

**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)**

**December 8, 2020  
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: C. Allen, J. Kopp, S. Marchese, Z. Ellis, J. Foster, J. Brodrick, J. Vue

SEAB: K. Ali

Staff: Superintendent Gothard; Chuck Long, General Counsel; Cedrick Baker, Chief of Staff; Marie Schrul, Chief Financial Officer; Dave Watkins, Chief of Schools; Jackie Turner, Chief Operations Officer, Kate Wilcox-Harris, Chief Academic Officer; Stacey Gray Akyea, Director, Office of Research, Evaluation and Assessment; Kenyatta McCarty, Executive Director of Human Resources; Kevin Burns, Director of Communications; Sarah Dahlke, Secretary to the Board

**III. 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 Ellis.**

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

**IV. OLD BUSINESS**

A. Administration Presentation and Public Hearing on the Proposed Pay21 Levy

State statute requires that all local governments (cities, counties, and school districts) to hold a public hearing prior to finalizing their levy authority and allow for public comment. The hearing must follow the release of the proposed tax notices from the county. The notice provides information on estimated taxes as well as market value and other homestead adjustments.

The Chief Financial Officer stated school levy authority is established in law. School budgets are a combination of State, Federal and local funding, including the voter approved referendum. The Pay21 school levy funds the 2021-22 school year. Levies are approximately 22% of the SPPS budget. The Levy can only move down after October 1.

School boards levy to provide revenue that funds the cost of staff, OPEB & pension obligations, debt service, facilities projects including: health and safety, maintenance and new construction, community education programs, and other expenses. Schools can only levy what is authorized by law.

The CFO went on to describe the factors impacting 2021 school levies, such as:

- Changes in tax base
- Legislative changes to education formulas
- Referendum inflationary increase
- Pension contribution changes required by law
- Other Post Employment Benefits (OPEB) obligations
- Employment changes that drive severance and unemployment levies Capital bonding, refunding of bonds, abatements, long term maintenance, health and safety projects, lease costs

The CFO went on to describe the factors impacting the Saint Paul levy, such as:

- Overall, St. Paul's estimated market values are up 8.6% from the prior year with values now \$5.86 billion above the Pay 2008 Peak
- Market values are increasing in the double digits for 26% of homes, 77% of apartments and 41% of commercial/industrial property
- Sunray/Battle Creek/Highwood, Greater East Side, West Side, Payne/Phalen, Como, and West Seventh are all areas with higher increases in residential market values
- City, County and School portion of fiscal disparities aid increased. District increased by \$206,206

Ms. Schrul also described the determining factors into property taxes, including state legislature, taxing jurisdictions, and county assessor.

The 2021 Proposed Levy was then reviewed, and included details on the SPPS levy categories of:

- Operating
- Pension/OPEB/Contractual Obligations
- Facilities
- Community Service

Detailed figures on the proposed levy were shared, with the certified Pay20 Levy, SPPS Proposed Pay21 Levy, and the difference within each of the levy categories. The percent change is proposed at 4.77%.

The estimated annual property tax impacts on a home from 2020 to 2021, assuming a 8% increase in market value were reviewed, with the change at \$56.05 on a \$215,800 median home market value. The estimated property tax impacts on a commercial/industrial property from 2020 to 2021, assuming a 4.9%

increase in market value, with the change at \$161.67 on a \$486,600 median commercial/industrial market value.

Finally, the Pay21 Levy calendar was also reviewed, with the upcoming certification of the Pay21 levy at the December 15, 2020 Regular Meeting, and the certification to Ramsey County on December 28, 2020.

The full presentation can be found in the BoardBook.

**QUESTIONS/DISCUSSION - None**

**V. PUBLIC HEARING**

- Peter Hendricks
- Dennis Chisholm
- James Riley

**VI. ADJOURNMENT**

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

The motion was approved by roll call vote:

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

The meeting adjourned at 6:27 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