

**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 [www.spps.org/boe](http://www.spps.org/boe) and Saint Paul Cable Channel 16**

**November 17, 2020  
6:05 p.m.**

**MINUTES**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 p.m. by Jeanelle Foster, Chair.

**II. ROLL CALL**

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

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; Kaying Thao, Board Administrator; Kalid Ali, SEAB Member; Sarah Dahlke, Secretary to the Board

Chair Foster noted that new numbers recently released show just how rapidly COVID-19 cases have gone up in Ramsey County. We continued to break records over the weekend with positive cases of COVID. As announced at the end of last week, the district has dialed back Hybrid Stage 1 to distance learning, as well as making other adjustments to all in-person programs across SPPS to complete distance learning. With this in mind, the Board has also decided to return to virtual board meetings as well to abide by the recommended safety protocols. We will continue to monitor local data and adjust accordingly and hope to return to in-person meetings when it is safe. Thank you for understanding as we all must be nimble during this challenging time.

**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 Marchese	Yes
Director Ellis	Yes
Director Foster	Yes

### III. RECOGNITIONS

#### **BF 32252** Acknowledgement of Good Work Provided by District Partners

The Marvelous Mitten Makers is a local group of volunteers who create handmade mittens, hats, scarves and other cold weather items for SPPS students each year. All year long, the 120 volunteers knit, crochet and sew items which are then collected by the SPPS Office of Family Engagement & Community Partnerships. In October, schools and programs send in their requests and the items are sorted, bagged and sent to each school. This year the volunteers donated more than 14,500 cold weather clothing items to keep children warm this winter at over 50 SPPS schools and programs.

The Marvelous Mitten Makers have been doing this good work for more than 35 years. They also donate baby and adult blankets and clothing items to organizations such as the Dorothy Day Center, the Union Gospel Mission, Listening House and Health Start Clinics.

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

**MOTION:** Director Foster moved approval of the Order of the Consent Agenda with items C3 - Request for Permission to Contract with SELBI (Social, Emotional, Learning, Behavior Intervention) for Student Support SY 2020-21 and C4 - Request for Permission to Contract with St Paul Youth Services for Behavior Specialist Program Support SY 2020-21 to be pulled for separate consideration. The motion was seconded by Director Marchese.

The motion was approved by roll call vote:

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

### V. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

- A. Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education on October 20, 2020
- B. Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Board of Education on October 26, 2020
- C. Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Board of Education on November 12, 2020

**MOTION:** Director Foster moved approval of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education on October 20, 2020; Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Board of Education on October 26, 2020; and Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Board of Education on November 12, 2020. The motion was seconded by Director Brodrick and Director Marchese.

The motion was approved by roll call vote:

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

## **VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **A. Committee of the Board Meeting of November 10, 2020**

At the Committee of the Board Meeting on November 10, Superintendent Gothard began the meeting by congratulating Director Jim Vue on his successful election win and thanking all those who ran for office. He shared the collaboration across the District as we successfully transitioned Stage 1 schools to hybrid learning. He went on to note that we are in a time where COVID-19 cases are increasing rapidly, and the important partnership with Ramsey County and the City of Saint Paul, and the need to come together as a community and state during this time. Board members thanked the Superintendent for the planning and work in this process.

Next, SEAB Member Ali shared an update on the work of SEAB, including their work with Restorative Practices staff in reviewing the SEAB manual and job description for the SEAB facilitator/mentor. He also noted that individually, SEAB members have also been working on the census count and voter registration. Board members requested further information on the number of connections regarding the census and voter registration, the role of the SEAB mentor and characteristics that will be important to that role, the willingness of Board members to help recruit new SEAB members, appreciation for the work of SEAB, current SEAB member numbers and grade levels, and appreciation for the leadership of the group.

Next, the Reopen SPPS Plan Update contained information on these four areas: Ramsey County Collaboration, Dial Back and Temporary Shifts, Student Support: EDL and Credit Recovery, and Hybrid Stages 2 and 3 Update.

Within the discussion portion of Ramsey County Collaboration, board members requested further information on county supports for those who may have tested positive, including leave from work, and notification to employers. Clarification was requested on the Ramsey County city case rates, testing by members of communities of color, and vulnerability to the disease. There were also questions about the 14-day lag time and best practices. Outreach to members of the Black Community was also shared. Board members thanked partners from Ramsey County which is so critical at this time in supporting our students and families.

Within the discussion portion for Dial Back and Temporary Shifts, Student Support: EDL and Credit Recovery, and Hybrid Stages 2 and 3 Update, board members requested further information on the number and grades of students in credit recovery, support for teachers, and differences in distance learning and evening high school classes. This presentation also sparked questions around engagement and criteria to understand engagement of students and families, including appreciation for the different

ways and being adaptive and flexible. Further clarification was requested on the lagging 14-day case rate, and criteria to proactively make decisions that are based on that case rate, as well as conversations about whether to dial back or temporary shift. Questions also centered on the readiness targets and the revision of those as we learn more about COVID-19. The effects of the case rates on the Academic Support Centers were also noted, as well as consideration of possible expansion of the support centers, and space and capacity at Washington Tech Academic Support Center, as well as the need to reach out to those students who may need additional support and the referral process. There was also discussion on ways that buildings can use the model of the Academic Support Centers in their own school on a smaller scale. Communication of available supports and resources to families was also noted. Questions and experience within PSEO in the distance learning model were also shared. Further information on internet connections was provided. Discussion also centered on the systemic change that needs to happen in public education, and that now is the time to re-envision what that looks like. Board members also noted the importance of trust between the district and community, as well as the academic outcomes of students at all times.

The next presentation on the Fiscal Year 2019 Final Budget Revision, included details on revenue changes for all funds, expenditure changes, and fully financed funds. Within this presentation, board members requested information on the official close of the fiscal year, the overall budget and fund balance, financial impacts of enrollment loss, and further details on the remaining fund balance in nutrition services and importance of the free-and-reduced-price lunch applications, which drives the compensatory education funding for the district.

The Board approved the recommended motion to accept the report and approve the fiscal year 2019-2020 budget revisions as presented.

Lastly, board members shared their experiences and learnings from the Council of the Great City Schools Annual Fall Conference.

**MOTION: Director Foster moved that the Board accept the report on the November 10, 2020 Committee of the Board meeting and approve the recommended motions and minutes of that meeting as published. Director Marchese seconded the motion.**

The motion was approved by roll call vote:

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

#### B. Equity Committee Meeting of November 16, 2020

At the Equity Committee Meeting held on Tuesday, November 16, 2020, Tri-Chair Myla Pope began by welcoming committee members back to the space, and congratulating committee member Jim Vue on his successful campaign to join the Board of Education. The agenda was then reviewed, which included the themes of Reunite, Recall, Revisit, and Reimagine. Committee members began their work in a grounding question of what they are grateful for, and examples included family, health, work, each new day,

community, and SPPS families. Next, a video was presented which included a montage of images of the historical and traumatic events from the past nine months. Committee members then joined small groups to discuss their emotions and thoughts about the video and this time.

Next the purpose of the Equity Committee was reviewed, and included that:

The Equity Committee is selected through a nomination process and charged with identifying and examining disparities impacting SPPS students, staff, families, and community. The Committee is also charged with bringing forth adaptive and actionable recommendations for addressing district inequities. Recommendations will be submitted to Saint Paul Public Schools Administration.

Our personal work was also reviewed, and noted that each member needs to be grounded and connected to the ongoing work of creating equitable systems. Questions for self-reflection were also shared.

The Seven Norms of Collaborative Work and Courageous Conversations Protocols were also reviewed.

The definition of “inequity” was also discussed: an inequity brings about a lack of fairness or justice against those that are not a part of a dominant way of being. It may include favoritism or bias which makes a circumstance or proceeding unfair, and included examples of predictable inequities.

Next, committee members personally reflected on a set of the 71 district inequities submitted by committee members and stakeholders. They were encouraged to review an assigned set of identified inequities and review if it is evident, if not, what additional information is needed, a draft of a possible recommendation for this inequity, ranking of priority, and any comments or notes. Committee members then joined their small groups to review and process, including sharing of their general thoughts and feelings, commonalities, surprises, and their top three priority inequities. Groups were encouraged to come to a consensus of the top three inequities and determine group recommendations from the personal processing portion of the meeting.

In closing, committee members shared the questions they will reflect on for the next meeting, and words of farewell.

**MOTION: Director Foster moved that the Board accept the report on the November 16, 2020 Equity Committee meeting and approve the recommended motions and minutes of that meeting as published. Director Marchese seconded the motion.**

The motion was approved by roll call vote:

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

## **VII. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

### **A. Superintendent's Update**

Superintendent Gothard then provided these updates.

He shared that during December, the District will propose the final Pay21 levy to the Board of Education for certification. This levy will fund the District FY 21-22 budget. Prior to certifying the levy, the District holds a Truth in Taxation hearing to allow for public comment. On Tuesday, December 8th at 6pm, SPPS will hold a virtual hearing and will include a brief presentation in addition to a public comment process. Information on the process for public comment can be viewed online at [www.spps.org/boe](http://www.spps.org/boe), as requests for public comment must be set up in advance. This is the same evening as the Committee of the Board meeting, and the Board will pause the Committee of the Board meeting at 6pm for the Truth in Taxation hearing. He thanked our taxpayers, partners, donors, communities, volunteers and staff who are making a difference for students and families and appreciation to publicize this additional information.

He also shared that the Board had asked for a focus area of academics, and Administration is preparing information on this topic for both meetings in December as a two-part series for K-12, and will go through a variety of areas look to measure and monitor progress, work to improve long term student outcomes, and how it has been impacted by the pandemic. It will be an opportunity to learn, ask questions, and provide guidance and direction to enter into pivotal months. We are looking very much to take our typical work with standardized tests and benchmarks and ways to measure learning in this new environment. There will be a number of different departments represented in the report, and look forward to spending December diving deeply into achievement for students.

He also shared information on Reopen. We made the decision to temporary shift several schools and programs to full distance learning. The data used is a measure of average cases per 10,000 in Ramsey County over the previous 14 days. The threshold is 50 for schools, and tapers from 10-20, 20-30, and 30-50 and different increments for the recommended learning models. We were at 50 last week and with the increase in cases, our numbers will continue to grow and projections show at 75 and above 100 as the weeks go on and record numbers of cases in the state and Ramsey County. The lagging number is sure to grow. Governor Walz has participated in press conferences with MDH and will be delivering a new set of restrictions when he addresses the State on Wednesday at 6pm and share restrictions to implement. Some neighboring states have taken similar actions. The capacity in our hospitals has reached dangerous numbers. Our hearts go out to healthcare staff. We need to get a handle on COVID-19 in our community. In his message to the community last week, he shared he would share next steps the week of December 14th as related to Stage 1, 2 and 3 readiness for hybrid, and heard consistently that folks want to know. Also know how difficult it was to list different readiness checks and not meet them, and the stress and anxiety that caused week by week. As we share the date of December 14, there are a few things to do. First, is the plan to have conversation the week of December 14th because it is the last full week before winter break and communicate to best of ability what our community, and teachers, staff, students, and families can expect when they return. With new information on the Governor's restrictions shared tomorrow, possibly a month long or longer period of time. We do not know how those could potentially be part of the plan for that week to share with community. It may now have other factors to consider. Hoping by then numbers are down, but dealing with high numbers up until time, to what extent to project or into January.

Dates on the calendar to transition made best sense was January 19th. There are a few natural reasons, first and foremost everyone comes back from winter break and press pause to ensure they are healthy as self before e hybrid and to give time to do that. Also give staff time to plan, and ensure get into learning spaces and transition time necessary and things to work out to pull that off.

He noted that Stage 1 had started on October 19th, and Stages 2 and 3 were almost ready. When it is safe to do so, it could be Stage 1, Stage 1 and 2, or Stage 1, 2, and 3, or none of the above based on the readiness targets and data. We need to look at how we can do it safely and with adequate staffing, and communicate and give time for transitions and when that date may be. There will be no problem in pushing out the date if data shows increasing numbers or we are not ready by January 19th. If able to announce the week of December 14th, he will, but we don't know what January 19th may look like and will try to use the data to the best of our ability and the information that we have at that time. It may be a situation where we continue through winter break and use that first week to put our next date on the calendar, and be open and transparent right now.

Our teams continue to work very hard to deepen our ability to service our students through distance learning, and serving students through Academic Support Centers, and with guidance from the State, we may need to dial back those opportunities as we try to get a community handle on COVID-19.

The first is how we can create virtual support that is different from how it has been, and in-home face-to-face engagement to ensure connection with our young people and for them to know there is support and do to the best of our ability. We will be very careful, but do not want our students to fall further behind, and continue to support the highest level of engagement possible and will not sit back, but wait for a day where we can come back safely with additional supports in place during this time.

#### **QUESTIONS/DISCUSSION:**

- Director Brodrick thanked the Superintendent for an information, honest, and courageous report. We will endure and we will prevail.
- Director Vue noted a question about thinking ways to engage students and their families and the mention around face-to-face contact, and more details around that. Response: We do need to determine if we are allowed to do this safely and waiting for guidelines from the Governor's orders on Wednesday. We know there are students who have slid from the radar in how they are achieving, and time to re-establish and let students know we can get back on track together. That's the great concern - students not connecting or doing work, and work on addressing barriers, and confirm students are okay and families are okay; willing to organize with staff and do that safely. There will be future discussions on that from a safety standpoint and will share more with the Board as those details become available.
- Director Kopp thanked the Superintendent and team for their ongoing communications. As hard as this has been, heartening to see how hard everyone is working to make it work in the worst of times right now.
- Interested in the options for connections and support - that is vital for academic growth and for also mental health support. Are we thinking of connections as having a mental health support component for students and families? It's been 8 months since our kids have been in buildings, and how that is impacting families, and thoughts around that. Response: Absolutely. To the extent that we can and our teams have been very busy with selves and partners to do that as well. The best place for our students and families is to work with their school, especially during distance learning. We may have families who are brand new and assume nothing in terms of what our students need and completely different from student needs pre-March 15th, which has been disrupted and cannot rely on how we did things in the past. We have built a great knowledge base, and look for new ways to do that and it starts with the first connection to ensure that connection.
- More information from the team will add additional content.
- Director Marchese noted that this is not the direction we had hoped our season would go and in a dangerous public health crisis, and appreciation for the deliberation. He recognizes that some is out

of our control and important to re-emphasize that if we want schools to reopen, the behavior of our community members must change, and the compliance with State and Governor's mandate must be clear and upheld and enacted every day because of the well-being of our children. It is unfortunate that children have lost access to their schools and yet we still had access to recreational and entertainment venues, and that speaks to the priorities that are reversed and not to the community overall. The job of school board members is to think of the well-being of our students and community, and our hands are tied by the decisions of others. We are operating in a context that we have been forced into and that is unfortunate.

- He also raised another issue that has been heard in community and in public comments, and that as we think about when the time comes to reopen, know there may be changes to activities like athletics, and one of the concerns raised is that because of MSHSL rules, some sports programs still active during this time, and members of the school communities, particularly in our secondary schools, have raised equity issues around how that is perceived for other activities not regulated by MSHSL, but impacted by changes. Question is to establish a process to create equity in how we deal with all other extracurricular and co-curricular activities in schools and receive some consideration around what is appropriate in face-to-face meetings, frequency, and ways to support activities and courses so students in those have ability to participate in some way. Recognize distance learning creates restrictions, but hopeful that when getting to the other side, like to hear from the Superintendent and team and specificity how to address how to open these activities. Raise this because social cohesion and mental health and social well-being is impacted by activities involved, and people connect through them, has negatively impacted academic outcomes, and need to be sensitive to those things. These are very important to the well-being and learning opportunities. Not asking for a plan but commitment to include in future updates about how to address that. Response: There is a group that worked on this previously, and be sure they are ready to work in partnership with MSHSL, with some activities under MSHSL, and want to address throughout and ensure understanding recommendations and understanding why and ensure part of the plan moving forward.
- Director Marchese also noted at the Committee of the Board meeting and discussion about targeting seniors, specifically about being on track for graduation, ensuring on track with courses, grades, and credits, and was going to take place in buildings of Academic Support Centers. What is our plan now that we have moved back to Distance Learning? Response: Part A is that there are several high school principals and staff who have taken this on, with Darren Ginther to provide supports necessary for seniors, outside of Evening High School and ongoing support. We also are going to plan to offer a series of senior blitzes on Saturdays in November, December and January from 9:30am-12:30pm at select sites to provide in-person support for seniors. We may learn of restrictions after the Governor's announcements that disallow that. We will find a way to do that, but will need to reassess after guidelines.
  - Hope to share with the Board based on the impacts on the restrictions and plans to do that. Students are still moving forward and need to find a way to help them. Are there other techniques to work through community partners for assistance? As we try to do more check-in for students who are more difficult to reach, disengaged, struggling etc., the ways we are able to do that through DL if not permitted for face-to-face will be limited, and discussion on limited in-person activity and what will replace that if not possible? Response: Our community partners have been great, and many have been helping at the Academic Support Center. It is not uncommon for unsolicited folks who want to give, and to help, and that is heartening to see. We are going to watch to see the direction from the Governor, and if there is some in-person able to allow, we have prioritized the senior blitzes, and work under Academic Support Center to lean into secondary students in November, December and January to support our secondary students, particularly our seniors. We will wait to learn more from the Governor. Our plan is to make



adjustments to the schedule to be open for a shorter period and streamlined in services and tailor it to the secondary students. Hats off to the high school principals and their teams - they have ideas to bring to the District and are looking for real partnership. Want to capitalize on the ideas they have and they know their communities and supports in place, and ensuring there is that connection and starting to see that progress.

- Know folks are working hard right now to be creative, innovative and work with restrictions, and that is appreciated, and appreciate the work of Superintendent, Chief Turner, school-based staff, and always sense that there is more, and needs are high and motivates us because our community is depending on it.
- Dr. Gothard thanked everyone, and there has been a strong sense of finding our purpose and ensuring we are living that purpose in all we do for our kids and families. Encouragement to continue on and safely and to make the best decisions possible with the information we have.

B. Human Resource Transactions

**MOTION: Director Foster moved approval of the HR Transactions for the period October 1 through October 31, 2020. Director Brodrick seconded the motion.**

The motion was approved by roll call vote:

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

**VII. CONSENT AGENDA**

**MOTION: Director Foster moved approval of all items within the consent agenda withholding these items for separate consideration:**

- **C3 - Request for Permission to Contract with SELBI (Social, Emotional, Learning, Behavior Intervention) for Student Support SY 2020-21**
- **C4 - Request for Permission to Contract with St Paul Youth Services for Behavior Specialist Program Support SY 2020-21**

**Director Brodrick seconded the motion.**

The motion was approved by roll call vote:

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

A. Gifts

**BF 32253** Gift Acceptance from Wallin Education Partners

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to accept the awarded gift.

B. Grants

**BF 32254** Request for Permission to Accept a Grant from 3M Gives

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to accept a grant and funds from 3M for Career and Technical Education; to accept funds; and to implement the project as specified in the award documents.

**BF 32255** Request for Permission to Accept a Sub-Award Grant from Goodwill Easter Seals of Minnesota

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to accept a sub-award from Goodwill Easter Seals of Minnesota for funds to support the Business Service Pathway Program; to accept funds; and to implement the project as specified in the award documents.

**BF 32256** Request for Permission to Accept a Donation from the Life Time Foundation

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to accept a donation from the Life Time Foundation for Nutrition Services; to accept funds; and to implement the project as specified in the award documents.

**BF 32257** Request for Permission to Accept a Grant from the Hiway Credit Union Foundation

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to accept a grant from the Hiway Credit Union Foundation to subscribe to educational programs that support distance learning; to accept funds; and to implement the project as specified in the award documents.

C. Contracts

**BF 32258** RFP #A218951-A | Amendment of RFP for Prime Vendor

That the Board of Education authorize the amendment of RFP #A218951-A to increase the dollar amount of the contract with Indianhead Foodservice Distributor by \$26,000,000 to a total of \$32,000,000 for furnishing and delivery grocery items and supplies.

**BF 32259** Memorandum of Understanding St. Paul VISTA Program with Office of Early Learning, 2020-2021 Program Year

The Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to enter into this contract.

D. Agreements

**BF 32260** Memorandum of Understanding between Math Motivators 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 Math Motivators for the 2020-21 school year.

**BF 32261** Memorandum of Understanding between Bethel University and Saint Paul Public Schools

That the Board of Education approve this MOU and authorize the Superintendent (or designee) to execute the Memorandum of Understanding between Bethel University and Saint Paul Public Schools.

**BF 32262** Approval of Employment Agreement Between Independent School District No. 625 and Minnesota School Employees Association, Representing Classified Confidential Employees Association

That the Board of Education of Independent School District No. 625 enter into an Agreement concerning the terms and conditions of employment of those classified confidential employees in this school district for whom the Minnesota School Employees Association is the exclusive representative; duration of said Agreement is for the period of July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2020.

E. Administrative Items

**BF 32263** Monthly Operating Authority

1. That the Board of Education approve and ratify the following checks and wire transfers for the period September 1, 2020 – September 30, 2020.

(a) General Account	#729526-730405	\$35,520,338.43
	#0003876-0003892	
	#7003843-7003873	
	#0004967-0005045	
(b) Debt Service	-0-	\$0.00
(c) Construction	-0-	<u>\$3,390,843.68</u>
		\$38,911,182.11

Included in the above disbursements are two payrolls in the amount of \$22,501,341.80 and overtime of \$31,087.75 or 0.14% of payroll.

(d) Collateral Changes

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 February 28, 2021.

**BF 32264** Approval to Create a Cooperative Sponsorship between St. Paul Central High School, Open World Learning and Como Park High School in Girls' Gymnastics

Authorize the Superintendent (or Designee) to approve the Cooperative Sponsorship for Girls Gymnastics with Open World Learning and Como Park High school at Central High School.

**BF 32265** Request for Approval for Funds from the Minnesota State High School League's Foundation Form A

Authorize the Superintendent (or Designee) to submit an application to the Minnesota State High School League's Foundation for monies being awarded to high schools in the State of Minnesota; to accept funds, if awarded; and to implement the project as specified in the award documents.

**BF 32266** Construction Change Directive # 5 for Peterson Companies, Inc. at Washington Technology Athletic Improvements

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (or Designee) to sign Construction Change Directive #5 for Peterson Companies, Inc. at Washington Technology Athletic Improvements for the not-to-exceed amount of \$1,102,705.00.

F. Bids - None

G. Change Orders - None

**ITEMS PULLED FOR SEPARATE CONSIDERATION:**

Director Brodrick pulled these items to learn more about SELBI's and Saint Paul Youth Services' work during this time of COVID-19 and distance learning. He noted two questions - with both partners we have been with for a while, information about overall performance, particularly now during these trying times about how these services are being provided during the pandemic.

SELBI partnership is at Washington and Humboldt. Principals noted two things in effectiveness, and that principals would not be as effective without them. Things highlighted included existing relationships with students. In years past, these positions were referred to as behavior intervention specialists, and their work was to ensure connectedness, especially after students had a behavior impact. They had a restorative approach and caring adults who helped to bring students back. They are continuing that focus on connectedness and student engagement. A couple changes in services are in switching to a digital and virtual format; they are joining staff or doing socially distanced home visits, and hosting small group support sessions. One interesting story is that staff are hosting a virtual lunchroom, and opportunity for students to gather with a familiar face and to have lunch together.

SPYS is at Harding and Johnson, and the principals noted similar stories. One of the highlights is that SPYS staff have credibility as caring community members, and when they reach out to families, they are recognized, and the young people see them as members of the broader community. Similarly, they have changed their format and making more regular phone calls home and reaching out to the students. The other highlight is offering office hours, similar to lunch room idea and drop-in format for students.

The principals highlighted that these partner staff have been able to make connections when school staff may not have been able to and are integrated into the school support team at the schools, and reaching students we haven't been able to in other ways.

**QUESTIONS/DISCUSSION:**

- Are teachers able to contact these folks in these programs if they think they need some assistance in connecting with students? Response: Yes - it's organized differently at each school. Some staff are assigned to a grade level so teachers may know to reach out to a specific person. Other times, they are assigned to particular classrooms. Through the school student support structure, the teacher can ask for help for these folks to reach out to students and work on connectedness.
- Super grateful for partnership and need it now more than ever; grateful for partnerships that exist in this community.

**BF 32267** Request for Permission to Contract with SELBI (Social, Emotional, Learning, Behavior Intervention) for Student Support SY 2020-21

**BF 32268** Request for Permission to Contract with St Paul Youth Services for Behavior Specialist Program Support SY 2020-21

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

- That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (or Designee) to contract with SELBI for Behavioral Specialist support at two (2) sites for SY 20-21, and to implement the services as specified in the contract.
- 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 SY2020-21, and to implement the services as specified in the contract.

**Director Kopp seconded the motion.**

The motion was approved by roll call vote:

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

**IX. OLD BUSINESS - None**

**X. NEW BUSINESS - None**

**XI. BOARD OF EDUCATION**

#### A. Information Requests & Responses

- Director Vue requested a formal enrollment trend including the last 4 years and current forecast by school and grade level. Concerned about enrollment decreases and information pulled.
- He also requested information and discussion on Ethnic Studies and plans toward creating element of learning - specifically remarks about where we are in crafting Ethnic Studies in SPPS, including recommendations of interest from community members who may specialize in area, teachers who may be doing elements in teachings, and thoughts from SPFE in crafting this content.
- Director Marchese mentioned a few items in his previous comments for the future.

#### B. Items for Future Agendas

- Director Brodrick echoed Director Vue for discussion about Ethnic Studies and progress on the program.

#### C. Board of Education Reports/Communications

- Director Brodrick noted that he feels the burden of isolation, but at the same time, hearing so many things, seeing neighbors and kids next door, and in this terrible time of sadness, still feeling hopeful and that we will not only endure, but also prevail. Thanks to the Board and Administration - we are all in this together.
- Director Kopp shared that she was invited to attend a virtual class at JJ Hill and spent time answering questions about her favorite food and candy (candy corn), and that students noted they enjoy long division. They are enjoying reading and being together, and such a joyful experience to be with students and their teacher, and to see their interaction, liveliness and happiness to be together and felt hopeful. Know it is being replicated in classrooms across the district, and thanks to educators for creating communities of care, connection and love. It is appreciated by students and parents.
- Director Ellis noted missing classrooms and buildings. She reminded the Board of the MSBA Delegate Assembly is December 2, and the book of resolutions to be discussed. She attended another Legislative Executive team meeting, and stressed the amount of work folks are putting into the next legislative cycle because everyone is concerned about our schools and funding, and impacts to things we can do and decisions that every school district will need to make. It is not lost on anyone of the amount of work, and also it is also really distressing to have these conversations at this present time without individuals recognizing the impacts they have on the school districts in this state, and the power they have to either be reflective in things they are doing, their job and impact, and trying to convince others of their role. Schools are the most important and this entire state is relying on us to do so much and needs to be acknowledged to support our students. In several meetings and talking about upcoming cycle, worried and hopeful, and also cautiously optimistic. Will be reaching out to board members because there are things needed to accomplish on behalf of students in SPPS, and across the state. Know we are charged with this district in Saint Paul, but we all need to wrap our arms around all students to try to have the best outcome from the State, because the forecasts are a little unsettling.
  - Director Brodrick noted that Director Ellis is the delegate to MSBA and thanks for reminding of the delegate assembly. He confirmed the dates for the pre-delegate assembly meeting on November 21st in preparation for the Delegate Assembly on December 2.
- Director Foster noted the uniqueness of diversity on the school board and it is important for all voices to be in the spaces often very bland. The representation and passion just spoken about to be there - we need to be there to work with others and challenge others to think of all kids in Minnesota, and it is important to show up. Representation matters at all levels of leadership and need to be in spaces and places to advocate on behalf of all students and staff.

## **XI. FUTURE MEETING SCHEDULE**

Chair Foster noted the series of special meetings scheduled, as well as the Proposed Pay21 Levy Hearing scheduled for Tuesday, December 8, 2020 beginning at 6:00pm via telephonic and video conferencing.

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

- December 15
- 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)**

- December 8
- January 5, 2021
- February 9
- March 9
- April 6
- May 4
- June 8
- August 10

## **XII. ADJOURNMENT**

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

The motion was approved by roll call vote:

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:27 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