

**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**

**September 28, 2020
5:00 p.m.**

MINUTES

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 5:04 p.m. by Jeanelle Foster, Vice Chair.

II. ROLL CALL

Board of Education: J. Vue, C. Allen, S. Marchese, Z. Ellis, J. Foster
J. Kopp arrived after the Call to Order (technology issues)
J. Brodrick after the Call to Order (technology issues)

Staff: Superintendent Gothard; Jamie Jonassen, Assistant General Counsel; Marie Schrul, Chief Financial Officer (arrived after Call to Order - technology issues); 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; K. Thao, Board Administrator; 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 Vue	Yes
Director Allen	Yes
Director Kopp	Absent
Director Marchese	Yes
Director Ellis	Yes
Director Foster	Yes
Director Brodrick	Absent

IV. OLD BUSINESS

Superintendent Gothard then introduced Marie Schrul, Chief Financial Officer, and Arleen Schilling, Controller, to provide information on the Pay21 Levy and to recommend the certification of the proposed Pay21 Levy ceiling.

A. Proposed Pay21 Levy

Ms. Schilling then presented information, including the September action of “setting the ceiling”, levy basics, planning assumptions (staff estimates), factors impacting 2021 school levies, determination of property taxes, and factors impacting the St. Paul levy.

A chart was shown to provide information on the estimated annual property tax impact on a home from 2020 to 2021 assuming a 8% increase in market value with the estimated changes at a 4% ceiling versus a 5% ceiling based on the estimated home market value. With the median home value in Ramsey County at \$215,800, the estimated change at a 4% ceiling is \$41.96, and at 5%, \$54.69.

Another chart was also shown to provide information on the estimated annual property tax impact for commercial/industrial properties from 2020 to 2021 assuming a 4.9% increase in market value with the estimated changes at a 4% ceiling versus a 5% ceiling based on the estimated commercial/industrial market value. With the median commercial/industrial value in Ramsey County at \$486,600, the estimated change at a 4% ceiling is \$125.60, and at 5%, \$166.25.

The proposed Pay21 levy ceiling categories were also shared, with the differences shown from the certified Pay20 levy to the SPPS proposed Pay21 levy ceiling at a 5% change. Categories included Operating, Pension/OPEB/Contractual, Facilities, and Community Service.

The levy categories and impact on the Pay 21 levy were also shared with details in each category. The certified Pay20 levy and SPPS proposed Pay21 levy ceiling were shared, and the difference within each area.

The Pay21 levy calendar was also shared, with key dates and actions for each step, including the setting of the ceiling of the Pay21 levy on September 28, SPPS provides Pay21 levy ceiling data to Ramsey County and MDE on September 30, Ramsey County calculates taxes and prepares tax statements beginning October 1, and the mailing of tax statements November 10-24. On December 8, there will be a Truth in Taxation hearing which may be held virtually, and the same evening as the Committee of the Board meeting. On December 15, the Board will act on the certification of the Pay21 levy, and the levy will be certified to Ramsey County on December 28.

Requested action at this meeting included:

- To certify the Proposed Pay21 Levy ceiling as maximum
- To certify the date for the Taxation and Budget Hearing for December 8th at 6:00 p.m. (COB meeting that evening) and that this meeting may be held virtually

Full presentation and figures can be found in the BoardBook.

QUESTIONS/DISCUSSION:

- Board members thanked the team for the presentation.
- Superintendent Gothard thanked the team, beginning the day with JPTAC and learning where we are and thinking forward to the future, as funding for next year.

- Chief Schrul thanked Ms. Schilling for the presentation and to the Board for their patience during the technical issues due to an unexpected nationwide upgrade for Microsoft.

MOTION: Director Foster moved to certify the Proposed Pay21 levy ceiling as maximum. The motion was seconded by Director Ellis.

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

MOTION: Director Foster moved to certify the date for the Taxation and Budget Hearing for December 8th at 6:00 p.m. (COB meeting that evening) and that this meeting may be held virtually. The motion was seconded by Director Ellis.

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

B. Superintendent's Update on Reopen SPPS

Superintendent Gothard then shared that on Friday, a communication was shared with our community regarding our reopening plans. We were not able to confirm October 19 as opening for our stage 1 schools. Our team has been working diligently to that date and since, it's the hope that on or before this Friday to announce we are ready. We continue to work towards future stages as well. We did meet almost all targets that are benchmarks and milestones to guide the work forward and carry through - we will not start at zero for every stage. We have done a lot of work to get us here and ensure that all pieces are in place to confidently tell that we are ready to come back. We will continue to share information for the start of stage 1 and subsequent stages as well.

QUESTIONS/DISCUSSION:

- Board members thanked the team for the presentation, and know everyone is working hard to move on this stage 1 work and looking forward to the day we can do that. Appreciate the patience of community and families as they continue to make the best of distance learning, which might not always be easy, but we are working hard to get to that next step.
- Appreciation of the Superintendent and Administration to continue to work on this for everyone, and keeping all informed on the progress. Depending on how the last category goes, need to be communication on that as well as we move forward.
- Thanks for the communication.

- Thanks for the information and work done. What is the plan for going forward? Weekly assessments? If we are not able to meet our targets, how will that be communicated forward? Response: Friday has served as a milestone, and in communication, it was on or before October 2; still want to look at October 19 as stage 1. There is significant amount of work to happen when confirmed to when we start, and also have MEA break. If not able to confirm by Friday that stage 1 is ready for the 19th, told staff to prepare for a weekly check, and move the date to October 26 for a week later. Working hard to confirm by Friday and continue to hold October 19 as the start for stage 1. Stages 2, 3 and 4, getting to this point and targets reached to carry forward, our teams are in the process of a realistic schedule for those taje returns, knowing there will be opportunities to have staff and families back in buildings, plans, and final piece in place. With this calendar, there are also breaks for the next several months, and doesn't make it best time for transitions with large broken weeks, and will need to be strategic in planning those dates and taking into account those natural breaks already in the calendar.
- It's important in some of the emails and comments received, it's important for folks to know the numbers and particular points in the calculation, and also sense of forward momentum towards trying to move students into the next phase and important that we do it safely, and also continue to move forward, and not perceived as being stuck in particular aspects of the rubric, with 24 different items to make progress on, and important that this sets the time and temp for this work, and need to be able to have our staff to know what to expect and families to expect. As much clear communication as possible, and some misunderstanding about the indicator that was missing and how we are trying to move forward, and as much clarity as we can provide the better.
- Appreciation for the work and the continued work and the complexity, and the patience of our students and families as we continue to navigate distance learning from home.
- Absolute confidence that the Superintendent and his team and staff is working as hard as possible to get our students back to buildings, and thankful for that hard work, and only suggestion is the more we can communicate and message in a sense to reassure them, because these are nervous and uneasy times for all of us, parents and children especially. Keep up the good work, and "keep those cards and letters coming." Response: Many of our targets are based on enrollment, and we had to get to this date for more accurate enrollment numbers, and continue to gain students from the last report for our verified numbers. We know so much more today than in August about making plans with staffing and virtual learning option for families who choose, and hybrid options for stages. It will help our communication to become more clear as well.
- Sincere thanks to staff and team, and remind that we are all in different times, and as we learn to work differently to continue to have grace with one another. Everyone is working very hard to get us back.

V. 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 5:55 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