

**INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 625**  
**Saint Paul, Minnesota**

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**Via Telephonic Phone Conference**

**March 24, 2020**  
**6:05 p.m.**

**MINUTES**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 6:10 p.m. by Marny Xiong, Chair.

**II. ROLL CALL**

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

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; Kevin Burns, Director of Communications; Hans Ott, Executive Director, Office of Digital and Alternative Education; Craig Anderson, Executive Director, Office of Teaching and Learning; Kaying Thao, Administrator to the Board; Sarah Dahlke, Secretary to the Board

**II. APPROVAL OF THE ORDER OF THE MAIN AGENDA**

**MOTION: Director Xiong 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 Ellis	Yes
Director Foster	Yes
Director Brodrick	Yes
Director Xiong	Yes
Director Allen	Yes
Director Kopp	Yes
Director Marchese	Yes

**III. APPROVAL OF THE ORDER OF THE CONSENT AGENDA**

**MOTION: Director Xiong moved approval of the Order of the Consent Agenda with no items pulled for separate consideration. The motion was seconded by Director Marchese.**

The motion was approved by roll call vote:

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

#### IV. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

- A. Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of February 18, 2020
- B. Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Board of Education of February 26, 2020
- C. Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Board of Education of March 4, 2020
- D. Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Board of Education of March 6, 2020
- E. Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Board of Education of March 7, 2020
- F. Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Board of Education of March 8, 2020
- G. Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Board of Education of March 9, 2020
- H. Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Board of Education of March 11, 2020
- I. Minutes of the Emergency Meeting of the Board of Education of March 19, 2020

**MOTION:** Director Xiong moved approval of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of February 18, 2020; Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Board of Education of February 26, 2020; Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Board of Education of March 4, 2020; Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Board of Education of March 6, 2020; Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Board of Education of March 7, 2020; Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Board of Education of March 8, 2020; Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Board of Education of March 9, 2020; Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Board of Education of March 11, 2020; and Minutes of the Emergency Meeting of the Board of Education of March 19, 2020. The motion was seconded by Director Ellis.

The motion was approved by roll call vote:

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

#### V. COMMITTEE REPORTS

##### A. Equity Committee Meeting of February 24, 2020

At the February 24, 2020 Equity Committee meeting, Tri-Chair Myla Pope began the meeting by welcoming members and grounding them through questions to be connected to the ongoing work of creating equitable systems, including how they observe, reflect upon, question, and interrupt pervasive inequities.

Next, the purpose of the Equity Committee was reviewed – “The Equity Committee is...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 Schools Administration.”

Next, the committee reviewed the Courageous Conversations agreements, and Seven Norms of Collaborative work to guide them in their journey.

A video was shared to ground the Committee in their work, which told the story of a SPPS student who is transgender, and their experiences in school, family, and life. They told of the dream of a world where people are treated well regardless of their identity and there is a willingness to learn about each other.

Committee members then discussed in their groups which quadrants they moved through within the compass of Courageous Conversations. In their small groups, committee members then reviewed an assigned group of submitted inequities by members – there were 55 inequities submitted. Members were guided through a process of review for their assigned inequities, including if the inequity is evident, if more information is needed, Equity Committee Meeting, Jan. 27, 2020 Page 2 drafting of a possible recommendation for this inequity, and a ranking of the list of inequities.

Members were then invited to share commonalities within their findings, and their identified top three inequities. Small groups then discussed a consensus to form the groups top three inequities and to determine a group recommendation for each. Members then shared their opportunities and challenges in this work. In closing, Tri-Chair Pope drew the committee back to the original questions brought forward at the meeting, including how today’s process has helped them to create equitable systems, personal biases to revisit, the process to enhance the ability in managing dialogues, and discussion around perspectives that may have been challenging, and additional steps necessary to hear perspectives than are different from one’s own.

**MOTION: Director Foster moved the Board to accept the report on the February 24, 2020 Equity Committee Meeting and approve the minutes of that meeting as published. The motion was seconded by Director Ellis.**

The motion was approved by roll call vote:

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

## **VI. SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT**

Superintendent Gothard then shared that he appreciates time to join us for a board meeting like no other we’ve had and work to do; he is proud of work that many have done in SPPS these last few weeks. He recapped with framing of the past events that have led to this point, including the Executive Order by Governor Walz that charged districts to close schools by March 18th, and create distance learning plans

posted online by March 27th, as well as creating meal plans for students and provide essential childcare for students in the Saint Paul community for essential workers during this emergency time. He then directed the Board and community to pages 59-69 of the BoardBook. He noted that many questions still remain, including future plans and plans within other districts across the state and country. He thanked the leaders of Minnesota for charging us to this work and supporting our community, and the education of our children and safety of our community.

He also shared his recent teleconference with Chair Xiong and the Council of the Great City Schools to hear their challenges across the country, and he felt proud of the efforts in SPPS and in the state in working with a number of colleagues. He updated that he will continue communication, and there are daily calls with Minnesota Department of Education.

He also noted that Spring Break will continue as planned for March 30-April 3.

He also shared that teachers, staff and principals have been reaching out to students and families, and the importance and impact of teachers telling their students that they miss them. We have tools for distance learning, and will learn great things, but our teachers and staff miss our kids, and it's important to state that we miss you too. SPPS is a vibrant relationship-based organization that values both the educational, and social-emotional development of children and young people.

He then introduced Kate Wilcox-Harris, Chief Academic Officer, and Jackie Turner, Chief Operations Officer, to provide updates to Distance Learning and Operations during this unprecedented time.

### **Distance Learning**

- Provided daily communications to staff
- Tested systems for Distance Learning
- Implemented online courses for PreK-12 teachers
- Prepared checklists for teachers, families, and students
- Distributed iPads to 20,000 students
- 200+ hotspots picked up or delivered
- Created and shared exemplar lessons and resources in all content areas
- Collected feedback from staff on Distance Learning needs
- Digital tools include Seesaw for PreK-2, Schoology for grades 3-12, Google Drive for grades 3-12, and Blackboard Connect for districtwide
- An example of social-emotional learning through distance learning was explained, including a “smile and wave activity” where teachers checked-in with students on how they were feeling
- Examples of Elementary Student Checklist and Elementary Family Checklist were provided for tasks for students and families each day during Distance Learning
- Examples of Secondary Student Checklist and Secondary Family Checklist were provided for tasks for students and families to complete during Distance Learning

### **Operations**

- Essential Kids Care
  - Current sites include Horace Mann, Rondo, and LNFI Lower
- Overall Current Enrollment
  - Averaging 80-110 students daily
  - Adding two additional sites to accommodate tier 2 families (April 6, 2020)
- Meals

- Distributed more than 60,000 last week
- More than doubled production this week; will distribute 144,000+ meals
- Added Community Curbside, 10-11:30am or until all food is gone
- Spring Break - community partners
- More information on community partners and meals for students was also shared

**QUESTION/DISCUSSION:**

- Dr. Gothard noted that plans are being developed quickly, and with the size of the district and information received, that plans may change quickly. The team is doing great work and incredibly adaptive when met with different challenges or language from the State, or working with adjustments, and appreciates everyone's flexibility during this time.
- Director Ellis noted questions as to meals and who our partners are that will be helping over spring break, and what will communication look like for the community? Response: Our main partner is Second Harvest, and there are also a number of others that are being finalized. Our partners have been forthright with us in the number of meals they are able to serve, which is around 4,000 per day. They are working to increase that amount. Another is YouthServes and Loaves and Fishes.
- Director Foster noted her thanks to the entire community in thinking about meals for our students, and the valiant effort. She understands there was a shortage in some places, and to continue to bring concerns and critiques to the District, and asked that criticisms be paired with solutions-focused ideas as well to continue to improve upon this process.
- Questioning to help understand e-learning - what doing with kids for IEPs and 504 plans? Response: With regards to students with disabilities, to the greatest extent possible, students with special education services will have their needs met, including those services in their IEP, including distance learning environment where special education services include a combination of options, including co-teaching and designing assignments alongside general education teachers, adapting and modifying general education assignments, and scheduling time to connect via telecommunications regarding their assignments, and providing direct instructional and therapeutic services via this telecommunication system. Marcy Doud, Assistant Superintendent of Specialized Services, is working with her team daily, and ends each day with questions that have arisen, and are busy planning to ensure the number one goal of ensuring needs of students with disabilities are met in this distance learning environment.
- Director Brodrick noted that while he does not have any specific questions, he echoed the heartfelt thanks for people in the community and SPPS employees who have joined together to do distance learning and food distribution. He is inspired and impressed by the efforts happening, and how our community and employees of SPPS have risen to the occasion that this crisis has put upon us and is so thankful for our staff and community. Gratitude expressed.
- Director Allen echoed her colleagues - think amazing how staff stepping up to do this work, and are so fluid at this unprecedented time. We stepped into roles, not knowing this could be a possibility, and to be able to address issues and continue to serve our students and community is amazing. We do need our community and community partners to continue to step up to do this work with us - schools are one pillar of the community, and there are so many others. She thanked our current partners, and encouraged board members to continue to form community connections and urged folks to continue to partner with SPPS. This is an all-hands-on-deck situation, and encouraged community to continue to support the efforts. It is heartening to hear from students who reached out to tell her they have food and are managing through this crisis.
- Director Kopp added to notes already expressed; the scope and scale of what's being undertaken in short period of time could be overwhelming to point of inaction - this district has stepped up in every

level, building, central administration, and community members to show what we can do when we have a common purpose and thanked everyone for their work in that.

- One question on distance learning in thinking as a parent and former teacher, is to think about communication to parents and families, to ensure it is all accessible and understandable to all parents, students, and families. This is a weird time and to ensure we are communicating expectations that are appropriate and reasonable, and also have empathy for what everyone is experiencing in language and terminology so that all can feel successful in this endeavor of supporting our students. Response: We have implored the team to address this plan in three phases - one is the immediate phase, two is the planning leading to March 27th, and three is a deeper phase for implementation, and there will be different communication strategies for each as we continue to develop the plan as well. As we go, there will be communication on the current reality and what we are working on, and learning through implementation. Differentiated strategies will be important, and a valid point that will be incorporated, and encourage the Board to continue to bring feedback and input from the community.
- Regarding meals, and while communication from the District in electronic format has been excellent, there are concerns about the changes from all school sites to the six sites, and may be helpful to post signage on those schools for families on where to go if they are not as connected as others, so that they also have access in those spaces. Response: We will continue to distribute post cards to all drivers to hand out to families, as well as information through Blackboard, the system used for telephone, text and emails to families, to let them know of the site changes. While we may not be able to post signage on schools for the 7:30am pick up tomorrow, we can work with custodians for the Thursday pick-up sites, and will continue efforts to post signs for the Wednesday sites as well. Chief Turner also noted that Second Harvest and the State will have a call for a meeting of the food-minds, with local and larger food shelf organizations to talk about support for SPPS and MPS with their spring breaks at the same time, and the State has agreed to have a conversation to bring together folks to determine strategies to ensure children receive support and food during spring break.
- Director Marchese echoed words of his colleagues and appreciate and support for the work. He noted it is a tremendous undertaking, and observed that it has only been two weeks since March 10, which was the start of the beginning of the strike by SPFE members and the amount of transition and ability to deal with changes is breathtaking. It's important to recognize what SPPS and the community has been through and what we are all going through right now. He appreciates the hard work and efforts across the Board, from administration, building leadership, paraprofessionals, food services, janitorial, bus drivers and families. We have been through a lot in two weeks and to recognize this time is unprecedented, on top of a period of time that was also unprecedented.
- He also noted that SPPS is feeding a significant portion of the city through our programs, and we have risen to the occasion, and is impressed by the logistical support, with so any city residents and student depending on the school district as a lifeline. He agreed with Director Allen in continuing to broaden the circle of partnerships and community conversation and SPPS is holding up a significant portion of the community with services and programs and we need others to also step forward into the space and it is very important to have our partnerships and community in that space as well.
- He also noted the technical aspects of distance learning and hearing concerns from community members, students and parents about grading, especially at the secondary level, and how it will be implemented going-forward, for credit for coursework and testing for AP and IB, which are done by other organizations that impact students. Response: Superintendent Gothard noted that there has been significant engagement and conversations on this topic. There are also guidelines from MDE as well. In grading and impact to students in terms of completion of credits, Superintendent Gothard has insisted that we are to take a humanitarian approach to this technical area and also ensure we are holding students harmless and not punishing them for events beyond their control. In the area of

grading, we are analyzing data from Office of Teaching and Learning and Office of College and Career Readiness of the impacts on how to treat 3rd and 4th quarter grades, and are very close to being ready for vetting by principals and teachers and that constant feedback loop for those closest to students. Once vetted, it will be communicated to families in understandable format and language that their students will be held harmless for the events of the past 3 weeks and beyond. There is also guidance by MDE to be shared as well. Superintendent Gothard noted the data point of 850 million K-12 students out of school around the world, and definitely a moment of time where usual milestones of transitions, especially for upper level students preparing for post-secondary plans and adaptations in thinking about college, workplaces, and scholarships - so many students have worked so hard to get to where they are today. He noted he will continue to partner with those necessary on our needs for students to demonstrate their dreams and aspirations for their next steps and is important to fight and advocate for all students.

- Director Marchese also noted the importance of capacity for counselors for academic advising and navigating questions, including selecting coursework for next year. How are we putting plans in place for students to receive counselor advising to make decisions and understand the impacts of those decisions over the next few weeks? Response: OCCR has been working closely with the Division of Schools and assistant superintendents to help clarify coursework, CTE needs, and virtual needs for students to ensure they are linked in in supporting students in different areas. Darren Ginther is the leader of this group, and also very connected to our grading team to ensure we are supporting students to accommodate them and their needs, which is true of all supportive services within social work and other areas as well.
- Director Marchese noted that under the best circumstances, there can be difficulty in reaching all students, and urged Administration to determine ways to reach all students, not only the ones who tend to come forward for help and guidance. They will be harder to reach in the next weeks or months than before, and hope for a communication plan for our students both for getting in-touch and information and to know someone is available to help them navigate. He is concerned about students falling through the cracks in this environment. Response: Along with engagement in this environment, one of the items that the counseling team is working through is how to hold and set up confidential conversations for staff to speak with students and families to students and to ensure space for access to counseling and social work. They will also be focused on personalized learning plans, and the needs of the students and families to be impacting this plan as we move forward.
- Director Ellis requested information on access for students to hotspots for internet access for distance learning. She has heard from colleagues in greater Minnesota, that hotspots are backordered, and where we are for access for students. Response: We as a district did distribute over 200 hotspots with partnerships currently in place with T-Mobile. We also have a number of for-profit providers such as Comcast and others have offered internet essentials, which are free for throughout the state and country. For families to get internet, they have agreed to provide that currently for 60 days. Our for-profit companies and partners, have also done good job of promoting and sharing on social media. They also send something directly to customers about internet free for those particular families who can't afford it.
- Superintendent Gothard noted that in hearing from the Board and Team, this is real-time information and plans that creating in distant way not the easiest thing, overcoming challenges, becoming efficient and effective with new technologies. He thanked the team for their flexibility and dedicated work to schedule meetings and ensure getting right feedback to implement our plan. He is pleased with Phase 1, in the middle of Phase 2, and ready to introduce all families to Phase 3 of distance learning.

#### A. December 2019 Quarterly Report

Superintendent Gothard then introduced Marie Schrul, Chief Financial Officer, to provide a review of the Quarterly Financial Report for the period ending December 31, 2019, including highlights of the quarterly financial report, quarterly financial report for the period ending December 31, 2019, and the glossary of financial terms. The full report can be found in the BoardBook.

**QUESTION/DISCUSSION:**

- Director Marchese noted on the building construction fund page, and that the Board had authorized Certificates of Participation sales earlier this year and late last year and see notation at the bottom regarding approvals from MDE regarding COP authorization for AIMS, Adams, and Phalen Lake. Are these different from what this Board already authorized (page 8 of the report; page 79 of the BoardBook)? Response: The authorization at the bottom of page 79 has not changed - what has changed and gone to the Commissioner recently for amounts that were previously sought that are different, but reference on bottom of page 79 are the originals; amounts for the original have not changed.
  - Notation going to the commissioner about - is that for additional funding already beyond what has already been approved for COPs? Response: That is for funding that has been approved already.
  - What is the commissioner deciding right now that impacts this area? Response: Nothing at this point, but for use of additional or upcoming projects to impact future projects such as AIM and/or Phalen Lake into the future where issuing additional COPs, then we have to go to the commissioner for approval. This is not a recommendation for further funding, but if we need additional revenue, there would need to be additional Certificates of Participation, which is the conversation with the Commissioner. This does align with our facilities master plan update.

**MOTION: Director Xiong moved approval of the acceptance of the quarterly financial report for the period ending December 31, 2019. Director Marchese seconded the motion.**

The motion was approved by roll call vote:

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

**B. Human Resource Transactions**

- Director Allen requested further information on positions within the report. Response: We do hire throughout the year, and a time that we stop doing regular hires which are contracted. We typically would do temporary hires - for the hires in February for classroom positions or teaching positions, pay according to contract language and pay based on experience and education and within that lane in the salary schedule and steps according to contract for experience. We have the pleasure of hiring experienced teachers and shown within the report.

**MOTION: Director Xiong moved approval of the HR Transactions for the period February 1, 2020 through February 29, 2020. Director Ellis seconded the motion.**



The motion was approved by roll call vote:

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

## VII. CONSENT AGENDA

**MOTION:** Director Xiong moved approval of all items within the consent agenda withholding no items for separate consideration. Director Brodrick seconded the motion.

The motion was approved by roll call vote:

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

### A. Gifts

**BF 31968** Acceptance of a Gift to The Heights Community School from Elizabeth S. West Trust Settlement

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (or Designee) to allow The Heights Community School to accept a monetary gift from Elizabeth S. West Trust Settlement in the amount of \$5,000 and provide a letter expressing appreciation for the gift. The funds will be deposited into The Heights Community School account, 19-488-291-000-5096-G501, and will be used for educational technology equipment and materials at the school.

**BF 31969** Acceptance of a Gift to Frost Lake Elementary School from Elizabeth S. West Trust Settlement

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (or Designee) to allow Frost Lake Elementary School to accept a monetary gift from Elizabeth S. West Trust Settlement in the amount of \$5,000 and provide a letter expressing appreciation for the gift.

**BF 31970** Acceptance of a Gift from DonateWell General Fund for Riverview West Side School of Excellence

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (or Designee) to approve the acceptance of the monetary gift of \$5,000.00 presented to Riverview West Side School of Excellence.

**BF 31971** Acceptance of a Gift from Elizabeth S. West Trust Settlement to Phalen Lake Hmong Studies

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (or Designee) to approve the acceptance of the monetary gift of \$5,000.00 from the Elizabeth S. West Trust Settlement and provide a letter expressing appreciation for the gift.

B. Grants

**BF 31972** Request for Permission to Accept a Grant from the French-American Cultural Exchange (FACE) Foundation

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to accept a grant from the FACE Foundation for funds to support the French Immersion program at Central Senior High School; to accept funds, if awarded; and to implement the project as specified in the award documents.

**BF 31973** Request for Permission to Accept a Grant from a Private Donor

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to accept a grant from a private donor to support professional development for Office of College and Career Readiness staff; to accept funds; and to implement the project as specified in the award documents.

**BF 31974** Request for Permission to Accept a Grant from the Twin Cities Opera Guild

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to accept funds from the Twin Cities Opera Guild for Capitol Hill Magnet School's musical production; to accept funds if awarded; and to implement the project as specified in the award documents.

**BF 31975** Request for Permission to Submit a Grant to Educators of America

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to submit a grant application to Educators of America for funds to purchase audio equipment; to accept funds, if awarded; and to implement the project as specified in the award documents.

**BF 31976** Request for Permission to Submit a Grant to the Minnesota Department of Education

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to submit a grant to the Minnesota Department of Education for funds to provide swimming lessons to students of Jackson Elementary; to accept funds, if awarded; and to implement the project as specified in the award documents.

**BF 31977** Request for Permission to Submit a Grant to the Minnesota Department of Education – Grow Your Own Pathway 1

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to submit a grant application to the Minnesota Department of Education for funds to provide SUTR resident stipends; to accept funds, if awarded; and to implement the project as specified in the award documents.

**BF 31978** Request for Permission to Submit a Grant to the Minnesota Department of Education –

## Grow Your Own Pathway 2

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to submit a grant application to the Minnesota Department of Education for funds to develop a high school education career pathway; to accept funds, if awarded; and to implement the project as specified in the award documents.

**BF 31979** Request for Permission to Submit a Grant to the Minnesota Department of Education – Introduction to Teaching Concurrent Enrollment

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to submit a grant application to the Minnesota Department of Education for funds to develop and offer dual-credit postsecondary course options in schools for “Introduction to Teaching” or “Introduction to Education” courses; to accept funds, if awarded; and to implement the project as specified in the award documents.

**BF 31980** Request for Permission to Submit a Grant to the Minnesota Department of Education – SEL Communities of Practice

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to submit a grant application to the Minnesota Department of Education for funds to participate in the SEL Community of Practice program; to accept funds, if awarded; and to implement the project as specified in the award documents.

**BF 31981** Request for Permission to Submit a Grant to the Minnesota Department of Education – STEM AP/IB Programs

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to submit a grant application to the Minnesota Department of Education for funds to continue developing the IB Career Programme, provide career exposure and service learning activities for IB students, provide direct academic and mindfulness support to students, and professional development to IB STEM teachers; to accept funds, if awarded; and to implement the project as specified in the award documents.

**BF 31982** Request for Permission to Submit a Grant to the United States Department of Justice

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to submit a grant application to the United States Department of Justice for funds to develop and install a secure online threat assessment and care plan tool; to accept funds, if awarded; and to implement the project as specified in the award documents.

**BF 31983** Resolution Supporting the Boost Grant for Safe Routes to School Funding from the Minnesota Department of Transportation

That the Board of Education approve the resolution language.

**RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL BOOST GRANT TO IMPROVE THE WALKING AND BIKING ENVIRONMENT FOR STUDENTS THROUGH NON-INFRASTRUCTURE ACTIVITIES**

**WHEREAS**, it is our understanding that the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) Safe Routes to School Program assists schools and communities by making it safer for children to walk and bike to school; and

**WHEREAS**, MnDOT Safe Routes to School Program solicits applications to enable schools and communities to implement Safe Routes to School non-infrastructure activities; and

**WHEREAS**, if Saint Paul Public Schools is awarded a Safe Routes to School Boost Grant, these funds would be used to provide non-infrastructure activities to local communities to develop Safe Routes to School initiatives that increase safety and encourage more children to walk and bicycle to school; and

**WHEREAS**, no local match funding is required; and

**WHEREAS**, Safe Routes to School Boost Grant activities will commence after the grant agreement is fully executed.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**

- 1) That the Saint Paul Public Schools Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent to enter into a grant agreement with the Minnesota Department of Transportation for financial assistance to fund a Safe Routes to School Boost Grant and eligible expenses.
- 2) That the Superintendent is authorized to execute such Agreement and any amendment(s).

**BF 31984** Request for Permission to Accept a Gift from the EXPO Council of Parents

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (or designee) to accept a gift from the EXPO Council of Parents to purchase and install playground equipment at EXPO for Excellence Elementary; to accept funds; and to implement the project.

C. Contracts

D. Agreements

**BF 31985** Agreement between Saint Paul Independent School District #625 and Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA) of the Greater Twin Cities for Child Care Services at AGAPE (Revised Contract)

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent to enter into an agreement with the YMCA of the Greater Twin Cities to reimburse the YMCA for providing direct child care services in an amount not to exceed \$833,780.00 from July 1, 2020, to June 11, 2021.

**BF 31986** Approval of Employment Agreement Between Independent School District No. 625 and Minnesota Teamsters Public and Law Enforcement Employees Local No. 320 Representing Teaching Assistants

That the Board of Education of Independent School District No. 625 approve and adopt the Agreement concerning the terms and conditions of employment for teaching assistant employees in this school district for whom the Minnesota Teamsters Public and Law Enforcement Employees Local No. 320 is the

exclusive representative; duration of said Agreement is for the period of July 1, 2019, through June 30, 2021.

**BF 31987** Approval of Employment Agreement Between Independent School District No. 625 and Manual and Maintenance Supervisors' Association Representing Facility and Nutrition Services Supervisors

That the Board of Education of Independent School District No. 625 approve and adopt the Agreement concerning the terms and conditions of employment for Manual and Maintenance Supervisors' Association in this school District; duration of said Agreement is for the period of January 1, 2020, through December 31, 2021.

E. Administrative Items

**BF 31988** Monthly Operating Authority

1. That the Board of Education approve and ratify the following checks and wire transfers for the period January 1, 2020 – January 31, 2020.

(a) General Account	#721604-723024	\$73,690,940.50
	#0003616-0003656	
	#7003595-7003639	
	#0004283-0004374	
(b) Debt Service	-0-	\$37,039,394.16
(c) Construction	-0-	\$2,071,931.68
		\$112,802,266.34

Included in the above disbursements are three payrolls in the amount of \$56,472,114.88 and overtime of \$144,338.98 or 0.26% 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 June 30, 2020.

**BF 31989** Facilities Dept. Purchases Over \$175,000 Adjustment

That the Board of Education authorize the purchases listed for the Facilities Department anticipated to be over the \$175,000.

F. Bids

**BF 31990** Phase Gate Approval of EXPO for Excellence Elementary Playground  
Project: Gate #4 – Contract Award; Gate #4A – Finance Plan Update

That the Board of Education authorize award of playground equipment and poured-in-place surfacing for the playground at EXPO for Excellence Elementary to Flagship Recreation for the lump sum base bid for \$195,758.99 at Phase Gate Check #4 and Phase Gate Check #4a – Finance Plan Update.

**BF 31991** RFP #A218951-A | RFP Prime Vendor

That the Board of Education authorize the award of RFP# A-218951-A to Indianhead Foodservice Distributor as a primary vendor and to Sysco Western Minnesota as the secondary vendor for our Prime Vendor Contract for the period of July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2022, for the estimated value of \$6,000,000 and \$500,000 respectively.

**BF 31992** Bid No. A20-0538A Apple Device Repair Services

That the Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent (designee) to enter into a contract with GopherMods for the labor, material, equipment and services to perform repairs for district staff, and student iPad devices.

**BF 31993** Intent to Award: Request for Proposal No. A120919-A Computerized  
Maintenance Management System (CMMS) Software Implementation

That the Board of Education authorize award of Request for Proposal No. A120919-A to TMA Systems for the implementation and service of WebTMA Enterprise at an estimated cost not to exceed \$106,805 in FY21.

**BF 31994** Phase Gate Approval of Washington Technology Magnet School Athletic  
Site Improvements Project (Project # 4040-19-01) – General Contracting:  
Gate #4 – Contract Award; Gate #4A – Finance Plan Update

That the Board of Education authorize the award of Bid No. A20-0673-A Athletic Site Improvements at Washington Technology Magnet School (Project # 4040-19-01) to Peterson Companies, Inc. for a lump sum base bid with alternates 1, 2 & 3 of \$2,954,900.

**BF 31995** Phase Gate Approval of Washington Technology Magnet School Athletic  
Site Improvements Project (Project # 4040-19-01) – Field Turf & Track  
Surfacing: Gate #4 – Contract Award; Gate #4A – Finance Plan Update

That the Board of Education authorize the award of field turf and track surfacing at Washington Technology Magnet School (Project # 4040-19-01) to Field Turf USA for the lump sum base bid of \$950,012.82.

**BF 31996** Phase Gate Approval of Phalen Lake Hmong Studies Magnet HVAC &

Controls Replacement Project (Project # 1200-19-01): Gate #4 – Contract Award; Gate #4A – Finance Plan Update

That the Board of Education authorize the award of Bid No. A20-0585-A HVAC & Controls Replacement at Phalen Lake Hmong Studies Magnet to Corval Group for a lump sum base bid with Alternate #1 of \$5,101,850.

G. Change Orders

**VIII. OLD BUSINESS** - None

**IX. NEW BUSINESS** - None

**X. BOARD OF EDUCATION**

A. Information Requests & Responses

- Director Ellis requested information on how we plan to address the budget in upcoming meeting, and wondering the operations of the District and to determine the budget.
  - Superintendent Gothard noted that there will be an Executive Team meeting to set up work for April. Right now we need time - as far as we know, we are expected to have an approved balanced budget by June 30th, and there are deadlines being moved with governmental entities and still need to work in that way. Our school district looks a lot different today than it may in September- we're all in a similar position. Continue to bring information forward with budget, and probably also be creating contingencies to have several plans for what ifs that we may have and will work to bring as much information as possible to make right decisions for SPPS.
- Director Ellis noted that there are lots of things happening in community and layoff and filing for unemployment, and people in SPPS - concerns about their jobs and roles - asking the question - think it's important to have reassurances to spps community and people working in district that right now they have jobs and will be okay.

B. Items for Future Agendas

- Director Allen requested to continue her question on criminal justice program and our work to support students from that system, with the grant up at end of this year.

C. Board of Education Reports/Communications

- Director Ellis shared that she had an opportunity to visit one of our schools on Friday to support community and families. There are a lot of feelings in the community. Also like to add that she is grateful for opportunity to have spoken to folks supporting families during this time. There's also going to need to be a lot of healing, and amazing we've come together and underlying things we're going to have to address. Appreciate everyone coming together to support students and rely and lean on each other as we're all trying to figure out what comes next. She acknowledged staff she had an opportunity to speak to, with different communications, including Director Stacy Koppen at Nutrition Services and Director Tom Burr with Transportation, and Assistant Superintendent Marcy Doud - an opportunity talk to them about scope and scale in our work and what our staff are being asked to do in a short period of time, planning and training, and also excitement to reconnect with kids in SPPS, and also how families are figuring out what this means and

how to support their children. There is more to figure out. She thanked the Superintendent for his leadership, and others who are helping to determine how we move forward. There are a lot of people trying to figure out what's best for kids and how we support them, and was inspiring to be with folks in our building and community. Looking forward to continuing weeks, and our work to continue and improve; hope communication is done well for community since the District is the beacon in the community, and needs to be larger than just us.

- Director Brodrick noted he feels confident that the school community will come together during this turbulent time.
- Director Allen noted she has also been in buildings to help and connect with teachers and students - the compassion is amazing and to hear students say they miss us shows the love and compassion for students in our district and see that continue to move forward.
- She also noted that artists have begun to think of ways to come together, and encouraged staff to think about ways for students to come together and a way to create an online community-student event out of the box of learning to get kids more engaged - they are missing their friends and teachers and staff who care for them, and step up in that way. We're doing an amazing job and our community doing great and staff doing great and need to continue to be fluid.
- Director Kopp reflected on what happened before and wanted to share places she's been and people she's met in community. She spent time with Office of Early Learning with a tour of facilities and partnership work in community, PreK work. It is so impressive and more than anyone knows - grateful for their work to support littlest learners. She also attended the Indian Education Parent Committee meeting with Director Ellis and Director Brodrick and learned where we've been and where we still need to go - appreciate opportunity to learn from families. Also visited Jie Ming Mandarin Immersion school to meet with Principal Johnson and learn about their unique challenges and opportunities, observe classes - so impressed with work and grateful for invitation to meet and tour. She also recently attend the Chelsea Heights Science Fair Night with hundreds of people from kids, families, community members. It was a celebration of inquiry and science exploration - kudos to entire team there for amazing event for 14 years. She was honored to be a part and thanked for invitation. Concluded with thanking community - extraordinary response to extraordinary circumstances and a learning together of the mind and heart and continue that for work forward. She thanked everyone for their good work and kind hearts and believes in SPPS.
- Chair Xiong noted that a conference call with Council of the Great City Schools - long conversation about leadership changes in that organization, and most importantly, how different school districts are being adaptive to this new normal and at the same time, the needs continue. One piece of the call involved members of the school district and community members to call our congressional delegation from Minnesota and the country to encourage them to increase appropriations to support public education to allow us to experience this unprecedented circumstances with appropriate funding and to ensure that in the next stimulus package, to increase appropriation to public schools across the nation during this crisis.
- Director Xiong also echoed her colleagues about how thankful she is that while in this time, to have a supportive community in Saint Paul and thanked staff and leadership for their work to move from one crisis to another and to ensure that families' and students' needs are met, while being adaptive and flexible. She thanked the community, staff, and colleagues on the Board and Superintendent and shared that we have been working



closely together and with other entities such as the City and County and confirmed that we are all in this together and will get through this with each other.

- Supt Gothard felt conversation via telephone went well, and appreciated comments and will take feedback to future planning and bring back plans for April - thanks for patience and participation tonight.

## **XI. FUTURE MEETING SCHEDULE**

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

- April 14, 2020
- May 19
- June 9 (Special – Non-Renewals)
- June 23
- July 21
- August 18
- September 22
- October 20
- November 17
- 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)**

- April 7
- May 5
- June 9
- August 5 (Wednesday)
- September 8
- October 6
- November 10
- December 8
- January 5, 2021
- February 9
- March 9
- April 6
- May 4
- June 8
- August 10

Chair Xiong also provided information on how to access our meetings via teleconferencing, which will be posted on our website at [www.spps.org/boe](http://www.spps.org/boe) or by calling our board secretary Ms. Sarah Dahlke at 612-434-1105.

She also noted that during this unprecedented time, public comments can be submitted by:

- 1) Leaving messages with the Board secretary at sarah.dahlke@spps.org or 612-434-1105 that will be compiled and distributed to Board members; and/or
- 2) Sending email statements to the Board of Education email (SB.Members@spps.org) that will be compiled and distributed to Board members.

## **XII. ADJOURNMENT**

**Director Xiong 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 Xiong	Yes
Director Allen	Yes
Director Kopp	Yes
Director Marchese	Yes

The meeting adjourned at 8:02 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