

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

May 31, 2016

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:07 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

PRESENT:

Mr. Brodrick, Mr. Vue, Ms. Vanderwert, Mr. Schumacher, Ms. O'Connell, Mr. Marchese, Ms. Ellis, Superintendent Silva, Ms. Cameron, General Counsel and Ms. Polsfuss, Assistant Clerk

III. APPROVAL OF THE ORDER OF THE MAIN AGENDA

MOTION: Ms. O'Connell moved approval of the order of the main agenda as published. The motion was seconded by Mr. Marchese.

The motion was approved with the following roll call vote:

Mr. Brodrick	Yes
Mr. Vue	Yes
Ms. Vanderwert	Yes
Mr. Schumacher	Yes
Ms. O'Connell	Yes
Mr. Marchese	Yes
Ms. Ellis	Yes

IV. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Administration stated their recommendation is to close Galtier Community School at the end of next school year (June 2017) and create one strong PreK-5 Midway Area Community School at the current Hamline site.

The school attendance zone (actual area around community schools) shows only 20% of the students who attend Galtier live in the area; in order to be a strong community school SPPS wants a large number of families in the attendance zone to actually attend the school (the ideal is 50% or more). In comparison, attendance from the school attendance zone is 59% for Chelsea Heights, 38% for Expo, 83% for Randolph Heights and 90% for St. Anthony Park.

Enrollment data shows 144 students for the 2016-17 school year. New applications for SY 16-17 are at 11; 36 students from the attendance area applied to a different SPPS site. Total enrollment for 16-17 is now at 156 students with an average 3 year retention rate of 57%.

Galtier As a Viable School

Galtier's 2016-17 budget is \$1,259,119. Investment needs to keep the school open are: \$116,000 in order to eliminate grade level splits, \$126,000 for engagement, marketing and recruitment, \$48,000 for technology and personalized learning, \$96,000+ for teachers and \$315,000 for transportation bringing the budget total to \$1,960,119+. Their staffing level is at 7 classroom sections; the ideal would be 8 to avoid splits. If the program remains open Administration may have to consider making the program a city-wide magnet.

Administration presented school comparisons between Hamline, Galtier and Four Seasons (a fully viable similarly sized school if Hamline and Galtier were combined) Neither Hamline or Galtier are viable on their own without subsidies.

	Hamline	Galtier	Four Seasons
Enrollment total	309	204	500
Pre-K	40	60	40
K-5	269	144	460
Poverty level	85%	88%	83%
Total budget	\$1,999,257	\$1,259,119	\$3,131,054
General Fund	945,136	725,704	1,550,176
Comp Ed	507,178	291,750	896,746
Title One	160,770	96,462	249,543
Other (Reg/Integ)	386,173	145,203	434,589
Total FTEs	22.29	13.67	36.78
Staffing FTEs			
Principal	0.50	1.00	1.00
Clerks	0.50	1.00	1.63
Classroom Sections	12.00	7.00	18.00
Specialists			
Art teacher	1.00		0.90
Phy Ed teacher	1.00	0.50	
Science teacher	1.00	1.00	0.75
Science teacher			0.75
Dance teacher			1.00
Music teacher		0.50	1.00
Theater teacher			1.00
Other			
Assistant principal	1.00		
Academic intervention			1.00
EA-PBIS	0.94	0.94	1.00
Counselor	1.00		1.00
ELL Teacher (Supplemental)		0.50	
Nurse	0.80	0.20	1.00
EA - Cultural specialist			0.50
EA - Wellness liaison		0.56	
EA - Library			0.75
TA - Library		0.38	
Social worker	0.80	0.10	1.00
EA - Parent involvement			0.50
TA - Classroom	0.75	0.75	3.00
Tech Integration teacher	1.00		
Reading Specialist			1.00

Site Rationale

The Hamline site has the desired square footage for other programs: special ed program, Discovery Club Hub, with opportunities to expanded programming for ECFE, Rec Check and partner services. It also has advantageous proximity to community partners – Hamline University and the recreation center.

A history of engagement efforts was reviewed. Administration stated the decisions made were data based and the recommendation was inclusive. The "Save Galtier" effort was reviewed as well.

Next steps will be to create a transition team honoring the values of each site as work progresses. It will be representative of each school community with the goal of creating one strong PreK-5 Midway area community school. The process will engage and collaborate with partners focusing on maintaining a strong community partnership while enhancing resources and

enrichment for students. A visioning process will be conducted around the FMP to attain a new vision for the Hamline site inclusive of a healing process effort to bring the communities together.. Community input will be key to determining priorities.

The process for school choice has the primary goal of retaining and successfully transitioning all students. Parents will be given placement options of (1) transitioning in the Fall of 2016 with alternate school placement or (2) transitioning in the Fall of 2017 with a "closed school" priority placement. School Choice Season begins in January 2017.

QUESTIONS/DISCUSSION:

- A Board member stated SPPS created magnet schools to help integrate the SPPS district. It entailed busing kids across town to achieve a racial balance. The demographics of SPPS neighborhoods has changed over the past years. When SPPS embarked on Strong Schools Strong Communities strategic plan it moved toward community schools. That is what Galtier is trying to do. There will be other schools requiring support if SPPS truly believes in SSSC; support will be needed in order for all schools to achieve their goals. A small learning environments is key to giving kids personal attention, again this is what Galtier is doing. SPPS has to find a way to do this.
- The Superintendent extended her thanks to the families who had come to support their school. She stated she recognized the decision to close Galtier is a difficult one as it is a unique program offering choices within the community. It is based on the monetary implications to Galtier and other schools. She again thanked the parents for coming to make their comments.

V. PUBLIC COMMENT ON PROPOSED TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF GALTIER COMMUNITY SCHOOL

The following individuals made public comment outlining their personal experiences of Galtier and its community, the unique program offered at Galtier and their strong desire for the Board/District to keep Galtier open and give the school time to reach its full potential. Several indicated that if the school is closed, they will not be sending their children to another SPPS school.

- M. Grau
- S. Bosch
- J. Lucken-Hills
- D. Goebel
- G. Williams
- M. Martinson
- C. Howatt
- D. Goebel
- J. Hodgeman
- E. Spende
- S. Grant
- S. Ngiv
- D. Hay
- C. Tucker
- C. Carter
- M. Chagen
- H. Johnson-Macelester
- D. Mathias

VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. (Tentative) Action on Proposed Temporary Closing of Galtier Community School

The Board Chair indicated the Board would take action on Galtier at the June 21 Board of Education meeting.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Ms. O'Connell moved the meeting be adjourned, seconded by Mr. Marchese.

The motion was approved with the following roll call vote:
Mr. Brodrick Yes

Mr. Vue	Yes
Ms. Vanderwert	Yes
Mr. Schumacher	Yes
Ms. O'Connell	Yes
Mr. Marchese	Yes
Ms. Ellis	Yes

The meeting adjourned at 7:32 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
Marilyn Polsfuss
Assistant Clerk,
St. Paul Public Schools Board of Education