

INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 625
Saint Paul, Minnesota
MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Via Telephonic and Video Conference; Available via Live Stream at www.spps.org/boe

November 12, 2020

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 4:32 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

Present: J. Foster, J. Brodrick, J. Vue, C. Allen, J. Kopp, S. Marchese, Z. Ellis

Staff: Superintendent Gothard; Chuck Long, General Counsel; Cedrick Baker, Chief of Staff; Kevin Burns, Director of Communications; Kaying Thao, Administrator to the Board; 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 Agenda. The motion was seconded by Director Ellis.

The motion was approved by roll call vote:

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

IV. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Canvass of the Returns of the School District Special Election Held on Tuesday, November 3, 2020

BF 32251 Resolution Canvassing Returns of Votes of Independent School District No. 625 General Election

**RESOLUTION CANVASSING RETURNS OF VOTES OF INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 625
GENERAL ELECTION**

BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Education of Independent School District No. 625, as follows:

1. It is hereby found, determined and declared that the special election of the voters of the District held on November 3, 2020, was in all respects duly and legally called and held.
2. As specified in the attached abstract and return of votes cast, District voters at said special

election voted on candidates to fill one vacant seat on the Board of Education for the remaining term, expiring on January 3, 2022, as follows:

Jim Vue	26,578
James Farnsworth	21,788
Jamila Mame	23,166
Charlotte Castro	17,304
Keith Hardy	11,811
Omar Syed	12,167
Write-In	1,140

3. Jim Vue, having received the highest number of votes, is elected to fill the vacant Board of Education seat for the remaining term expiring on January 3, 2022.

4. The School District Clerk is hereby authorized to certify the results of the election to the Ramsey County Auditor.

Chair Foster then went on to note that Jim Vue was elected to serve on the Board of Education in the school district special election held on November 3, 2020. We congratulate Director Vue and look forward to continuing our work with him. He will take office immediately following the vote of the canvass results and resolution.

Director Vue thanked everyone and is grateful to continue working with the strong Board, and members of whom he respects. It is a trying time in the school district, and need folks on the ground to know what families are going through and their perspectives and feels he can provide that. He is excited to continue in this work and to put students and families at the forefront of this work.

QUESTIONS/DISCUSSION:

- Director Brodrick congratulated Director Vue and is glad he is here.
- Director Allen welcomed Director Vue, and noted that this is a rough time to be serving as a leader in the community and to step into it is a huge responsibility. Appreciation and looking forward to working with you.
- Director Kopp noted enjoying the previous conversations with Director Vue and looking forward to continuing to learn from him and work with him, and knowing that this Board has wanted to feel whole, and difficulty o feel completely whole, but is a step towards restoration and healing and exactly the right person to be here in this moment. Grateful for you and the effort to campaigning, working, and raising a family and shows how much he loves and cares for the students and families of the city.
- Director Marchese echoed similar sentiments, and this isn't an easy time to step forward and two changes to say no - but he said yes, and pleased he did. Pleased to continue working with Director Vue and enjoyed working with him thus far. Do believe bring important perspective and knowledge and connection, and will benefit the community and be valuable to all. Will never be exactly the way we were, but doesn't mean to continue to move forward. We have to and our community depends on us and excited to be working together.
- Director Ellis congratulated Director Vue. And speaking with him after the appointment, and it is a difficult time - a lot of missing Marny and still moving forward. The Board carries that, but appreciates willingness to step into space where folks are grieving and finding ways to heal. Appreciate that he is here, and we step into roles in leadership and that is purposeful. We have found ways to support each other and do the best for students and community. Also offering a

perspective that is needed and continue to be needed. We are tied to SPPS and grateful to work prior to the Board, work doing up to this point, and work continuing to move forward. Wish you well here.

- Director Foster echoed her colleagues in congratulations and happy he is here and stepped into space. She is happy knowing that some of previous work and been in this space, advocating, challenging to think differently, working with families in SPPS, and look forward to continuing that work on a different level as a leader, and leading in community prior to this as well. Thanks to Director Vue’s wife and family for the time spent with the Board for the sake of kids and staff in SPPS. Our families are sitting with us as well in these role. Be your true self, ask questions, and that’s what we are here to do. Congratulations and look forward to the next year.
- Superintendent Gothard congratulated Director Vue, and his steady presence is especially important now as we have built a different rapport, and also noting it was a historic election with voter turnout. It says a lot about Director Vue’s presence in community and folks who look forward to his continued work on behalf of SPPS children and families.
- Director Vue noted he would be remiss if he didn’t mention Marny Xiong. He shared about his campaign process and asking about Marny. While he didn’t know Marny personally, and were like two ships passing in the night, she came onboard in 2018, and exactly the time he and his family were stepping back from their work in the district with the recent passing of his daughter Ghia. Unfortunately he was unable to meet Marny and instead knew her through all those she touched and worked with. No one can replace Marny and she was one of a kind, and he will be here to be the best he can be and for the community. Director Foster encouraged Director Vue to fill his own shoes and do work he feels needs to be done, and that Marny would be very proud of the selection on behalf of students and families in choosing him for this role.

MOTION: Director Foster moved that the Board of Education approve the Resolution Canvassing Returns of Votes of Independent School District No. 625 General Election. The motion was seconded by Director Ellis, Director Brodrick, and Director Allen.

The motion was approved by roll call vote:

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

V. ADJOURNMENT

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

The motion was approved by roll call vote:

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

The meeting adjourned at 4:46 p.m.

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

Prepared and submitted by:

Sarah Dahlke

Assistant Clerk, St. Paul Public Schools Board of Education