of Memorandum of Agreement Between Independent School District No. 625, Saint Paul Public Schools and Saint Paul Federation of Educators representing Teachers, Educational Assistants and School and Community Service Professionals.

That the Board of Education of Independent School District No. 625 approve and adopt the agreement concerning the terms and conditions of employment for teachers, educational assistants and school and community service professionals in this school district for whom the Saint Paul Federation of Educators is

the exclusive representative; duration of said agreement is for the period of November 17, 2021 through July 1, 2022.

**BF 32570** Memorandum of Understanding between TriDistrict CAPS and Saint Paul Public Schools

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to sign the Memorandum of Understanding between Saint Paul Public Schools and TriDistrict CAPS for the 2021-22 school year.

**BF 32571** Request to Sign Concurrent Enrollment Joint Powers Agreement with Century College

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to sign the Concurrent Enrollment Joint Powers Agreement between Saint Paul Public Schools and Century College for FY22.

**BF 32572** Approval of Employment Agreement Between Independent School District No. 625, Saint Paul Public Schools, and District Lodge No. 77 International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers AFL-CIO, Exclusive Representative for Machinists

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 machinist employees in this school district for whom District Lodge No. 77 International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers AFL-CIO, is the exclusive representative; duration of said Agreement is for the period of July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2023.

**BF 32573** Request to Sign Concurrent Enrollment Joint Powers Agreement with Fond du Lac Tribal and Community College.

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to sign the Concurrent Enrollment Joint Powers Agreement between Saint Paul Public Schools and Fond du Lac Tribal and Community College for FY22.

E. Administrative Items

**BF 32574** Monthly Operating Authority

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 April 30, 2022

**BF 32575** Request Permission to Purchase COVID-19 Test Kits from Vault Health

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (or designee) to purchase COVID-19 Test Kits from Vault Health at a value not to exceed \$1,400,000.00.

**BF 32576** Recommendations for Exclusion of Students in NonCompliance with Minnesota Statute 121A.15 Health Standards: Immunizations

That the Board of Education excludes the named students from school effective November 24, 2021, should they not comply with Minnesota State Health Standards for Immunizations on or before this date.

Crossroads students would be excluded from school effective November 30, 2021.

Chair Foster then gave the floor to Vice Chair Vue who requested item C-7 be pulled from the Consent Agenda. Vice Chair Vue explained that as a director of St. Paul Youth Services, it was necessary to recuse himself from voting on this particular Consent Agenda item.

**MOTION: Director Foster moved that the Board of Education approve C-7 - Request for Permission to Contract with St. Paul Youth Services for Behavior Specialist Program Support SY 2021-22. The motion was seconded by Director Carrillo.**

The motion was approved by roll call vote:

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

Motion passes with a 6-0, and one abstention.

**BF 32577** C-7 - Request for Permission to Contract with St. Paul Youth Services for Behavior Specialist Program Support SY 2021-22

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to contract with the Saint Paul Youth Services (SPYS) for Specialist support at two sites for SY2021-22, and to implement the services as specified in the contract.

## **X. OLD BUSINESS**

Director Foster welcomed the 2nd Reading of Updates to Policy 510.00 Graduation, and turned the floor over to Superintendent Gothard.

Superintendent Gothard noted this 2nd Reading of this graduation policy change that would be led by Darren Ginther, Director of College and Career Readiness.

Director Ginther: We are here to talk about updating our graduation policy to add 'critical ethnic studies' to our graduation policy. Adding a bullet point to existing SPPS and state requirements. The third and final reading would be next month.

Director Brodrick: Thank you, Director Ginther. I've sent two emails since the first reading. In the emails, I registered concern about publicizing this reading process. What have we done, since this is a monumental decision to add a graduation requirement that's important to kids, staff and others? What has been done to publicize this?

Director Ginther: Our school counselors, principals have all been made aware. I'd like to move back to 2018 and 2019 when we had SEAB on the Board and over 3,000 students responded to the survey and who wrote and commented on the project to make this happen. We also held some virtual meetings to

talk about what this would mean. Families would then be a next step -- what it means and what this course is about and what it means for graduation requirements.

Director Brodrick: The importance of this change was made clear during that wonderful presentation during the last meeting and I'd like to emphasize how much I'm in favor of this critical ethnic studies course. This single course does not satisfy our overall requirement of promoting multicultural learning that this district has stood for for decades. Have you talked with human geography teachers about accommodating this course and not causing collateral damage to the year-long human geography class? Human geography is one of the most popular undergraduate degrees at colleges. I'm wondering whether you've talked with counselors and teachers to allow this required course to be taken over 10th, 11th or 12th grade so it would not impact the human geography course. Many times we are forced to work zero-sum. If we took a little time and effort to work with those who work on schedules for social studies, it would be helpful. This was my own job, too. My understanding is that the critical ethnic studies course will fall under a separate department.

Director Ginther: Yes, that's correct. Passage will allow the district to recruit more broadly for instructors too.

**Director Brodrick:**

Director Ginther: OTL (Office of Teaching and Learning) staff have been collaborating with others and rolling out the pilot. How do we keep that open and ensure someone with the best lived experiences could come teach in our classrooms.

Director Brodrick: I've spoken with some social studies teachers who may not be aware of this policy review process. I am encouraging you to have communication with social studies teachers. This is a potential for a win-win for the district, but I would say many times we have win-lose or lose-lose situations. But this can be a win-win if we protect the human geography course as a full-year course. If this course -- critical ethnic studies -- would be taken in 10th, 11th or 12th year. I'd like to hear a bit more about that at the third reading. I think the presentation that was made at the first reading was absolutely fantastic and what it will mean for our students at SPPS, and it countered misinformation floating around this country and its relation to critical race theory. The more transparent we are and the more open we can say what and why we are doing this in SPPS, which is so diverse, the better! It would be ridiculous not to have this course. I just want to make sure we are complementing people in our buildings -- science, social studies, etc. I just don't want this to be the best kept secret since Pearl Harbor. Director Gothard, you were a culturally proficient science teacher, could you please respond, and Director Ginther.

Director Ginther: I'm processing that. Accommodations happen for a number of students, but in the end its a graduation requirement so we make sure it happens. We are not keeping this under wraps; we're going through the policy reading process and will do more outreach in 2022 regarding why it's valuable, which students it impacts. I do think counselors will support students to take the courses that fit their plans and interests.

Director Brodrick: I made those comments because I feel perfectly comfortable with Director Ginther and I knew you would provide the perfect response. It's so important to me; we never want to lose the ability to allow ancient school board members to allow first- or second-year school teachers to speak to their supervisors and the people that they work for. That's one of the reasons that I spoke the way I did. As

Director Carrillo said about Covid, we are all in this together. Thank you, Director Ginther. I'll be happy to see critical ethnic studies as a big part of SPPS.

Superintendent Gothard: I'll share in response your comment that I was a culturally proficient science teacher; I was not. At that time, it was hard to come by that type of material. Today, I'd be collaborating with many people as a teacher at SPPS to teach culturally responsive science. We have to get this done for our kids. Critical ethnic studies is not the one place to get this content. We need to get that into schools from the very first time they step in schools.

Director Foster: Thank you, Director Ginther.

## **XI. NEW BUSINESS**

Director Foster noted there was no new business.

## **XII. BOARD OF EDUCATION**

Chair Foster requested Board Directors contribute information and agenda items for future meetings.

- Director Allen requested an update on the Ramsey name change.
- Director Kopp asked for a date when the mask mandate would be reviewed.
- Chief Baker: Mask resolution -- Before Nov 13, next date - before Jan 31.
- Director Ellis requested for an update from career and college pathways as the district prepares for spring, after a difficult couple of years for students. For example, how are we talking about career paths for our students (e.g., solar energy opportunities and even newer career trajectories)? "What does the workforce look like and how are we having conversations with students about it?"
- Director Kevin Burns, Communications: Sat Nov 23 at RiverCentre. Time to be determined. Typically mid-to-late morning. Prepare for a very full day in S. tPaul. Will be printing school selection guide. All information fully translated and available on our website. In person School Choice Fair on the 23rd.
- Director Allen added to Director Ellis's Career Pathways point and said she'd met a student who knew nothing about HBCUs. She then asked that the district please have more resources about HBCUs in the heart of Central High School. Director Allen noted that Central only had four HBCU flags to point to as HBCU resources when we need on-going conversations with African American Students to support them.
- Director Foster added regarding College and Career Pathways the need to more know about partnerships with trades folks, internships, on the job training. "What we can continue and what other partnerships could we have?" She expressed hope for greater creativity in this work.
- Superintendent Gothard noted he was sure Director Ginther was smiling about the creativity of the career pathways team. He said this request was perfectly timed and he asked Director Ginther to get ready.
- Director Vue then requested an update on the transportation partnership with Metro Transit that went beyond 'we're doing fine'. He said he was seeking metrics and details about things like route timings, locations, how feasible it is going forward given ongoing labor shortages.

Chair Foster then opened up the floor to Board Directors reports and communications.

- Director Ellis provided comments regarding her attendance of the Humboldt soccer match at US Bank Stadium and Highland Volleyball's state tournament game at Excel. She also expressed gratitude for the may Board and administrator colleagues who joined the ceremony for Chair Marny Xiong, which exemplified Marny's equity, social justice values with her loved ones. She noted how much she misses Marny and that she thinks of her every day and every time I come to this building.
- Director Kopp began her comments focused on the time she has dedicated in the past month to studying and understanding Envision SPPS recommendations. She expressed gratitude to district administrators and thanked educators who met with her during site visits. She told of their love and pride in their schools that is brilliant and beautiful. Director Kopp also thanked the community for the opportunity to learn from so many community members, and how valuable it had been to hear their hurt, pain and hope too. She noted she knows how hard it is to be in a non-sustainable school and how it does not end December 1st. She concluded by saying: "From the bottom of my heart I'm grateful for all I've learned through a difficult time."
- Director Carrillo mentioned that he thought this was his last official board of education meeting and thus wanted to thank each Board member for welcoming him on the board, sharing information and for taking time out of your busy days and schedules. He thanked everyone for their support and for demonstrating the democratic value of transparency. Director Carrillo mentioned how some times had been hard, some times really good, and some times had been contentious. He expressed thanks for each Board member and to all who have come and presented; he appreciated speakers concerns and questions. While noting his tenure was short, he hoped he honored his seat well enough. In conclusion, most importantly as a citizen, he said he would always be a concerned citizen and giving Board members calls to let them know they're doing great.
- Director Foster noted it had been an honor and a privilege to work with Director Carrillo, a Board member who not only listened, but was open and compassionate. She expressed thanks for that. This service, involving tons of decisions for an entire community, is not easy. She noted Director Carrillo had stayed engaged through this entire process. Thank you for sitting through this entire process. There is a toll to this work. It is done in gratitude. But the reality of it is how it impacts you personally and your family. Many people believe the Board should be a fulltime job, a notion with which she expressed full agreement. It's an investment in this community. She thanked Director Carrillo for his time and for his family.
- Director Vue stated Director Carrillo had gone above and beyond what would be expected of an interim board member. He said Director Carrillo had pushed the Board to be better, pushed the schools to be better.
- Superintendent Gothard thanked Director Carrillo for his service, noting he had absolutely served with great honor and in a way that represents the best of this work. He hoped that Director Carrillo would continue to engage with the District and Board as a parent and citizen, and never be a stranger.
- Director Foster then thanked everyone in this community for the phone calls, texts, and flowers. She mentioned that she sat and watched most meetings, but that was a different experience online versus in person. She said she truly believed that the vaccination saved her life. She said she thought she was going to die. Director Foster noted that as she was down there in the hospital, she thought of Marny. She concluded by saying she would fulfill her duties as chair and that she would be listening more than talking, and thanked each and every one: "You are some phenomenal rock star people. Thank you."

### **XIII. FUTURE MEETING SCHEDULE**

Chair Foster provided reminders of upcoming meetings, including:

- Public Hearing on Envision SPPS on Tuesday, November 30th, beginning at 5:30 pm.
- Special Envision SPPS Meeting on Wednesday, December 1, 2021 at 6:05 pm.
- Committee of the Board meeting on Tuesday, December 7, 2021 beginning at 4:30pm.
- Regular Meeting of the Board of Education on Tuesday, December 14, 2021 beginning at 6:05 pm, with public comment to begin at 5:30pm.

Chair Foster then invited members of the community to view the BOE website for updates, to be added to the mailing list of public notices, or to submit Public Comment for the Public Hearing and Regular Meetings of the Board of Education through:

- Leaving messages with the Board Secretary at [sarah.dahlke@spps.org](mailto:sarah.dahlke@spps.org) or 612-434-1105 that will be compiled and distributed to Board members; and/or
- Sending email statements to the Board of Education email ([SB.Members@spps.org](mailto:SB.Members@spps.org))
- Submitting comments online via Public Comment input form at [www.spps.org/boe](http://www.spps.org/boe).
- Attending live public comment prior to the Regular Meeting on December 14, 2021.

Future board meetings and audio stream links for open board meetings can be found online at the Board website: [www.spps.org/boe](http://www.spps.org/boe) or by calling our Board Secretary at 612-434-1105.

#### **XIV. ADJOURNMENT**

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

The motion was approved by roll call vote:

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

Motion passes with a 7-0 vote.

The meeting adjourned at 7:46 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

