# INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 625 Saint Paul, Minnesota

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

Telephonic Phone and Video Conference
Available Streaming Online at <a href="https://www.spps.org/boe">www.spps.org/boe</a> and Saint Paul Cable Channel 16

March 23, 2021 6:05 p.m.

# **MINUTES**

### I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:06 p.m. by Jeanelle Foster, Chair.

### II. ROLL CALL

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

Staff: Superintendent Gothard; Chuck Long, General Counsel; Cedrick Baker,

Chief of Staff; Dave Watkins, Chief of Schools; Jackie Turner, Chief Operations Officer; Kate Wilcox-Harris, Chief Academic Officer; Kenyatta McCarty, Executive Director of Human Resources; Kevin Burns, Director of Communications; Kaying Thao, Administrator to the Board; Kalid Ali,

SEAB Member; Sarah Dahlke, Secretary to the Board

Chair Foster then requested a moment to honor our beloved former Board Chair, Marny Xiong.

Today would have been her 32nd birthday, and we miss her every single day. This afternoon, former Chair Xiong's mother and sister visited the Board Conference room, delivered flowers, and paid homage to her in the space where she thrived and led with great joy and considerable skill.

Last April, Chair Xiong championed a resolution - Condemning Xenophobic, Racist, And All Anti-Asian Attacks Elevated By COVID-19. She knew it was important for this board to make a statement as the harassment, discrimination, and violence against Asian Americans increased at the beginning of the coronavirus pandemic .

The recent killings in Atlanta have again pushed the issue of anti-Asian racism to the forefront of the national conversation, and for many in our Asian American and Pacific Islander community, they exacerbated feelings of deep grief and fear. Today, as we remember and celebrate Chair Xiong, we reaffirm our commitment to serving and supporting our AAPI students and community.

We are a board that is changed and changing, yet still shaped and compelled by the values and commitments Chair Xiong carried with great love and determination. May she forever remain in our hearts and in our work.

There was then a moment of silence in honor of our former Board Chair, Marny Xiong.

Board members then reflected on their memories, remembrance, and stories of Chair Xiong.

### II. APPROVAL OF THE ORDER OF THE MAIN AGENDAR

MOTION: Director Foster moved approval of the Order of the Main Agenda. The motion was seconded by Director Vue.

The motion was approved by roll call vote:

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

### III. RECOGNITIONS

BF 32345 Acknowledgement of Good Work Provided by Outstanding District Employees

Five SPPS schools and their 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 2021 RAMP recipients are: Battle Creek Elementary, Counselor, **Emily Colton**, Principal, **Lee Thao**; Bruce Vento Elementary, Counselor, **Katy Steinbach**, Principal, **Laura Saatzer**; Eastern Heights Elementary, Counselor, **Julia Mullan**, Principal, **Howard Wilson**; John A. Johnson Elementary, Counselor, **Becky Luetje**, Principal, **Elizabeth Cherek**; Randolph Heights Elementary, Counselor, **Lauren Smith** and Principal, **Tim Williams**.

Battle Creek Elementary and Randolph Heights Elementary have been designated as RAMP Schools of Distinction which means that they have received exemplary scores on their applications.

SPPS now has nine RAMP schools. The five 2021 RAMP schools listed above schools join these previously designated SPPS RAMP schools: Adams Spanish Immersion, Capitol Hill Gifted & Talented Magnet, Saint Paul Music Academy and Washington Technology Magnet. SPPS has more RAMP designated schools than any other district in the state.

### **BF 32346** Acknowledgement of Good Work by Students

**Lay Lay**, a senior at Humboldt High School and **Riley Eddins**, a senior at Central Senior High School, are finalists for the 2021 Minnesota State High School League (MSHSL) Triple 'A' Award.

The Triple 'A' award recognizes and rewards high school seniors from across the state for their achievements in the classroom, the arts and athletics. To qualify for the award, students must have a "B" or better grade point average and participate in League-sponsored athletic and fine arts activities.

Lay Lay from Humboldt played tennis, cross-country and badminton. She has a 4.67 weighted grade point average and will have her associates degree prior to graduating this June. She was selected for the District All-Honors choir and a member of the Tri-M Honors Society. She is also the Lieutenant Colonel in JROTC and is the Special Projects Officer responsible for organizing the Military Ball.

Riley Eddins has been involved in IB, AP and Quest classes at Central and has a 4.49 weighted / 3.82 unweighted GPA. He participates in the school orchestra, choir, band, and chamber ensemble, as well as school musicals. Riley also plays on the tennis team.

The League will be recognizing all Triple 'A' Finalists at a virtual event where the winners of the state award will be announced. Award finalists and winners will be recognized virtually during the televised Boys and Girls Basketball Championship Games on April 9-10 on KSTC-45.

# BF 32347 Acknowledgement of Good Work Provided by District Partners

A very special thanks is in order to **John Wilgers**, President & CEO of the Greater Twin Cities United Way, for facilitating a generous donation of 235,500 masks from America's Mask Challenge led by United Way Worldwide.

The America's Mask Challenge is a partnership with national companies and organizations to help get 200 million cloth masks to students, teachers and school staff at schools across the country. SPPS Facilities department has already started delivering the masks to our sites.

Chair Foster also noted that Superintendent Dr. Joe Gothard has been named a Regional Administrator of Excellence by the Minnesota Association of School Administrators (MASA). The recognition took place during the MASA Spring Conference, held virtually March 11-12. This award honors an administrator annually from each of the nine MASA regions. Dr. Gothard is just the second SPPS Superintendent to receive this honor in the 36-year history of the Administrator of Excellence. SPPS Superintendent Curman Gaines received the recognition in 1996.

In addition, Dr. Gothard has been named to a two-year term on the Executive Committee of the Council of Great City Schools (GCGS). The Council is made up of leaders from the 76 largest urban public school districts in the United States. That appointment will begin on July 1 of this year. Chair Foster has the privilege of serving with Dr. Gothard on the Council's Board of Directors representing SPPS.

On behalf of the entire Board of Education, I want to congratulate Dr. Gothard for these recognitions and thank him for his tireless efforts on behalf of our students, staff and community.

### IV. APPROVAL OF THE ORDER OF THE CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION: Director Foster moved approval of the Order of the Consent Agenda with items E3 - Phase Gate Approval of Bridgeview Roof Replacement Project: Gate #3 - Project Budget; Gate #3A - Finance Plan Update; E4 - Phase Gate Approval of Frost Lake Elementary Addition and Renovation - Playground: Gate #4 - Contract Award; Gate #4A - Finance Plan Update; E9 - Pre-

Qualification of Professional Consultant Construction Managers as Advisor; F1 - Phase Gate Approval of E-STEM Chiller Replacement: Gate #4 – Contract Award; Gate #4A – Finance Plan Update pulled for separate consideration. The motion was seconded by Director Ellis.

The motion was approved by roll call vote:

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

### V. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

- A. Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of February 23, 2021
- B. Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Board of Education of March 1, 2021
- C. Minutes of the Special (Closed) Meeting of the Board of Education of March 15, 2021
- D. Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Board of Education of March 16, 2021
- E. Minutes of the Special (Closed) Meeting of the Board of Education of March 22, 2021

MOTION: Director Foster moved approval of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of February 23, 2021; Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Board of Education of March 1, 2021; Minutes of the Special (Closed) Meeting of the Board of Education of March 15, 2021; Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Board of Education of March 16, 2021; and the Minutes of the Special (Closed) Meeting of the Board of Education of March 22, 2021. The motion was seconded by Director Vue.

The motion was approved by roll call vote:

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

# VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS

### A. Minutes of the Committee of the Board Meeting of March 9, 2021

At the Committee of the Board Meeting on March 9th, Superintendent Gothard welcomed everyone to the meeting, and then provided a brief narrative and recap on the timeline for return to in-person and on-site supports, the Safe Learning Plan, and the relation of Ramsey County case rates to the decisions and actions of SPPS. An update was also provided on the plan to begin in-person learning for all 6-12 grade students who want it starting Wednesday, April 14. Questions and discussion from the board included information requests on outreach efforts to staff on vaccine information, possibility of sharing slide deck information for schools on the District site, the choice of Virtual Learning School or in-person, movement in secondary sites, learnings from secondary supports to use within full in-person, and the MDE-allowed non-instructional days of April 12th and 13th.

The next presentation was Part 2 of the Five Year Facilities Plan for Fiscal Years 2022-2026. This presentation sparked robust dialogue with board members, and included further clarification on the gate check process; increased transparency, knowledge, and awareness; personal experiences within facilities master plans of the past and how to address both the large-scale projects and small-scale projects; and the SPPS Builds plan for the future. Part 2 of the discussion focused on the estimated project costs each year; the capital funding structure; encouraged transparency; the balance of large-scale projects and impacts to smaller-scale projects; importance for stakeholder input in priorities for the plan; information on the continued collaboration of Facilities and Finance; flexibility of the projects should learning models change and evolve; and alignment of SPPS Builds and Envision SPPS. Part 3 of the discussion focused on dialogue between board members on their levels of comfort in acting on the plan and gate checks at the Regular Meeting of March 23, 2021, as well as opportunities for further information for board members prior to the meeting.

The next presentation was the Quarterly Financial Report for the Period Ending December 31, 2020. Questions centered on the different rounds of CARES funding. The Board approved the recommended motion to accept the Financial Projection report for the period ending December 31, 2020.

The next presentation was the Fiscal Year 2020-21 First Budget Revision. Further clarification was requested on future revisions after rounds 2 and 3 of the CARES funding are accepted. The Board approved the recommended motion to approve Fiscal Year 2020-21 first budget revision as presented.

A full video of the Committee of the Board Meeting can be found at www.spps.org/boe.

MOTION: Director Vue moved that the Board accept the report on the March 9, 2021 Committee of the Board meeting and approve the recommended motions and minutes of that meeting as published. Director Ellis seconded the motion.

The motion was approved by roll call vote:

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

# VII. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

# A. Official Notice of Ramsey Middle School Interest in School Name Change

Superintendent Gothard then informed board members that he has received official notice of the name change request for Ramsey Middle School. Chief of Staff, Cedrick Baker, provided an update and brief overview of the process. Based on the process, there is an overall approval, and Ramsey Middle School will start to move forward to engage with the school community, including outreach and engagement, and connecting on the name change process and suggestions. This process will occur over a few months. During next month's board meetings, Ramsey staff and students will be presenting to highlight the rationale for the changes. The process will span over 2 board meetings, and the Board will ultimately vote on the name change process. In conversations with the principal, we all want to ensure they are following policies and procedures, and are excited for this process.

### QUESTIONS/DISCUSSION:

- Director Allen noted that she knows the school community is excited about this, and is something that was brought up when she worked there and tried to have conversations to educate students about Ramsey and how they felt. It has been a long process, and is glad to hear it has started, and the student council had been working on it with the student body, who may be in high school now. Looks forward to hearing from the committee and students.
- Director Kopp appreciates the process, and knows it is rooted in community conversations, and with alumni to find a name that reflects the values and future, and is excited to see where it goes next.
- Director Ellis noted questions on the timeline, and the process if it needs to be paused over the summer. Response: Within the policy and procedures, there is timeline guidance of 3-4 months. Right now, the committee is determining ways of engagement and to ensure the process is followed correctly, and connecting with Facilities and the Business Office. They feel confident in meeting the requirements and intent of the procedures and policy. The timeline allows for concerns or issues to be addressed. In terms of pausing over the summer, that may happen, and the school is planning for all scenarios with more details to come next month to the Board.
  - She noted the momentum for a topic, and it builds up, and then it stops over the summer, and the build up of it again, and extending the process which has already taken time, and encouraged staff to be mindful of that. It will be important for students involved in this process to see it to completion, and be thoughtful around the timeline for students to do outreach.
- Director Vue noted he is excited about the process and looks forward to the future agenda items.
- SEAB Member Ali is excited to see it move forward.
- Director Foster is looking forward to this process as we continue to learn from each occasion and the impacts on our community.
- Superintendent Gothard thanked Principal Vibar and the committee at Ramsey for working so closely
  with staff in the District, and it is a very coordinated effort.

MOTION: Director Foster moved approval of the process moving forward of the school name change of Ramsey Middle School as is provided by District policy and procedure. The motion was seconded by Director Allen.

The motion was approved by roll call vote:

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

B. SPPS Builds: Five-Year Facilities Plan: FY2022-2026 Part 3

Superintendent Gothard then introduced Staff to present on SPPS Builds: Five Year Facilities Plan for FY2022-2026 Part 3, and included additional details on the dashboard now available online.

The purpose was reviewed, including the presentation of SPPS Builds, and the FY22-26 five-year implementation plan for improvements of SPPS facilities, including background, priorities, and funding structure. The agenda included the summary, illustration of components in a project, and context and framework, including dashboard; financing, and resolution approving SPPS Builds and Gate Check 1/1A for most projects, and Gate Check 2/2a for Ramsey/Jie Ming. A review of future meetings and agenda items was also reviewed.

### SPPS Builds Five-Year Plan

A visual showing the coordination of plans and Board approval and funding framework was shown. Within SPPS Builds, there are 6 major renovation projects, 5 major infrastructure projects, targeted capital improvements, and asset/infrastructure preservation programs, for approximately \$105M per year, on average. A brief review of smaller projects was also provided, including deferred maintenance and targeted capital for 280 projects at 64 sites, for \$130M over five years. A review of major renovation projects, including Jie Ming Phase 2, Ramsey Middle School, Highland MS and HS Kitchen/Cafeteria, a placeholder for Envision SPPS projects, a strategic hold for Cherokee Heights Elementary and Obama Elementary, and Farnsworth Lower - spanning from 2021 to 2026. Other major renovations infrastructure projects include Johnson HS HVAC, Bridgeview roofing, auditorium curtains, lights, and sound, Farnsworth Upper HVAC, Wellstone HVAC and Plumbing, and The Heights Elementary HVAC.

A review of the components in a major renovation/addition were also presented, with Ramsey Middle School as an example. A construction cost breakdown by system chart was presented. Community engagement in the process was also shared.

### Context and Framework: The Dashboard

Details on the SPPS Builds status, background and framework were provided, including project and financial status. The dashboard can be found at <a href="https://www.spps.org/builds">https://www.spps.org/builds</a>. Criteria metrics and definitions are also included within the dashboard, as well as an interactive map of projects and criteria metrics on the interactive map, criteria descriptions, and major projects information.

# **Financing**

The capital funding structure and projected levels were reviewed, as well as the capital financing source restrictions of Long-Term Facilities Maintenance (LTFM) Bonds or PayGo Levy, Certificates of Participation, and Capital Bonds. Financing requirement details were also presented. Financing options for FY 21-22 were shared, including Option 1 - Partial Financing of Jie Ming, Ramsey, and Current Projects, or Option 2 - Financing Ramsey and current projects, and delaying Jie Ming until a January 2022 COP issue. The difference is within the Certificates of Participation and LTFM Bonds, but with the same \$91.1M budget.

#### **Next Steps**

The next steps were then reviewed, including the action on the SPPS Builds resolution, Gate Check 2/2A for Ramsey Middle School and Jie Ming. Future meetings will include specific project approvals for financing, and needed for COP projects and LTFM Bond projects, as well as LTFM application revision approvals.

Attachment included the Five-Year Facilities Maintenance and Capital Plan for FY2022-26.

### **QUESTIONS/DISCUSSION - PART 1:**

- Director Allen thanked the team for the presentation.
- Director Kopp appreciated the community engagement information.
- She also requested information and opportunities for folks who are not a part of the 11 work groups, and how that will be reported back. How can community members be involved and engaged?
   Response: There will be an opportunity on the website for interactive opportunities for input, and the website will become more robust, and will begin to see and finalize reports from the workgroups.

- Director Kopp appreciated the YouTube video that shared information the plan and dashboard, and appreciated the ease of use for community members, as well as alignment with district goals, and userfriendly layout with the maps, icons, and definitions. It feels very accessible.
- Director Foster appreciated the information around community engagement, and thanked the team for the thoughtfulness, and appreciation of the hard work and effort.
- It was noted the website and dashboard will be live effective tonight.

# **QUESTIONS/DISCUSSION - PART 2 - FINANCE:**

- Director Allen noted that the schools are the pillars of the community, and as we move forward, encouraged staff to look at energy efficiency for school buildings, and thinking of environmental justice, and activism for the health and wellness of our students.
- Director Kopp thanked staff for the presentation.
- Director Ellis requested further information on the Long-Term Facilities Maintenance funds, Certificates of Participation, and Capital Bonds. Response: Chief Schrul provided more details on each. LTFM bonds, Certificates of Participation, and Capital Bonds are all debt that are issues and have a long-term debt structure that is put on the long-term obligations of the district. It is like financing a mortgage over time. LTFM pay-as-you-go levy is the levy that is annually levied, and have cash in hand to finance. That does impose a higher rate of annual tax on the whole property tax levy. It is a balancing act in financing with some long-term debt and some pay-as-you-go. Any time we have the opportunity to refinance debt with Baker Tilly, we have been able to save and keep the debt of long-term obligations down when refinancing bonds. Over the past 5 years, we have saved taxpayers \$12.1M in refinancing.
- Further clarification was also requested on the \$105M including timeline or impacts. Response: The \$105M is the average over the 5-year plan, and some years it could be higher or less. We are projecting \$91.1M in the first year. The role of the fund balance was also noted. We are also monitoring the cash flow and cash budgets, and when Gate Check 3a is presented, that is when financing begins to take course with the completed budget to seek the financial structure for the whole life of the project. It's important to have checks and balances. With Envision SPPS, there may be changes that require the full \$105M, but that is the average of where we are setting those levels.
  - Director Ellis further notes that it is her desire as a board member to try to keep projects under \$105M for as many years as possible, and to be cautious when approaching the \$100M mark each year.
  - She noted that maintenance and operations is important, there are things we want to have versus what does indeed need to be done. We can't have all the "bells and whistles" for every building.
     We won't apologize for for the work being done for our buildings, but am worried about the financial impact on the District over the long-term
- Director Brodrick noted that the relationship between Finance and Facilities in SPPS Builds is of the utmost importance, and brought up strongly by the external review team, as reported in October 2019.
- He directed questions to the Superintendent on the types of things he has done to try to make this coordination and collaboration between Facilities and Finance to be better and more responsive to the suggestions provided in October 2019. Response: The expectation of regularly scheduled meetings, and having a structure to SPPS Builds to provide a process by which they can bring their work. In looking at the website, it is not done in isolation. The leadership in each department does model for each other the expectations for a better understanding for each department. He does meet with Chief Schrul and Chief Turner weekly to bring challenges and milestones, and work to problem solve and bring recommendations, including small groups to achieve this work together.
  - Director Brodrick requested further information on the personal actions of the Superintendent in working with staff, including mentorship style, and work to promote the collaboration that is so vital to the work of SPPS. Superintendent Gothard noted collaboration, communication, and coordination. He noted his senior leaders bring forth information to him individually or in team

- meetings. He noted the expertise of staff, and professionals to balance and provide real measures to move forward.
- Director Brodrick requested further information on the relationships between the Superintendent and School Board, and the intent to learn more about the response to the crisis in 2018 when an outside, external committee was called to audit the process. He is interested in the inner workings of the District.
- Director Vue noted a recommendation to include measurements of outcomes of projects and products, including achievement, criteria of learning, teacher satisfaction, morals, feedback of folks in the building, or enrollment. It would be helpful to have that criteria presented as we go forward, and to be part of future presentation as we move deeper into projects including large-scale projects or small-scale projects and criteria and outcomes. Superintendent Gothard reiterated that some smaller projects are also as meaningful, and will look to differentiate criteria for large-scale and small-scale that address specific needs.
- Superintendent Gothard thanked everyone, and noted this is the culmination of many presentation, and the external review team for their recommendations, and the District is implementing some and some are still in process at the same time, the work is still happening. He noted this will demonstrate to the community the plan, and way to prioritize that, and noted the dashboard as use of technology to use the information and share it with the community. These projects are big in terms of cost, and are significant to the community, and the amount of community engagement is vast. He noted the plan over the span of the upcoming years, and is a comprehensive long-range plan for the school district that aligns Envision SPPS, SPPS Builds, and SPPS Achieves so we are all operating to the same plan.
- It was noted that projects are intentional and strategic with sustainability and efficient in alignment with industry standards. Many of the small projects, and roofing projects, including lighting, boilers, etc., also are intentional about energy efficiency and sustainability, including SPFE.

### **QUESTIONS/DISCUSSION - FOLLOW UP:**

- Director Allen requested further clarification on the parking lot details at Ramsey Middle School. The historic overlay along Summit Avenue, Macalester, neighbor init, and concerns of green space will impact the decision.
- Director Kopp noted she is excited to vote for the resolution to see the projects move forward, and alignment of district plans is important, and is wonderful to bring community along in this process.
   School are a second home, and these projects matter to bring local and immediate interest to our school buildings.
- Director Brodrick provided a historical context to this process, including that he was the only member on the Board in December 2015 when the 5-year facilities and capital implementation plan was set in motion to meet the strategic facilities needs for the District. He noted the four new board members in 2016 and the significant changes to the Board membership since then, the interim superintendent, and the placement of the new superintendent in 2017. He noted reading the hundreds of pages of summaries from the Facilities team in the past few weeks, including a recent email from the SUperintendent that addresses questions posed from the past meetings. He noted those documents lacked the specificity he was seeking, and did not answer his questions, as well as document that noted the recommendations of the external team that were labeled as "in progress" or "under consideration." That is the language that has continuously confounded and frustrated him during presentations. In short, he is not convinced that the plan presented tonight will be a significant improvement over the plan that went awry, and this vote will be one of the saddest moment in his time on the Board, but feels he must vote no on this resolution.

### SPPS Builds: FY 2022 - 2026 Five-Year Facilities Maintenance and Capital Implementation Plan

- **WHEREAS**, Independent School District No. 625 (District) has approximately 7.5 million square feet of space spread among 73 buildings with the majority of those assets being more than 60 years old; and
- **WHEREAS**, the District's facilities represent a Current Replacement Value (CRV) of approximately \$2.7 billion in assets; and
- **WHEREAS**, numerous independent studies have shown a direct connection between student achievement and the quality of the learning environment, particularly in areas of indoor air quality, lighting, and acoustics; and
- **WHEREAS**, numerous independent studies have shown a connection between the condition of a school building and teacher satisfaction, morale, and retention; and
- **WHEREAS**, Independent School District No. 625 has access to facilities funding via Long Term Facilities Maintenance Revenue, Capital Bonds, and Installment Contract Authority through the State of Minnesota legislature;
- **WHEREAS**, on December 15, 2015, the Board of Education (BOE) established a Five-Year Facilities Maintenance and Capital Implementation Plan process to meet the strategic facility needs for the District; and
- **WHEREAS**, District administration has sought to build the capital program in alignment with the District's strategic plan SPPS Achieves, and acknowledges this connection by titling the capital program "SPPS Builds"; and
- **WHEREAS**, District administration proposes that the BOE approve the FY2022-2026 Five-Year Facilities Maintenance and Capital Implementation Plan, as reflected in Attachment A; and
- **WHEREAS**, the Board of Education understands that inclusion in the FY2022-2026 Five-Year Facilities Maintenance and Capital Implementation Plan, as reflected in Attachment A, is the requirement for a project at Gate Check 1 and this resolution the requirement for Gate Check 1A; and
- **WHEREAS**, the Board of Education will have continued input into the planning and budgeting process to implement specific projects in the FY2022-2026 Five-Year Facilities Maintenance and Capital Implementation Plan;
- **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of Independent School District No. 625 herewith:
  - a. Declares that the District's buildings and grounds should be positive contributors to the educational experience of all students and the communities the District serves, and that both the condition of the District's existing assets, as well as the continuous improvements needed to meet evolving academic needs, are critical components for the long-term stewardship of the District's facilities.

- b. Approves the prioritization of work as represented in the FY2022-2026 Five-Year Maintenance and Capital Implementation Plan, commensurate with Gate Check 1, subject to the Board of Education's continued approval via the established Gate Checks.
- c. Approves the financing strategy of work as represented in the FY2022-2026 Five-Year Maintenance and Capital Implementation Plan, commensurate with Gate Check 1A, subject to the Board of Education's continued approval via the established Gate Checks and potential future financing actions. That financing, as a reflection of the project schedules represented in Attachment A, is anticipated to cover approximate fiscal year expenses of \$105,000,000 on average over those fiscal years, subject to Board of Education budgetary approvals.

MOTION: Director Foster moved approval of the Resolution for SPPS Builds: FY 2022 – 2026 Five-Year Facilities Maintenance and Capital Implementation Plan. Director Vue and Director Allen seconded the motion.

The motion was approved by roll call vote:

Director Allen Yes
Director Kopp Yes
Director Ellis Yes
Director Foster Yes
Director Brodrick No
Director Vue Yes

Phase Gate Approval of Jie Ming Phase II Addition & Renovation Project (Project # 3090-21-01): Gate #2 – Project Charter; Gate #2A – Finance Plan Update

QUESTIONS/DISCUSSION: None

MOTION: Director Foster moved approval that the Board of Education approve the Jie Ming Phase II Addition & Renovation project (Project# 3090-21-01) at Phase Gate Check #2 – Project Charter; Gate Check #2a – Finance Plan Update. Director Ellis seconded the motion.

The motion was approved by roll call vote:

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

<u>BF 32350</u> Phase Gate Approval of Ramsey Middle School Addition & Renovation Project (Project # 3140-20-02): Gate #2 – Project Charter; Gate #2A – Finance Plan Update

MOTION: Director Foster moved approval that the Board of Education approve the Ramsey Middle School Addition & Renovation project (Project # 3140-20-02) at Phase Gate Check #2 – Project Charter; Gate Check #2a – Finance Plan Update. Director Ellis and Director Allen seconded the motion.

The motion was approved by roll call vote:

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

# B. <u>Human Resource Transactions</u>

MOTION: Director Foster moved approval of the HR Transactions for the period February 1 through February 28, 2021. Director Vue seconded the motion.

The motion was approved by roll call vote:

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

# VII. CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION: Director Foster moved approval of all items within the consent agenda withholding items E3 - Phase Gate Approval of Bridgeview Roof Replacement Project: Gate #3 – Project Budget; Gate #3A – Finance Plan Update; E4 - Phase Gate Approval of Frost Lake Elementary Addition and Renovation – Playground: Gate #4 – Contract Award; Gate #4A – Finance Plan Update; E9 - Pre-Qualification of Professional Consultant Construction Managers as Advisor; F1 - Phase Gate Approval of E-STEM Chiller Replacement: Gate #4 – Contract Award; Gate #4A – Finance Plan Update pulled for separate consideration. Director Kopp and Director Allen seconded the motion.

The motion was approved by roll call vote:

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

A. Gifts

# BF 32351 Acceptance of Gift from Como Elementary PTO

The Board of Education authorize the Superintendent to allow Como Park Elementary to accept this gift from Como Elementary PTO. This gift of \$5,550.13 will be deposited into the intraschool fund 19-431-291-000-5096-U001.

# B. Grants

# **BF 32352** Request for Permission to Submit a Grant Application to the Minnesota Department of Education to provide Alternative Delivery of Specialized Instructional Services (ADSIS)

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to submit an application to the Minnesota Department of Education for the funds to provide assistance to students who need additional academic or behavioral support; to accept funds, if awarded; and to implement the project as specified in the award documents.

# **BF 32353** Request for Permission to Submit a Grant to Outride

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to submit a grant to Outride for Riding for Focus program; to accept equipment, curriculum and training, if awarded; and to implement the project as specified in the award documents.

# **BF 32354** Request for Permission to submit a Grant to the Educational Credit Management Corporation (ECMC) Foundation

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to submit a grant to the Educational Credit Management Corporation (ECMC) Foundation for the funds for a school book festival, to accept funds, if awarded; and to implement the project as specified in the award documents.

### C. Contracts

# Bid No. A20-0538-A Apple Device Repair Services

That the Board of Education authorized the Superintendent (designee) to enter into a contract with GopherMods for the labor, material, equipment, and services to perform repairs for district staff, and student iPad devices for the 2021-2022 through 2024-2025 school years.

### D. Agreements

# BF 32356

Approval of Memorandum of Agreement Between Independent School District No. 625, Saint Paul Public Schools and Minnesota Teamsters Public and Law Enforcement Employees Union Local No. 320, Representing Bus Drivers, Nutrition Services Employees, and Teaching Assistants

That the Board of Education of Independent School District No. 625 approve and adopt the Agreement concerning the terms and conditions of employment for Minnesota Teamsters Public and Law Enforcement Employees Union Local No. 320, representing bus drivers, nutrition services employees and teaching assistants in this school district; duration of said Agreement is for the period of January 29, 2021 through June 30, 2021.

# **BF 32357** District Rooftop Lease (Cell Tower) at L'Etoile Du Nord Upper Campus

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent or Designee to execute the two (2) Lease Agreement between the District and New Cingular Wireless PCS, LLC for the term April 1, 2021 through March 31, 2031, with annual rent for the first year of Twenty Nine Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$29,500), subject to all other terms and conditions of said agreement.

# **BF 32358** Enter into Lease Agreement with Apple for iPads

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (or Designee) to enter into a Lease Agreement with Apple, Inc. for iPads, for a total not to exceed \$16,000,000 over the life of the lease.

BF 32359 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 March 24, 2021 through the end of the 2020-2021 school year.

**BF 32360** Request to Sign Memorandum of Agreement with Saint Paul College for Fundamentals of Writing 2 Course

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 FY21.

# E. Administrative Items

# **BF 32361** Monthly Operating Authority

1. That the Board of Education approve and ratify the following checks and wire transfers for the period January 1, 2021 – January 31, 2021.

(a) General Account	#733149-733807 #0003972-0004009 #7003962-7003979 #0005328-0005407	\$61,134,097.06
(b) Debt Service	-0-	\$65,794,103.85
(c) Construction	-0-	\$3,521,440.84
		\$130,449,641.75

Included in the above disbursements are two payrolls in the amount of \$39,723,183.50 and overtime of \$36,157.97 or 0.09% of payroll.

(d) Collateral Changes
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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 June 30, 2021.

BF 32362 SPPS Title I Funded Supplemental Literacy Support

The Board of Education will approve Title I funding to support this literacy activity.

BF 32363

IB Primary Years Programme (PYP) Reauthorization at Benjamin E. Mays IB World School

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to sign the Statement of Acceptance for the Primary Years Programme at Benjamin E. Mays IB World School.

BF 32364 Authorization to Create Taft Stettinius & Hollister Purchase Order

That the Board of Education authorize the creation of the purchase order associated with the Matter as proposed by staff.

BF 32365 iPad Shore-up for COVID-19 Related Demands

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (or Designee) to enter into a contract with Apple for the purchase of iPads in support of the long-term student outcome in SPPS Achieves and the goals of the Personalized Learning Through Technology referendum not to exceed \$380,000.

**BF 32366** Settlement of Construction Dispute

That the Board of Education approve the Mediated Settlement Agreement in the above referenced matter and authorize its Superintendent, or his designee, to execute the Mediated Settlement Agreement and Release.

- F. <u>Bids</u> pulled for separate consideration
- G. Change Orders None

### ITEMS PULLED FOR SEPARATE CONSIDERATION

BF 32367	Phase Gate Approval of Bridgeview Roof Replacement Project (Project # 0175-21-01):
	Gate #3 – Project Budget; Gate #3A – Finance Plan Update

Phase Gate Approval of Frost Lake Elementary Addition and Renovation (Project #
 1100-19-01) – Playground: Gate #4 – Contract Award; Gate #4A – Finance Plan Update

**BF 32369** Pre-Qualification of Professional Consultant Construction Managers as Advisor

<u>BF 32370</u> Phase Gate Approval of E-STEM Chiller Replacement (Project # 2210-20-01): Gate #4 – Contract Award; Gate #4A – Finance Plan Update

**QUESTIONS/DISCUSSION: None** 

**MOTION:** Director Brodrick moved approval, respectively:

- That the Board of Education approve the Bridgeview Roof Replacement project (Project #s 0175- 21-01) at Phase Gate Check #3 Project Budget; Gate Check #3a -Finance Plan Update.
- That the Board of Education authorize award of playground equipment and poured-in-place surfacing for the playground at Frost Lake Elementary to Flagship Recreation for the lump sum base bid for \$247,595.21 at Phase Gate Check #4 – Contract Award and Phase Gate Check #4a – Finance Plan Update.
- That the Board of Education authorize the administration to pre-qualify and enter into a
  master service agreement with the following professional consultant Construction Manager
  as Advisor firms for future project-specific solicitations for calendar years 2021-2026: H+U
  Construction, KrausAnderson Construction Company, Knutson Construction, and RJM
  Construction.
- That the Board of Education approve the award of the E-STEM Chiller Replacement project (Project # 2210-20-01) to Daikin Applied Americas for a lump sum base bid of \$338,943.

Director Foster and Director Vue seconded the motion.

The motion was approved by roll call vote:

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

### IX. OLD BUSINESS

A. Resolution Adopting a Saint Paul Public Schools Resolution in Response to COVID-19 Pandemic

**BF 32371** Resolution Adopting a Saint Paul Public Schools Resolution in Response to COVID-19 Pandemic

Superintendent Gothard then introduced the below resolution.

# ADOPTING A SAINT PAUL PUBLIC SCHOOLS RESOLUTION IN RESPONSE TO COVID-19 PANDEMIC

**WHEREAS**, on March 13, 2020, the Governor of the State of Minnesota declared a statewide emergency regarding COVID-19; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Directors ("Board") of Independent School District No. 625, Saint Paul Public Schools ("SPPS"), recognizes that COVID-19 is an unforeseen and unavoidable emergency of

urgent public necessity, that the World Health Organization has declared COVID-19 a pandemic, and that information, data, recommendations, and best practices in responding to this pandemic are continually changing; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board has a substantial public interest in effectuating the School District's mission to "inspire students to think critically, pursue their dreams, and change the world" and, therefore, desires to ensure that the School District and community are prepared to the fullest extent possible to meet the educational needs of all of its students in light of COVID-19; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board has a substantial public interest in protecting the health and safety of its students staff, and community and, therefore, desires to ensure that the School District and community are prepared to the fullest extent possible to protect the health and safety of students, staff, and community in light of COVID-19; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board seeks to retain its employees, reduce turnover, increase morale, help employees focus on work-related matters while at work, and facilitate the opening and operating of SPPS schools during the 2020-21 school year; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board believes the public purposes described above are fulfilled by efficiently and effectively making certain delegations, as described herein, to the Superintendent to address this everchanging emergency situation in the best interests of the education, health, safety, and well-being of its students, staff, community, and the general public.

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that Independent School District No. 625, Saint Paul Public Schools, is committed to implementing educational models during the 2020-21 school year in the manner that best serve the education, health, safety, and well-being of SPPS students, staff, and community, and the general public and to continuing to operate throughout the 2020-21 school year in the manner that best serves those interests. In furtherance of these purposes, the Board makes the following delegations to the Superintendent and designee(s) to include but not be limited to:

- 1. Continue full time in-person learning for Special Education Federal IV Schools and Special Sites: The Downtown School (JDC); Care and Treatment; Hospital; Bridge View School; Focus Beyond Pathway 1 and 2, River East; and, Journeys Secondary.
- 2. Continue full time in-person learning for pre-kindergarten grade 5; including Early Childhood Special Education programs.
- 3. Continue toward a return to in-person learning for grades 6-12 starting April 14, 2021, including full time in-person learning for Federal Setting III special education students.
- 4. Adjust, alter, amend, revise, increase, change, or discontinue the educational model referenced in Paragraphs 1, 2, and 3 during the 2020-21 school year in response to current or subsequent Executive Orders from the Governor of the State of Minnesota and/or guidance from the Minnesota Department of Education, the Minnesota Department of Health, the Centers for Disease Control, or other national and state authorities and/or agencies. District leadership, in consultation with the appropriate stakeholders, may recommend changes that are less restrictive and those changes will be communicated to the Board. At the regular meeting of the Board of Education on June 22, 2021, the Superintendent will provide a status report on the educational model being implemented and plans for transitioning to other educational models.

- 5. Implement, adjust, alter, amend, revise, increase, change, or discontinue health and safety standards for staff, students, and visitors consistent with current or subsequent Executive Orders from the Governor of the State of Minnesota and/or guidance from the Minnesota Department of Education, the Minnesota Department of Health, the Centers for Disease Control, or other national and state authorities and/or agencies. At the regular meeting of the Board of Education on June 22, 2021, the Superintendent will provide a status report on any changes to the health and safety standards being implemented.
- 6. Temporarily close school, close buildings, cancel programs or cancel activities when deemed to be in the best interests of the School District. The Superintendent will advise the Board within 24 hours in advance of any such actions or as soon as practicable thereafter.
- 7. Temporarily assign and reassign personnel as needed consistent with applicable federal or state statutes, collective bargaining agreements, and memoranda of understanding or agreement.
- 8. The Board will review this Resolution and vote to renew, amend, or rescind it at the regular meeting of the Board of Education on June 22, 2021.

#### QUESTIONS/DISCUSSION:

- Director Allen requested if this was another 3-month extension? Response: Yes, it will come before the Board again at the June 22, 2021 Regular Meeting.
- Director Kopp noted that there are weekly small group meetings between the Superintendent and board members, and regular updates, and has never felt "in the dark" on this matter, and information and questions are sent in a timely manner. She has confidence in the Superintendent and the team, and that this resolution permits the team to move to agility and flexibility, and looks forward to voting yes.
- Director Ellis noted she feels like the Board has been informed of this every step of the way, and is
  done with a strategic direction, in following the guidelines from the CDC and Department of Health, as
  well as Ramsey County and community and state regulations.
- Superintendent Gothard thanked the Board, and noted Summer Session and Fall, and noted the
  Council of the Great City Schools Legislative Conference and opportunity to connect with the
  Assistant Director of the CDC and plans for next year. He appreciated the work he is allowed to
  continue to do for the students at the forefront and the safety of staff in planning to move forward, as
  as well as appreciation for the support of the resolution, and by June to be thinking of the future to
  guide us for the school year.

MOTION: Director Foster moved approval of the Resolution Adopting a Saint Paul Public Schools Resolution in Response to COVID-19 Pandemic Director Ellis seconded the motion.

The motion was approved by roll call vote:

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

B. Approval of Memorandum of Agreement Between Independent School District No. 625, Saint Paul Public Schools and Superintendency Members of Independent School district No. 625 (Saint Paul Public Schools)

Superintendent Gothard then introduced staff to present information on this item. The guiding values of negotiations were presented, as well as an overview of the agreement, a summary of the superintendency agreement, a proposal summary showing the differences in the proposal from January 2021 to the current proposal, and the final recommendations of:

- Wages and benefits within the board parameters of 1.5% for first year, and 2% in second year of contract
  - a. Effective October 12, 2019 increase salary for members of this group by 1.5%.
  - o b. Effective July 4, 2020 increase salary for members of this group by 2.0%.
  - District contributions to health insurance not to exceed a School District contribution for monthly premiums of \$1,250, effective January 1, 2020.

# BF 32372 Approval of Memorandum of Agreement Between Independent School District No. 625, Saint Paul Public Schools and Superintendency Members of Independent School district No. 625 (Saint Paul Public Schools)

### QUESTIONS/DISCUSSION:

- Director Allen appreciated the adjustments to the agreement, and looks forward to future negotiation cycles.
- Director Kopp thanked staff for the presentation and the opportunity to meet in small groups for additional questions to be answered, and noted the refinement of the process in the future in order to be more visible and shared with the community.
- Director Ellis thanked the team for the work, and noted to the staff members who may have felt a
  certain way about this in January, a process for this would be helpful, and acknowledged all the good
  and hard work it wasn't meant to be negative. She thanked the team for making the changes and
  appreciates the hard work.
- Superintendent Gothard thanked Executive Director McCarty and Mr. Jim Vollmer for leading the group, and their commitment to look at alternative ways to demonstrate this unaffiliated group for their compensation and benefits.

MOTION: Director Foster moved approval that the Board of Education of Independent School District No. 625 approve the recommended salary and benefits increases for members of the Superintendency; duration of said recommendation is for the period of July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2021. Director Vue seconded the motion.

The motion was approved by roll call vote:

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

C. Policy Update: Second Reading - Policy 536.00 Weighted Grades

Superintendent Gothard then introduced staff to present the second reading of the new policy - 536.00: Weighted Grades.

Further details were shared, including the rationale for the proposal, and general statement of policy. The proposed policy language was also presented, Further details were shared, including the rationale for the proposal, and general statement of policy. The proposed policy language was also presented,

# **QUESTION/DISCUSSION:**

- The Board thanked the team for their work.
- Superintendent thanked the Policy Work Group for their continued work, and noted this is the Second Reading, and will come before the Board one additional time before it is adopted. Thanks for the consideration for the process.

### X. **NEW BUSINESS** - None

# XI. BOARD OF EDUCATION

- A. Information Requests & Responses
- B. Items for Future Agendas
- Director Kopp requested information on summer programming plans for SPPS, and information on funding.
- Director Ellis also expressed questions about summer learning programs, as well as an update to her previous questions around Nutrition Services.
- Director Vue requested information on the synchronization of expectations for in-person for the remainder of the school year, and expectations from teachers and workload expectations in schools.
- Director Foster also expressed questions on summer plans, particularly around questions for seniors and graduation, and data for graduating seniors, and plans for graduation ceremonies.
- Superintendent Gothard provided a brief update to summer learning plans, including the impact of legislation, CARES funding, the Governor's proposal for summer learning, additional funding streams for the second round of ESSR funding. There are a lot of moving pieces and work to continue to do, and looking at what was offered in the past and to build on summer plans to recognize the challenges that students have faced this past year. Chief Turner and Chief Wilcox-Harris will plan to bring forth a more formal presentation in the upcoming months. Summer programming will include a more robust programming in numbers and enrollment and time. This summer, we are proposing a 6.5 hour day for all students participating. We are prepared to increase and support enrollment for all students. In addition to the extended time during the day, we are also proposing time extended during the week and hoping to have multiple 6-week sections of summer school, in addition to Freedom Schools. Community Education programming is a choice program as well, and programs available in persona and virtual. It was also noted that students will be encouraged to take their iPads home over the summer, and will continue to build upon the virtual experience similar to last year with Summer Plans for enrichment were also noted, including summer language immersion, CDF Freedom Schools, American Indian programming, and Cahoots and enrichment camps for elementary students. Summer sessions, FlipSide programming are planned for grades 5-8, as well as future leaders, STEAM programming, and Cahoots. For students in grades 9-12, credit recovery will be available, as well as EL language development, extended school year, and future leaders in sports. Adult offerings through AE will also be offered, and more details to be provided. More to come; we have been planning and thoughtful about summer since the fall, and want the community to know there is more to come as we continue to share more details. Chief Turner also provided a brief update on food programming for the summer, with more details to be shared at a future meeting.

- Questions around if there has been data collected from students and parents on their experiences in distance learning, and their hopes for SPPS to help students to continue to advance.
- Suggestions that SPPS partner again with Saint Paul College in Saint Paul Connects for skillsbased and enrichment classes for students.
- Questions on summer staffing.

### C. Board of Education Reports/Communications

- Director Kopp noted the warmer weather and walks with neighbors to talk about their questions and concerns, and compliments, as well as phone called. She also noted the opportunity to meet with SEAB and have conversations, and appreciates their weekly update bulletins. She also extended a welcome to Mr. Yusef Carrillo, and looks forward to him joining the Board and welcoming him to meetings.
- Director Ellis noted Black History Month and a history lesson of her son's by Washington teacher Mr. Jeffrey Raymond, and appreciation for him and the lesson and video. She also shared her attendance at the Ethnic Studies Stakeholder Committee meeting, as well as the Council of the Great City Schools Legislative Conference, the MSBA Director's Meeting, Virtual Family Forum and Staff Forum. She also shared a story of former Board Chair Marny Xiong and the flowers she shared last year.

### XI. FUTURE MEETING SCHEDULE

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

- January 5, 2021 (Annual)
- January 19
- February 23
- March 23
- April 20
- May 18
- June 22
- July 20

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

- January 5, 2021
- February 9
- March 9
- April 13 (rescheduled from April 6 due to Spring Break)
- May 4
- June 8
- August 10

# XII. ADJOURNMENT

Director Foster moved to adjourn the meeting; Director Ellis seconded the motion.

The motion was approved by roll call vote:

Director Allen Yes
Director Kopp Yes
Director Marchese Yes
Director Ellis Yes
Director Foster Yes

Director Brodrick Yes
Director Vue Yes

The meeting adjourned at 10:27 p.m.

For clarity and to facilitate research, these minutes reflect the order of the original Agenda and not necessarily the time during the meeting the items were discussed.

Prepared and submitted by: Sarah Dahlke Assistant Clerk, St. Paul Public Schools Board of Education