

**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**

**July 27, 2020
4:00 p.m.**

MINUTES

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m. by Jeanelle Foster, Vice Chair.

II. ROLL CALL

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

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 Marchese.

The motion was approved by roll call vote:

Director Kopp	Yes
Director Marchese	Yes
Director Ellis	Yes
Director Foster	Yes
Director Brodrick	Yes
Director Allen	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 death of Marny Xiong on June 7, 2020. 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. How do you understand the role and responsibilities of the job, and how do you connect your interest and experience to the role and responsibilities? What skills will you bring to help broaden

- perspective around what is necessary for a successful academic experience for students?
4. What are your views and experiences with collaborative leadership?

Candidates interviewed included:

1. Mary Doran; Para Mentor, Spero Academy
2. Beatriz DeSantiago-Fjelstad; Assistant Principal, Richard Green Central Park School
3. Keith Hardy; Project Manager, Wells Fargo Customer Remediation, Centers of Excellence
4. Samakab Hussein; President & Chief Executive Officer, Twins Medical Inc.
5. Arthur Ray McCoy; Estate Planning Advisor; Affinity Plus Federal Credit Union
6. Jon Schumacher; Retired, Former Executive Director for Saint Anthony Park Community Foundation
7. Libby Starling; Director of Strategic Operations, Community Development and Engagement Division, Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis, Minneapolis, MN
8. Longkee Vang; Youth Program Coordinator, Brooklyn Center Community Schools,
9. Jim Vue; Facilitator, *Being Hmong with In Progress*
10. Holly Windingstad; Freelance Set and Costume Designer

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 Vice 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 Kopp nominated Mr. Arthur Ray McCoy.

Director Marchese passed.

Director Ellis nominated Mr. Jim Vue.

Director Foster nominated Mr. Samakab Hussein.

Director Brodrick nominated Mr. Jon Schumacher.

Director Allen nominated Mr. Keith Hardy.

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

Director Kopp	Arthur Ray McCoy
Director Marchese	Jim Vue
Director Ellis	Jim Vue
Director Foster	Jim Vue

Director Brodrick	Jon Schumacher
Director Allen	Keith Hardy

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

Director Marchese nominated Mr. Jim Vue.
Director Ellis nominated Mr. Jim Vue.
Director Foster nominated Mr. Jim Vue.
Director Brodrick nominated Mr. Jon Schumacher.
Director Allen nominated Mr. Keith Hardy.
Director Kopp nominated Mr. Arthur Ray McCoy.

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

Director Kopp	Arthur Ray McCoy
Director Marchese	Jim Vue
Director Ellis	Jim Vue
Director Foster	Jim Vue
Director Brodrick	Jon Schumacher
Director Allen	Keith Hardy

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

Director Ellis nominated Mr. Jim Vue.
Director Foster nominated Mr. Jim Vue.
Director Brodrick nominated Mr. Jon Schumacher.
Director Allen nominated Mr. Keith Hardy.
Director Kopp nominated Mr. Arthur Ray McCoy.
Director Marchese passed.

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

Director Kopp	Arthur Ray McCoy
Director Marchese	Jim Vue
Director Ellis	Jim Vue
Director Foster	Jim Vue
Director Brodrick	Jon Schumacher
Director Allen	Keith Hardy

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

Director Brodrick nominated Mr. Jon Schumacher.
Director Allen nominated Mr. Keith Hardy.
Director Kopp nominated Mr. Arthur Ray McCoy.
Director Marchese passed.
Director Ellis nominated Mr. Jim Vue.

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

Director Kopp	Arthur Ray McCoy
Director Marchese	Jim Vue
Director Ellis	Jim Vue
Director Foster	Jim Vue
Director Brodrick	Jim Vue
Director Allen	Keith Hardy

With four votes for Jim Vue, he was selected to serve as interim board member. Mr. Jim Vue was congratulated.

The Vice 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 thanks to all the applicants who demonstrated great love for this city and their schools, appreciation for the opportunity to learn from the candidates, hopes that candidates will continue to stay invested and engaged with SPPS, acknowledgement of the reasoning for the meeting and the loss of Chair Marny Xiong, the willingness of applicants to step up, the process and applicants which showed the greatness and knowledge of the Saint Paul community, willingness to do the work, congratulations to Interim Director Vue, and the difficult time and process and the mourning of Marny Xiong throughout this time. The special election and upcoming elections in 2021 were also noted, and future opportunities for applicants. Thanks for the commitment and look forward to serving in other capacities and to serving with Jim Vue in the upcoming months. Superintendent Gothard also congratulated Jim Vue and looks forward to working with him. The gravity of filling a board vacancy left by Chair Xiong and the difficult scenarios currently due to COVID and the leadership defined by the circumstances, and the challenging times that will be faced. Thanks to the community for remaining engaged and committed. We will work together and move forward. Thanks to the Board as well for their leadership and collaboration in this process.

IV. RESOLUTION FILLING SCHOOL BOARD VACANCY BY APPOINTMENT

BF 32168 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), Jim Vue is hereby appointed to fill the vacancy and to serve until a successor is elected and qualified. The appointment shall be effective August 26, 2020, 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 Kopp.

The motion was approved by roll call vote:

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

XII. ADJOURNMENT

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

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

The meeting adjourned at 6:35 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