

**INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 625**  
**Saint Paul, Minnesota**  
**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**November 14, 2017**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 p.m.

**II. ROLL CALL**

**Present:** Ms. Foster, Mr. Brodrick, Mr. Vue, Ms. Vanderwert, Mr. Schumacher, Mr. Marchese, Ms. Ellis, Superintendent Gothard, Ms. Cameron, General Counsel, and Ms. Dahlke, Assistant Clerk

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

**MOTION:** Mr. Schumacher moved approval of the Order of the Main Agenda as published. The motion was seconded by Ms. Ellis.

The motion was approved with the following roll call vote:

Ms. Foster	Yes
Mr. Brodrick	Yes
Mr. Vue	Yes
Ms. Vanderwert	Yes
Mr. Schumacher	Yes
Mr. Marchese	Yes
Ms. Ellis	Yes

**IV. RECOGNITIONS**

**BF 31111**                      Recognition of Contributors to Project REACH, In Recognition of National Hunger and Homeless Awareness Week, November 11-19, 2017

Approximately 2000 students are identified as experiencing homelessness in our schools each year. Many of our students sleep in cars, bus stops, or on the light rail. Project REACH works with students and families to help meet their needs from housing and shelter resources to transportation to their school of origin, and academic tutoring in our shelters. Project REACH supplies each student with backpacks and school supplies so they are ready to learn in school. Families have other needs as well, like the need for cleaning supplies, hygiene items, gas cards and books that many take for granted. Each year Project REACH holds a blanket and coat drive, to help our families during the cold winters. The needs of our students and families far outweigh our resources; therefore, we rely on the goodwill of our donors to help supplement these resources for our families and students. **Gail Ghere and Siblings, Taylor Coffin, Katie Vaudriel and Students, Laura Testor, Leslie Adams, Hamline Church, Bill Dillon, Tina Jones, Sunrise Bank, Pam Wiehe, Martha Hobbs Rice, Vera Proctor, Alan Stedman, Diane Brings, Sherry Martin, Kate McMullen, Jayne Ropella, and a thank you to many Saint Paul Public School employees** that made individual donations of money and other items to benefit our families and students.

**BF 31112**

Recipient of the 2017 Charles Hopson Racial Equity Principal Award

Pacific Educational Group selected **Christine Vang**, principal at Como Elementary, as the recipient of the 2017 Charles Hopson Racial Equity Principal Award. Ms. Vang was honored in October at the 2017 National Summit for Courageous Conversation in Detroit, Michigan.

**BF 31113**

Recognition of Schools, Teams, Individuals and Coaches in Saint Paul Public Schools That Have Won Athletic Awards and Championships

1. Ramsey Middle School Girls Volleyball Team - City Champion
2. Ramsey Middle School Girls Soccer Team - City Champion
3. Washington Middle School Boys Soccer Team - City Champion
4. Murray Middle School Boys Flag Football Team - City Champion
5. Central Senior High School Boys Cross-Country Team - City Champion and State Qualifiers
6. Central Senior High School Girls Cross-Country - State Qualifier
7. Central Senior High School Girls Swimming Team - City Champion
8. Central Senior High School Girls Soccer Team - City Champion
9. Harding Senior High School Girls Tennis Team - City Champion
10. Harding Senior High School Boys Soccer Team - State Qualifiers
11. Highland Park Senior High School Girls Cross-Country Team – City Champion and State Qualifiers
12. Highland Park Senior High School Boys Cross-Country Team – State Qualifiers
13. Highland Park Senior High School Boys Soccer Team - City Champions
14. Highland Park Senior High School Girls Volleyball Team - City Champions

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

**MOTION:** Mr. Schumacher moved approval of the Order of the Consent Agenda with the exception of Item G1 -- Change Order #1 for Rochon Corporation at the Horace Mann Elementary Expansion & Renovation, which was pulled for separate consideration. The motion was seconded by Mr. Marchese.

The motion was approved with the following roll call vote:

Ms. Foster	Yes
Mr. Brodrick	Yes
Mr. Vue	Yes
Ms. Vanderwert	Yes
Mr. Schumacher	Yes
Mr. Marchese	Yes
Ms. Ellis	Yes

**VI. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

A. Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of October 17, 2017

**MOTION:** Mr. Schumacher moved approval of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of October 17, 2017 as published. The motion was seconded by Ms. Ellis.

The motion was approved with the following roll call vote:

Ms. Foster	Yes
Mr. Brodrick	Yes
Mr. Vue	Yes
Ms. Vanderwert	Yes
Mr. Schumacher	Yes
Mr. Marchese	Yes

**VII. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**A. Committee of the Board Meeting of November 8, 2017**

At the Committee of the Board Meeting on November 8th, Superintendent Gothard started the meeting with a brief update on the election results and congratulated the winners of both the school board and mayoral races.

While SEAB was not able to attend due to the scheduling change, the Board was provided an update on their latest project – the expansion of student voice in the district. Currently, they are analyzing answers to questions regarding student voice, which were presented to focus groups in schools across the district. They will be presenting their findings at an upcoming Committee of the Board Meeting.

The Fiscal Year 2017 Budget Revision was also presented. The overall revenue budget began at \$704 million and ended at \$721 million. On the expenditures side, we started the year at \$715 million and ended the year at \$736.8 million. The difference in revenue and expenditures is due to the plan to spend fund balances in certain funds, such as debt service. The Board moved the recommended motion to approve the fiscal year 2016-2017 budget revision as presented.

An update to the Pay18 levy was provided by the Chief Financial Officer. The proposed Pay 18 levy has decreased to 4.99%. A reminder that the Truth in Taxation Hearing will be held on December 5th at 6:00 pm, with the certification of the levy at the Board of Education Meeting on December 19th, 2017.

An overview of the upcoming 2018 Legislative session was reviewed. The proposed topics include a focus on mandates, stabilizing funding for PreK, expanding local control, pension reform, increasing supports for at-risk families, and ensuring funding support and flexibility in testing. One of the fund mandates regarding the phase out of the special education cross-subsidy sparked conversation between board members. The District is at an unfair advantage due to the special education formulas by the government, and the Board discussed options for improvement. The first involved a change in tuition billing, which will be a component of discussions with the legislature on the cross-subsidy. Another option that was proposed is to explore other avenues in a legal context, such as an appeal to the courts to change the policy. Superintendent Gothard noted that efforts are being coordinated with other districts to compel change in this area.

The Facilities Vendor Diversity Plan was also presented. The goal of this process is to proactively create an environment through policies and procedures that will cultivate and sustain a more diverse workforce of construction suppliers and vendors that is reflective of the diversity of Saint Paul Public Schools. With help from the Community Advisory Council, the facilities department has created a timeline for the design of the plan. A recommendation will be presented to the Board mid-year 2018. Discussion on this topic involved the structure of the bid process, proposed changes to the bidding process, and the need for the Legal and Purchasing departments to be a part of the conversation. Other governmental agencies have implemented similar programs, and we plan to review their work as we develop the vendor diversity plan for Saint Paul Public Schools.

Finally, a work session focused on the upcoming MacBook Lease and the recommendation for renewal.

**MOTION: Ms. Ellis moved the Board accept the report on the November 8, 2017 Committee of the Board meeting and approve the minutes of that meeting as published. The motion was seconded by Ms. Vanderwert.**

The motion was approved with the following roll call vote:

Ms. Foster	Yes
Mr. Brodrick	Yes
Mr. Vue	Yes
Ms. Vanderwert	Yes

Mr. Schumacher	Yes
Mr. Marchese	Yes
Ms. Ellis	Yes

**VIII. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

**A. Pay18 Levy Update**

The Chief Financial Officer stated school levy authority is established in law. School budgets are a combination of State, Federal and local funding, including the voter approved referendum. The Pay18 school levy funds the 2018-19 school year. Levies are approximately 20% of the SPPS budget. Districts receive payments after the May and October tax collections from the County. The Levy can only move down after October 1.

All figures in the report provided are based on Administration's best estimates, using the statutory authorized amounts. Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) provided updated Pay18 levy calculations on October 2. SPPS certified the maximum levy ceiling at the September 19 Board of Education meeting.

The CFO went on to describe the factors impacting the Saint Paul levy, such as:

- Overall estimated market values are up 9.8% from prior year and may reach 2008 levels.
- Double digit increases for a number of commercial, industrial and apartment properties
- Residential more moderate—areas of higher increases: Thomas/Dale, North End, Greater East Side, West 7<sup>th</sup>
- School portion of fiscal disparities aid increasing \$449,739 or 1.4%
- Changes to St. Paul Right of Way (ROW)/Street maintenance program

Other factors are:

- Changes in pupil counts
- Legislative changes to education formulas
- Referendum inflationary increase
- Pension contribution changes required by law
- OPEB obligations
- Employment changes that drive severance and unemployment levies
- Capital bonding, refunding of bonds, abatements, long-term maintenance, health & safety projects, lease costs

SPPS levy categories are:

- Operating - general levies that support school functions, including referendum, integration, operating capital, career/technical, transition, safe schools and abatement adjustments.
- Pension/OPEB/Contractual Obligations
- Facilities - includes health and safety, deferred maintenance, new construction and abatements.
- Community Service - community education programs, learning readiness, after school, ECFE.

**Proposed Pay 18 Levy Ceiling**

<b>Levy Category</b>	<b>Certified Pay17 Levy</b>	<b>Estimated Maximum Pay18 Levy Ceiling as of 10/2/17</b>	<b>Difference</b>
Operating	\$47,134,881	\$50,250,404	\$3,115,523
Pension/OPEB/Contractual	37,545,435	38,930,211	1,384,775
Facilities	59,983,176	62,657,568	2,674,392
Community Service	3,406,163	3,626,763	220,600

Total All Levy Categories	\$148,069,656	\$155,464,946	\$7,395,290
<b>Percent Change</b>			<b>4.99%</b>

It is good news for taxpayers, while the District will still be covered in terms of plans and projects.

The CFO reviewed the estimated annual property tax impact (from 2017 to 2018 assuming 0% increase in market value and assuming a 7.7% (home) and 17.5% (commercial/industrial) increase in market value), for residential and commercial/industrial.

The Pay18 levy calendar was then reviewed. There will be a Truth in Taxation public hearing at 6:00pm on December 5<sup>th</sup>, 2017 with the Board of Education certifying the Pay18 levy at the December 19, 2017 Board of Education Meeting. SPPS will certify the Pay18 levy to Ramsey County on December 31, 2017.

As a follow-up from questions discussed at the Committee of the Board meeting, levy information was presented for 2016 and 2017. The levy ceiling in 2017 was 4.9%, and the levy ceiling in 2016 was 3.52%.

**QUESTIONS/DISCUSSION:**

- The future looks like we will always be pushing the max on this, correct? Because of the funding issues we have, and the challenges around those issues it does not have to do with us in terms of the percentage, but we will continue on this trend for a few years in the future.

**B. Human Resource Transactions**

**MOTION: Mr. Schumacher moved approval of the HR Transactions for the period October 1, 2017 through October 31, 2017. Ms. Ellis seconded the motion.**

The motion was approved with the following roll call vote:

Ms. Foster	Yes
Mr. Brodrick	Yes
Mr. Vue	Yes
Ms. Vanderwert	Yes
Mr. Schumacher	Yes
Mr. Marchese	Yes
Ms. Ellis	Yes

**C. Superintendent's Update**

Superintendent Gothard then went on to provide an update the recent start of the strategic planning process. A successful two-day kick-off event with Greenway Strategy Group occurred on site. They discussed the phases of the developmental process. They spent time with our Research, Evaluation, and Assessment Department discussing data needs and an environmental scan of the District, and an analysis of that information for one of the components of the strategic plan. We began begin designing the process which will take place over the next several months. We will be utilizing the information from thousands of participants during the superintendent search process less than a year ago, as well as information gained from the Listen and Learn sessions. There will be meaningful opportunities from stakeholders in the District to be involved in the process. Included in the planning with be regular updates on the process at both the Committee of the Board and Regular Meetings to keep the Board and the public informed on the process along the way. The strategic plan will be an important tool for the District. It will lead to an organization where everyone understands the long term outcomes, and their role in improving student achievement. A special thanks to those at Greenway for helping in our strategic planning.

QUESTIONS/DISCUSSION:

- Last year, when SEAB did the presentation on inclusive curriculum, an update to the curriculum policy was proposed. It was suggested that this was more of a component of the strategic plan. Is creating inclusive curriculum that aligns with the existing policy going to be part of the strategic plan? Answer: As outlined, there will be opportunity for input in the plan. A curriculum that honors, respects, and values our students is something that is very important to us, and will be an important guiding principal.
- At our next Board of Education, there will be more of a timeline? Answer: Yes, the information that Greenway Strategy Group collected this week was to organize how this work will be carried out. When they submitted their proposal, they did include an example timeline based on other districts and work they have previously done. Now that they have met with SPPS, received feedback, and understand our needs and the necessary timing, we will have a more detailed work plan.

**IX. CONSENT AGENDA**

**MOTION:** Mr. Schumacher moved approval of all items within the Consent Agenda with the exception of G1 -- Change Order #1 for Rochon Corporation at the Horace Mann Elementary Expansion & Renovation, which was pulled for separate consideration. The motion was seconded by Mr. Marchese.

The motion was approved with the following roll call vote:

Ms. Foster	Yes
Mr. Brodrick	Yes
Mr. Vue	Yes
Ms. Vanderwert	Yes
Mr. Schumacher	Yes
Mr. Marchese	Yes
Ms. Ellis	Yes

A. Gifts - none

B. Grants

**BF 31114** Request for Permission to Submit a Grant to the 3M Gives Foundation

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to submit a grant to the 3M Gives for funds to sustain the K-12 STEM pipeline of in school and extracurricular programs; to accept funds, if awarded; and to implement the project as specified in the award documents.

**BF 31115** Request for Permission to Accept a Grant from the American Birkebeiner Ski Foundation

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to accept a grant from The American Birkebeiner Ski Foundation to fund Highland Park High School Nordic Skiing Club equipment upgrades; and to implement the project as specified in the award documents.

**BF 31116** Request for Permission to Accept a Grant from Concordia University

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to accept funds from Concordia University to support AVID at Central High School; and to implement the project as specified in the award documents

**BF 31117** Request for Permission to Submit a Grant to Metro ECSU

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to apply for a grant to Metro ECSU for funds to provide professional development for 47 SPPS elementary school teachers; to accept the funds if awarded; and to implement the project as specified in the award documents.

**BF 31118** Request for Permission to Submit a Grant to the Minnesota Department of Education, STEM Courses Program

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to submit a grant to the Minnesota Department of Education for funds to increase participation and success of students of color in STEM AP courses at Como Park Senior High School; to accept funds, if awarded; and to implement the project as specified in the award documents.

**BF 31119** Request for Permission to Submit a Grant to the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development, Support Services Program

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to submit a grant to the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development for funds to provide job training and employment preparation services to Gordon Parks High School; to accept funds, if awarded; and to implement the project as specified in the award documents.

**BF 31120** Request for Permission to Submit a Grant Application to NEA Foundation

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to submit an application to the NEA Foundation for Crossroads Science Elementary; to accept the funds if awarded; and to implement the project as specified in the award documents.

C. Contracts

**BF 31121** RFP A209458-A

That the Board of Education approve a second vendor contract for RFP A209458-A for contracted guard services with American Security and Investigations, LLC in the amount of \$400,000. The expense will be paid from the previously approved \$1.4 million annual expenditure.

D. Agreements

**BF 31122** Lease Agreement with the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent to execute a Lease Agreement between the District and the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency to lease space at Harding High School, 1540 East Sixth Street, Saint Paul, MN 55106 for the term January 1, 2018 through December 31, 2022, with quarterly rent of Two Hundred Dollars (\$200.00) subject to all other terms and conditions of said agreement.

**BF 31123** MOA with SPC - Student Eligibility for Concurrent Enrollment (w/ 3 Appendices)

That the Board of Education authorize the District to collaborate with Saint Paul college to provide Concurrent Enrollment opportunities for SPPS students at approved SPPS High Schools with approved SPPS teachers.

**BF 31124** Request to Sign Concurrent Enrollment and PSEO Joint Powers Agreement with Saint Paul College

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to sign the Joint Powers Agreement between Saint Paul Public Schools and Saint Paul College for FY17.

**BF 31125** Request to Sign Concurrent Enrollment and PSEO Joint Powers Agreement with Saint Paul College - Career Pathways Academy

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to sign the Joint Powers Agreement between Saint Paul Public Schools and Saint Paul College for FY17.

**BF 31126** Request to Sign Concurrent Enrollment and PSEO Joint Powers Agreement with Saint Paul College - Gateway to College

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to sign the Joint Powers Agreement between Saint Paul Public Schools and Saint Paul College for FY17.

**BF 31127** Approval of Employment Agreement Between Independent School District No. 625, Saint Paul Public Schools, and Minnesota Teamsters Local 320, Exclusive Representative for Nutrition Services Employees

That the Board of Education of Independent School District No. 625 approve and adopt the Agreement concerning the terms and conditions of employment of those nutrition services employees in this District for whom the Minnesota Teamsters Local No. 320 is the exclusive representative; duration of said Agreement is for the period of July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2019

E. Administrative Items

**BF 31128** Recommendations for Exclusion of Students in Non-Compliance with Minnesota Statute 123.70 Health Standards: Immunizations

That the Board of Education excludes the named students from school effective November 27, 2017, should they not comply with Minnesota State Health Standards for Immunizations on or before this date.

**BF 31129** Monthly Operating Authority

That the Board of Education approve and ratify the following checks and wire transfers for the period September 1, 2017 – September 30, 2017.

(a)	General Account	#682243-683362	\$58,084,283.94
		#0002694-0002725	
		#7002473-7002506	
		#0001761-0001818	
(b)	Debt Service	-0-	\$0.00
(c)	Construction	-0-	<u>\$11,004,987.75</u>
			<u>\$69,089,271.69</u>

Included in the above disbursements are 2 payrolls in the amount of \$43,095,714.46 and overtime of \$181,627.42 or 0.42% of payroll.

(d) Collateral Changes

**Released:**  
**None**  
**Additions:**



**None**

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, 2018.

**BF 31130** Reestablishment of the Classified Position of Equipment Repairer for Independent School District No. 625 and Relevant Terms and Conditions of Employment

That the Board of Education of Independent School District No. 625 approve the establishment of the Equipment Repairer classification effective November 14, 2017; that the Board of Education declare the position of Equipment Repairer as classified and that the pay rate for this position would be equivalent to Nutrition Services Equipment Repairer standard ranges.

F. Bids - None

G. Change Orders – pulled for separate consideration

**CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS PULLED FOR SEPARATE CONSIDERATION:**

**BF 31131** Change Order #1 for Rochon Corporation at the Horace Mann Elementary Expansion & Renovation

The Board requested more information on this consent agenda item. Tom Parent, Director of Facilities, provided answers to the questions brought forth by the Board.

- Is this change order due to unforeseen conditions or change of scope? If it is the latter, could you explain that? Answer: No change order is perfectly precise in the categories of unforeseen conditions, errors and omissions, and scope change. This change order is primarily owner requested changes. It is the result of ensuring we are capitalizing on opportunities for construction as presented. There is strategic advantage for the change of scope increase. We are taking the advantage of designing this right. There are other changes that are more technical and performance-based around the design of exterior walls, thermal and moisture performance.
- If we did change the scope during construction, was that something that we should have foreseen? Answer: There are things in hindsight that we may have designed slightly differently. In construction, we do want to introduce more scope that might not be during the bidding process, it is best to catch that now in early construction so that they are still valuable to the District.
- A Board Member noted the concerns on the original costs of a project and that the project approval was based on the presented costs. In looking toward the overall Facilities Maintenance Plan with projects continuing to be approved and if those projects continue to come in beyond the original amount, is it possible that we will run out of money while projects are being completed? We cannot have projects costing more than we thought all the time or we will spend more money than we thought we'd spend. Answer: As we track changes to construction projects, we do have internal key performance indicators on the amount of those changes. All categories of change orders are expected to stay below the 7% change so we do have a programmatic system to anticipate those changes. All of the changes are tracked, so that as a construction program as a whole, we can ensure we are living within our means.
- In the individual projects, there is usually a third party as a consultant, correct? Answer: It depends on the phase, but there are external construction managers. It would depend on the project though.
  - One of the main tasks of the consultants would be to help us determine the scope of a project, so when we come in over cost, are the consultants not doing a satisfactory job? Answer: We are in control of the scope as we

manage the system. With the FMP Governance Committee, our goal is to hold the consultants and contractors accountable if they are not providing guidance as the project is panning out. We need to be in alignment with them, or if they are not performing, they we do not go forward with them.

- It was also noted that the Board's expectation is that we are doing a good job up front in terms of coordinating our work to minimize the amount of surprises in construction. In a project as large as the FMP, we will have unforeseen costs and we are going to discover that we did not predict the real scope of a project when the work began.
- Is the 7% variance from the original contract amount? So change orders are within 7% of the original contract? Answer: Yes, by the end of the project.
  - For this project, what is the percentage right now? In terms of the overall contract, we are still at a relatively small percentage of the overall amount.
- An important note is that we want to be as accurate as possible. When we look at the future and the bidding process, it is important that we pay attention to increasing the accuracy of the different phases.

**MOTION: Mr. Brodrick moved the Board of Education to authorize the Superintendent to sign Change Order #1 for Rochon Corporation for the Horace Mann Expansion & Renovation for the lump sum of \$319,517.92. The motion was seconded by Ms. Foster.**

The motion was approved with the following roll call vote:

Ms. Ellis	Yes
Ms. Foster	Yes
Mr. Brodrick	Yes
Mr. Vue	Yes
Ms. Vanderwert	Yes
Mr. Schumacher	Yes
Mr. Marchese	Yes

## **X. OLD BUSINESS**

### A. Board Policy Updates

1. **SECOND READING:** Board Policy 508.00 - Students with Individualized Education Plans (IEPs)

QUESTIONS/DISCUSSION - none

2. **SECOND READING:** Board Policy 533.00 - Wellness

QUESTIONS/DISCUSSION - none

3. **SECOND READING:** Board Policy 510.00 - Graduation  
It was noted that in order to support this policy update, a very detailed procedure has been developed and we have sought the feedback of graduation principals and coordinators.

QUESTIONS/DISCUSSION:

A Board Member noted concerns on this policy. Assistant Director of Strategic Planning, Policy, and Development, Jackie Allen responded to the questions and offered insight into this policy revision.

- The supporting details and procedure for implementation is key to the success for this policy update.
- Has a draft of the procedure been shared with principals and graduation coordinators? Answer: Yes, it has been shared with them multiple times. It was first shared with the participating schools in the pilot program in March, and then with a greater group of graduation coordinators and principals two months ago, and as recent as two weeks ago. The procedure will not be in place until the policy change is implemented.

- It was discussed that when this procedure and policy update were first discussed, it revolved around ethnic adornments. It has since evolved to be identity adornments.
- The adornment needs to be within the specific guidelines, and there are approximately eight bullet points that it needs to follow which are quite detailed.
- A Board Member noted the concern for staff administrators and graduation coordinators will be the people deciding if the adornment is approved. It seems this policy and procedure will put a lot of responsibility and burden on the graduation coordinators because they will be trying to determine and make decisions on the approval of the adornments prior to graduation. It seems that this update may open a Pandora's Box in terms of what we could allow. He is not opposed to students being able to demonstrate their identity during graduation, but is concerned about the graduation coordinator being in the position of judge and jury for what will be allowed. He then asked the Board to instruct Administration to go back once again and look at this change once more because he sees it as potentially problematic. He is not opposed to the concept, but is concerned for the criteria to decide what can be worn as an adornment.
- Another Board Member confirmed that it has been vetted with staff. Was there any negative feedback? Answer: We did extensively reach out to school administration and graduation coordinators. We received information back from seven principals, with the majority of them saying the policy looks good. One principal did respond with concerns if having the adornment would allow the other recognitions to stand out as much, as well as the concern for the graduation coordinator. It was also sent to graduation coordinators; the majority of the feedback was positive or agreeable. One them did have concerns about being uniform.
- We understand the concern about responsibility on the graduation coordinator, and hearing from them, they do not seem to have the same concerns. It is not being voiced by the people doing this work, and they have been asked on several occasions. Since they have been asked on multiple occasions, there is uncertainty on how the additional asking would change.
- A Board Member noted that questions have been asked to him by the people that will be dealing with this change. If the person making the decisions on approval is going to be the graduation coordinator, he believes were are asking them to do something outside of their responsibility and pay grade.
- Another Board member noted that we need to weigh the pros and cons, and understand why we are doing this. It is his understanding that everyone wants to allow students to do this, and based on the pilot programs, this change has run smoothly. We could do another year of a pilot program, but that will put it back on the table. Based on the feedback and surveys from students and staff, we are ready to move forward this year. There will be additional responsibility for graduation coordinators, but we also understand there is a reason we will do this – to make graduation even more of a celebration for students and recognize and allow students to celebrate, and that includes celebrating their identity. He noted that if there was a real concern, it would have been found during the pilot program; based on the feedback, it sounds like we should move forward.
- A Board Member noted that telling a student they would not be able to wear an adornment is a difficult task on graduation night. His concern is that we have made it clear to those decision makers prior to graduation with clear criteria for what is acceptable and that they will have the support if they do need a tell a student an adornment is unacceptable, and issues could escalate from that.
  - He also noted that he is in favor for the spirit of the policy, but is absolutely uneasy about the procedure as it is written.
- Another Board Member mentioned that schools have been dealing with how to regulate the form they have and expression of their students since the beginning of public education; it is something school districts deal with all the time. By allowing students to express themselves through identity garments, we are creating a new form to express themselves. There are different venues in schools that allow students to express themselves, and that spirit is important that we enable that expression. The burden will fall on someone though. The question if we are comfortable with graduation coordinators as the gatekeepers of this is one that someone will need to answer. A policy cannot be implemented without someone from administration being able to make the final call – usually it would be the principal. This has been asked through SEAB; it has been looked

at as an opportunity for them to validate their garment and to be worn during a time of great significance for the student. We cannot lose sight of the reason to do this. It doesn't mean there will be a perfect implementation every time; it's pleasing to see the pilots run as smoothly as they did. While that won't be the case every time, we will always have the opportunity for someone to be upset by a decision by a staff member about self-expression, but that is not different than any other day in one of our schools. It needs to be put into a context that we operate in on a daily basis. We need to see how this works and give students and staff the opportunity for this change. If there are concerns we will tinker with the policy implementation, but it remains as valid as when it first started.

- Chief of Operations, Jackie Turner, then noted a couple points of concerns and the actions to mediate them.
  - Incorporate learnings from other districts in the country that have implemented a change like this into the graduation experience.
  - If there are concerns about capacity or questions at a building-level, they could be brought to the Districtwide Administration Committee who could then decide together as a group; we currently do that. They coordinate the graduations now, and questions, concerns, decision-making issues could be brought before this committee.
  - Building in more than a two-week timeframe may be beneficial for the garment to be approved.
  - Adjust the procedure as necessary; the Board will be voting on the policy. Administrations will adjust the procedure as necessary to ensure the policy is well implemented and in the Board's intent.

**B. Results of the Competitive Negotiated Sale of \$57,530,000 Certificates of Participation, Series 2017C**

**BF 31132** Resolution for the Results of the Competitive Negotiated Sale of \$57,530,000 Certificates of Participation, Series 2017C

Superintendent Gothard then introduced Marie Schrul, Chief Financial Officer, and Kelly Smith, from Springstedt, for the presentation.

The results of the sales today were presented. The bond calls this past week, both Moody's and Standard & Poor's, confirmed our bond ratings. We stayed the same, which is good news for the District in all the changes we have been making and continued changes are positive.

There were two sales – the first is for a \$57 million certificates of participation, which are part of the ongoing building projects in the district, the first phase. The second was a refunding issue of 2011 current issue out there; we're refunding and looking for interest savings.

To reiterate Chief Schrul on the ratings calls, it's challenging right now on the calls to maintain the status. That was very good news. To maintain the rating we had speaks well for fund balance position, and budget management of the District.

The results of the sale for \$57 million:

Back in October, Springstedt gave the District a projection for what they anticipate the market to be. They missed this one a little bit – with an estimate of 2.75%; sales-to-date came in at 2.95%. That follows the recent trends of rates going up; they are still at historical all-time lows, but are up a little from a month ago. They did receive four bidders, which resulted in a competitive sale. All bids were close. They recommend Wells Fargo Bank be awarded the bid with a 2.964% bid submitted.

The second issues was for the refunding. Back in October, they estimated a true interest cost of 2.53%, with an annual savings of \$82,492. The results today were slightly better with 2.5% and an annual savings of \$100,900. He emphasized that this is not money that goes back to the District, but goes to the taxpayers because we are lowering the payments on these bonds payable year 2021. This was an advance refunding; we do that when interest rates are low. The benchmark for refunding savings is 3%, and the District achieved 6.3% today.

Proceeds from the \$57 million sale will be available December 1<sup>st</sup>.

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF  
LEASE PURCHASE AGREEMENT AND DECLARATION OF TRUST  
AND ACCEPTING OFFER ON SALE OF  
\$56,015,000 CERTIFICATES OF PARTICIPATION, SERIES 2017C**

- A. WHEREAS, Minnesota Statutes, Section 126C.40, authorizes certain school districts to acquire real and personal property pursuant a lease purchase agreement;
- B. WHEREAS, the School Board (the "School Board") of Independent School District Number 625, Saint Paul, Minnesota (the "District") has determined to enter into a Lease Purchase Agreement dated December 1, 2017, by and between the District and U.S. Bank National Association, St. Paul, Minnesota (the "Lessor" or "Trustee") (the "Lease") pursuant to which the District has agreed to purchase certain real and personal property to finance renovation, expansion, and equipping, including various capital deferred maintenance projects and repairs, of certain existing school district facilities (which shall not include the acquisition of a facility to be used primarily for athletic of school administration purposes) (together, the "Project");
- C. WHEREAS, pursuant to the a Declaration of Trust by the Trustee and joined by the District dated as of December 1, 2017 (the "Trust Agreement"), the Trustee will issue \$56,015,000 Certificates of Participation, Series 2017C, dated December 21, 2017 (the "Certificates") evidencing the proportionate interests of the owners thereof in lease payments to be made by the District pursuant to the Lease;

**MOTION: Mr. Schumacher moved the Board of Education to approve the results of the Competitive Negotiated Sale of \$57,530,000 Certificates of Participation, Series 2017C. The motion was seconded by Ms. Foster.**

The motion was approved with the following roll call vote:

Ms. Ellis	Yes
Ms. Foster	Yes
Mr. Brodrick	Yes
Mr. Vue	Yes
Ms. Vanderwert	Yes
Mr. Schumacher	Yes
Mr. Marchese	Yes

- C. Results of the Competitive Negotiated Sale of \$17,040,000 General Obligation School Building Refunding Bonds, Series 2017D

**BF 31133** Resolution for the Results of the Competitive Negotiated Sale of \$17,040,000 General Obligation School Building Refunding Bonds, Series 2017D

**RESOLUTION ACCEPTING BID ON SALE OF  
\$15,520,000 GENERAL OBLIGATION SCHOOL BUILDING  
REFUDNING BONDS, SERIES 2017D,  
PROVIDING FOR THEIR ISSUANCE AND LEVYING  
A TAX FOR THE PAYMENT THEREOF**

- A. WHEREAS, Independent School District Number 625, Saint Paul, Minnesota (the "District") has heretofore issued its General Obligation School Building Bonds, Series 2011A, dated June 1, 2011 (the "Series 2011A Bonds"); and

- B. WHEREAS, the School Board of the District (the "School Board") has heretofore determined and declared that it is necessary and expedient to provide moneys for a crossover refunding of the outstanding Series 2011A Bonds which mature on and after February 1, 2022; and
- C. WHEREAS, \$16,670,000 in principal amount of the Series 2011A Bonds which mature on or after February 1, 2022 (the "Prior 2011A Bonds") are callable on February 1, 2021 (the "Crossover Date"), at a price of par plus accrued interest, as provided in the resolution adopted on May 17, 2011, authorizing the issuance of the Prior 2011A Bonds (the "Prior Resolution"); and

**MOTION: Mr. Schumacher moved the Board of Education to approve the results of the Competitive Negotiated Sale of \$17,040,000 General Obligation School Building Refunding Bonds, Series 2017D. The motion was seconded by Ms. Vanderwert.**

The motion was approved with the following roll call vote:

Ms. Ellis	Yes
Ms. Foster	Yes
Mr. Brodrick	Yes
Mr. Vue	Yes
Ms. Vanderwert	Yes
Mr. Schumacher	Yes
Mr. Marchese	Yes

## **XI. NEW BUSINESS**

### A. Canvass of 2017 School Board Election Results

#### **BF 31134** Canvass of the November 7 Election Results for School Board Members

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 general election of the voters of the District held on November 7, 2017, was in all respects duly and legally called and held.
2. As specified in the attached abstract and return of votes cast, voters of the District voted at said general election on the election of nominees for election as Board of Education members for four year term vacancies on the Board of Education caused by expiration of term on January 1 next following the general election; as follows:

Marny Xiong	36,480
Jeannie Foster	29,883
John Brodrick	26,172
Andrea Touhey	13,288
Greg Copland	8,425
Luke Bellville	4,358
Write-In	1,244

3. Marny Xiong, Jeannie Foster and John Brodrick, having received the highest number of votes, are elected to four year terms beginning January 1, 2018.
4. The School District Clerk is hereby authorized to certify the results of the election to the Ramsey County Auditor.

**MOTION:** Mr. Schumacher moved the Board of Education adopt the resolution canvassing returns of votes of the IDS 625 General Election of 2017. The motion was seconded by Ms. Ellis.

The motion was approved with the following roll call vote:

Ms. Ellis	Yes
Ms. Foster	Yes
Mr. Brodrick	Yes
Mr. Vue	Yes
Ms. Vanderwert	Yes
Mr. Schumacher	Yes
Mr. Marchese	Yes

## **XII. BOARD OF EDUCATION**

### **A. Information Requests & Responses**

- Director Brodrick noted a statement on the Vendor Diversity Plan presented at the November 8, 2017 Committee of the Board meeting. He appreciates the discussion in the Facilities Department's work in finding ways to increase women- and minority-owned participation on the District's construction projects. He wanted to remind the Board on the importance of policies on the bidding process that meet the needs of the District. He looks forward to hearing the recommendations from Facilities.

### **B. Items for Future Agendas**

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

- Director Vanderwert provided an update on the Saint Paul Children's Collaborative. They met this week and approved \$1.1 million in grants to community organizations that provide services to our most vulnerable kids. Many of them are done in the schools. It is worthy of celebration. She also noted the blueprint for the 3K program in Saint Paul. At the last meeting of the committee, they passed a memorandum for the County, the City, the District, and Head Start to move forward on implementation. We will receive that encouragement and will be something to look forward to for future meetings.
- Director Marchese noted a welcome to the new mayor as of January 1<sup>st</sup>, Melvin Carter who has been active in early childhood and overall work in our community of supporting our kids. He hopes we will take the opportunity for the Board and Superintendent to begin conversations with the Mayor-Elect as we move forward with the strategic planning process, and how we can collaborate with the Mayor's office and the City for a partnership as a whole. We will be leaning on each other to support the needs of our children and to get the work done.
- Chair Schumacher added that there is a monthly meeting around education at the Mayor's office. Representation from the libraries, Sprockets, Wilder Foundation, Parks and Rec, and Director Foster and Superintendent Gothard were there as well. There will be conversations with the transition team to continue that work. It's a group of everyone connected in the city to our education and to common goals. The Promise Neighborhoods were first developed in this program. Mayor Coleman was a strong supporter to ensure we are talking together, and that will be on the docket for the new Mayor-Elect, and that we continue to monitor that, because it will take all of us.

## **XIII. FUTURE MEETING SCHEDULE**

Director Schumacher noted that a closed board meeting on negotiation updates has been scheduled for 4:30pm on December 19<sup>th</sup> prior to the Regular Board of Education Meeting.

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

- December 19

- January 9, 2018 | Annual Meeting | 4:30 p.m.
- January 23
- February 20
- March 20
- April 24
- May 22
- June 12 | Special Meeting  
Non-Renewals
- June 19
- July 17
- August 21

B. Committee of the Board Meetings (4:30 unless otherwise noted)

- December 5
- January 9, 2018 | 5:00 p.m.
- February 6
- March 6
- April 10
- May 8
- June 12
- July 17

**XIV. ADJOURNMENT**

**The Chair moved the meeting adjourn, and Director Ellis seconded the motion. It passed by acclaim.**

The meeting adjourned at 8:11 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