

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

**SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
Via Telephonic Phone and Video Conference  
Available Streaming Online at [www.spps.org/boe](http://www.spps.org/boe)**

**March 16, 2021  
6:00 p.m.**

**MINUTES**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Jeanelle Foster, Chair.

**II. ROLL CALL**

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

Staff: Superintendent Gothard; Chuck Long, General Counsel; Kevin Burns, Director of Communications; Kaying Thao, Administrator to the Board; Sarah Dahlke, Secretary to the Board

**II. APPROVAL OF THE ORDER OF THE MAIN AGENDA**

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

**III. NEW BUSINESS**

A. Interview of Candidates to Fill Vacant Board Position

The Board interviewed candidates to fill the interim Board vacancy created by the resignation of Steven Marchese on February 28, 2021. They asked the candidates to address these questions:

1. Do you intend to run in the special election this November for the remainder of the term?
2. Why do you want to serve on the Board for this short appointment?
3. What relevant experience would you bring to the Board? Please be specific about what your unique contribution/perspective would be.

4. What are your views and experiences with collaborative leadership?

Candidates interviewed included:

1. Yusef Carrillo; Product Analyst, Securian Financial
2. James Farnsworth; Executive Director Highland Business Association
3. Samakab Hussein; Executive Director, Twins Medical INC
4. Shoua Spencer Yang; Professor, Department of Political Science, St. Cloud State University

Upon completion of the interviews, the Board took a fifteen minute recess to review their notes and collect their thoughts on the group of candidates.

**B. Nomination & Selection of Candidate to Serve Interim Term**

The Chair called for nominations from the Board Members for individuals to fill the interim term for the vacant position on the Board and noted the nomination process as outlined in Board Policy 202.02: "In filling the vacancy, the Chair shall call for nominations from the members of the board. No member of the Board may nominate more than one person; no second for the nomination is required. The appointment shall be filled by roll-call vote. Appointment shall require a majority vote of the total membership of the Board. If no nominee receives a majority vote, the Chair shall reopen nominations."

It was also noted that the selected candidate will be announced at this meeting, and that the candidate/appointee will assume office 30-days later, unless a valid petition to reject the appointee is filed with the school district clerk (Zuki Ellis). The appointee will hold office until a successor is elected and qualified in the November special election.

Director Brodrick nominated Mr. Samakab Hussein.

Director Vue nominated Mr. Yusef Carrillo.

Director Allen nominated Mr. James Farnsworth.

Director Kopp nominated Mr. Yusef Carrillo.

Director Ellis nominated Mr. Yusef Carrillo.

Director Foster nominated Mr. James Farnsworth.

The Chair called for the closure of nominations and asked for a roll call vote.

Director Brodrick	Samakab Hussein
Director Vue	Yusef Carrillo
Director Allen	James Farnsworth
Director Kopp	Yusef Carrillo
Director Ellis	Yusef Carrillo
Director Foster	James Farnsworth

As there was no majority decision (4), nominations were reopened.

Director Vue nominated Mr. Yusef Carrillo.

Director Allen nominated Mr. James Farnsworth.

Director Kopp nominated Mr. Yusef Carrillo.

Director Ellis nominated Mr. Yusef Carrillo.

Director Foster nominated Mr. James Farnsworth.  
Director Brodrick nominated Mr. Samakab Hussein.

The Chair called for the closure of nominations and asked for a roll call vote.

Director Brodrick	Yusef Carrillo
Director Vue	Yusef Carrillo
Director Allen	James Farnsworth
Director Kopp	Yusef Carrillo
Director Ellis	Yusef Carrillo
Director Foster	Yusef Carrillo

With five votes for Yusef Carrillo, he was selected to serve as interim board member. Mr. Yusef Carrillo was congratulated.

The Chair thanked the other candidates for participating and encouraged them to run in the upcoming special election.

Board members then provided closing remarks, which included thanking all applicants who applied, and this is a good step forward to do this work for the good of the children of Saint Paul, SPPS, and the City. While we will miss Mr. Marchese with his strong and steady voice, we look forward to working with Mr. Carrillo. Board members encouraged all to run in the election in November. There were a lot of strong candidates in this process. Members encouraged applicants to continue to be involved in the District and their community. They also recounted their past experience in the appointment process, and it is also important for the community to voice their vote in representation on the school board. The Superintendent also thanked the Board and Mr. Carrillo, and looks forward to working together.

#### **IV. RESOLUTION FILLING SCHOOL BOARD VACANCY BY APPOINTMENT**

##### **BF 32344** Resolution Filling School Board Vacancy By Appointment

**WHEREAS**, the vacancy occurred more than ninety (90) days prior to the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November in the year the vacancy occurred and prior to the fourth year of the vacant term;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the School Board of Independent School District No. 625, State of Minnesota, as follows:

Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, Section 123B.09, subd. 5b (2020), Yusef Carillo is hereby appointed to fill the vacancy and to serve until a successor is elected and qualified. The appointment shall be effective April 15, 2021, thirty (30) days after the adoption of this resolution, unless a valid petition to reject the appointee is filed with the school district clerk pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, Section 123B.09, Subd. 5b(b) (2020) within that thirty (30) day time period.

**MOTION:** Director Foster moved approval of the Resolution Filling School Board Vacancy By Appointment. The motion was seconded by Director Allen.

The motion was approved by roll call vote:  
Director Brodrick Yes

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

## **XII. ADJOURNMENT**

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

The motion was approved by roll call vote:

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:34 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