

**INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 625**  
**Saint Paul, Minnesota**  
**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**September 18, 2012**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 5:45 p.m.

**II. ROLL CALL**

PRESENT: Ms. Seeba, Ms. O'Connell, Mr. Brodrick, Ms. Street-Stewart, Ms. Carroll,  
Ms. Doran, Superintendent Silva, Mr. Lalla, General Counsel and Ms.  
Polsfuss, Assistant Clerk

Mr. Hardy arrived at 5:51 p.m.

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

A. Order of the Consent Agenda

**MOTION:** Ms. Street-Stewart moved the Board approve the Order of the Consent Agenda with the exception of Item C1 -- Request for Permission of the Board of Education to Enter into a Contract with Riverside Publishing Company to Provide the CogAT7 (Cognitive Skills Test) to Provide Individualized Learning Outcomes for all Assessed Students and Gifted Identification Based on Local Norming which was pulled for separate consideration. Ms. Carroll seconded the motion.

The motion was approved with the following roll call vote:

Ms. Seeba	Yes
Mr. Hardy	Absent
Ms. O'Connell	Yes
Mr. Brodrick	Yes
Ms. Street-Stewart	Yes
Ms. Carroll	Yes
Ms. Doran	Yes

B. Order of the Main Agenda

**MOTION:** Ms. Seeba moved the Board approve the order of the Main Agenda as published. Motion seconded by Ms. Carroll.

The motion was approved with the following roll call vote:

Ms. Seeba	Yes
Mr. Hardy	Absent
Ms. O'Connell	Yes
Mr. Brodrick	Yes
Ms. Street-Stewart	Yes
Ms. Carroll	Yes
Ms. Doran	Yes

**IV. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

A. Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of August 21, 2012

**MOTION: Ms. Carroll moved the Board approved the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of August 21, 2012 as presented. Ms. Doran seconded the motion.**

The motion was approved with the following roll call vote:

Ms. Seeba	Yes
Mr. Hardy	Absent
Ms. O'Connell	Yes
Mr. Brodrick	Yes
Ms. Street-Stewart	Yes
Ms. Carroll	Yes
Ms. Doran	Yes

## V. COMMITTEE REPORTS

### A. Minutes of the Committee of the Board Meeting of September 11, 2012

The Vice Chair stated this was again a meeting with an extensive agenda starting with the **Final 2011-2012 Budget Revisions**, the Chief Budget Analyst provided information on the FY 12 final budget revisions in the fully financed funds. The changes reflect the latest changes in revenue and expenditure for both General and Community Service Funds. The changes in the General Fund Fully Financed are an increase of \$2,761,759 and represents \$1.9 million in new grants and \$.9 million in revisions to current grants. The Community Service Fund Fully Financed Fund is an increase of \$497,501. The changes reflect \$.3 million in new grants and \$.2 million in revisions to current grants. Final revisions occurred only in these two funds. The adopted revenue budget was \$616,799,328. Revisions were made in the fall and winter and with these final revisions, the total budget being brought forward for approval is \$652,480,798.

The same fund changes were reflected in expenditures. Adopted budget for expenditures was \$636,282,683. Revisions made over the past year show a final revised expenditure budget being brought forward for approval of \$678,504,654.

**RECOMMENDED MOTION: That the Board of Education approve the revised 2011-12 revenue budget of \$652,480,798 and expenditure budget of \$678,504,654 as presented.**

The motion was approved with the following roll call vote:

Ms. Seeba	Yes
Mr. Hardy	Absent
Ms. O'Connell	Yes
Mr. Brodrick	Yes
Ms. Street-Stewart	Yes
Ms. Carroll	Yes
Ms. Doran	Yes

The meeting then moved to an **Initial Discussion of 2012 Payable 2013 Property Tax Levy**. Planning assumptions show all figures reported were based on Administration's best estimates as MDE continues to adjust the SPPS numbers. Administration anticipates minimal change from its estimates and final numbers are expected for the September board meeting.

Administration's recommendation is for the Board to limit the Pay13 levy to no more than the voter approved referendum increase or "hold the line." As a reference, the Pay 12 certified levy figure was \$126,072,575. The Pay 13 figures must be calculated beginning with a number that does not reflect a referendum or a base figure of \$102,556,206. Adding in the referendum figure being requested of the voters and with a reduction to the general fund and debt service levy, the recommended Pay 13 levy figure is \$133,531,520 or an increase of 5.9% over the Pay 12 amount.

**RECOMMENDED MOTION:** That the boards of Education approve the proposed Pay 13 levy as authorized by MDE and approve the final levy to no more than the referendum increase and that they set the taxation hearing for Tuesday, December 4, 2012 at 6:00 p.m.

The motion was approved with the following roll call vote:

Ms. Seeba	Yes
Mr. Hardy	Yes
Ms. O'Connell	Yes
Mr. Brodrick	Yes
Ms. Street-Stewart	Yes
Ms. Carroll	Yes
Ms. Doran	Yes

The question was asked, what is the plan if the referendum does not pass? Response: SPPS will then submit a levy amount as authorized by MDE. If the referendum passes, the final levy will be limited to the amount of the property tax portion of the referendum. Again, if it fails, the Board will have the option to levy the entire amount authorized by the State. Once the amount of the levy is set it cannot be increased.

A report was provided to the Board on the **Year End Strong Schools Strong Communities Plan**. This report will be provided to the community during the Superintendent's report. This was an update to the Board on the progress of the SSSC strategic plan over the past year. The report was structured in three phases:

- Planning/project management
- Implementation/actions taken
- Tracking/reporting and updates.

**RECOMMENDED MOTION:** That the Board of Education accept the Year End Strong Schools Strong Communities Report as presented.

The motion was approved with the following roll call vote:

Ms. Seeba	Yes
Mr. Hardy	Yes
Ms. O'Connell	Yes
Mr. Brodrick	Yes
Ms. Street-Stewart	Yes
Ms. Carroll	Yes
Ms. Doran	Yes

**The Administrative Response to Latino Consent Decree (LCD)** was provided with the reply broken out into three broad categories and individual responses to each point in the initial LCD recommendation.

**RECOMMENDED MOTION:** That the Board of Education approved the administrative response to the Latino Consent Decree with thanks extended to all involved.

The motion was approved with the following roll call vote:

Ms. Seeba	Yes
Mr. Hardy	Yes
Ms. O'Connell	Yes
Mr. Brodrick	Yes
Ms. Street-Stewart	Yes
Ms. Carroll	Yes
Ms. Doran	Yes

Additional areas discussed during the Committee of the Board meeting were: A brief review of the changes being recommended for **Policy 414.00 - Tobacco-Free Environment**

**RECOMMENDED MOTION: That the Board move Policy 414.00 – Tobacco-Free Environment forward to the September Board meeting for its first reading with the additional edits discussed.**

The motion was approved with the following roll call vote:

Ms. Seeba	Yes
Mr. Hardy	Yes
Ms. O'Connell	Yes
Mr. Brodrick	Yes
Ms. Street-Stewart	Yes
Ms. Carroll	Yes
Ms. Doran	Yes

A brief update on the Referendum followed by a work session first to approve **Additional Board Meeting Dates**

- March 5 COB Meeting
- March 19 Board of Education Meeting
- April 2 COB Meeting
- April 16 Board of Education Meeting
- May 7 COB Meeting
- May 21 Board of Education Meeting
- June 4 Special Board of Education Meeting (Non-Renewals) – 4:00 p.m.
- June 11 COB Meeting
- June 18 Board of Education Meeting
- July 16 COB Meeting
- July 16 Board of Education Meeting
- July 30 COB Meeting
- August 20 Board of Education Meeting
- September 10 COB Meeting
- September 17 Board of Education Meeting
- October 1 COB Meeting
- October 15 Board of Education Meeting
- October 29 COB Meeting
- November 12 SPECIAL Board of Education Meeting (Canvass Votes) – 4:00 p.m.
- November 19 Board of Education Meeting
- December 3 COB Meeting
- December 17 Board of Education Meeting

**RECOMMENDED MOTION: That the Board of Education approved the recommended dates for future Board and Committee of the Board meetings.**

The motion was approved with the following roll call vote:

Ms. Seeba	Yes
Mr. Hardy	Yes
Ms. O'Connell	Yes
Mr. Brodrick	Yes
Ms. Street-Stewart	Yes
Ms. Carroll	Yes
Ms. Doran	Yes

There was also a Board check-in on processes and a discussion on **Individual Board Development Plans.**

**MOTION:** Ms. Street-Stewart moved the Board accept the Minutes of the Committee of the Board Meeting of the of September 11, 2012 as presented. Ms. Carroll seconded the motion.

The motion was approved with the following roll call vote:

Ms. Seeba	Yes
Mr. Hardy	Yes
Ms. O'Connell	Yes
Mr. Brodrick	Yes
Ms. Street-Stewart	Yes
Ms. Carroll	Yes
Ms. Doran	Yes

## **VI. RECOGNITIONS**

### **BF 29143** Acknowledgement of the Good Works Provided by Outstanding District Employees and Departments

Jean Ronnei, Nutrition Services Director, was awarded the 2012 Golden Carrot Award. Ronnei earned the national award for her creative and cost-friendly approach to providing healthful obesity-fighting lunch options to the district's 39,000 students each day.

The Physician's Committee for Responsible Medicine (PCRM) established the Golden Carrot Award in 2004 to recognize food service professionals doing an exceptional job of improving the healthfulness of school lunches. PCRM looks for programs that encourage kids to eat fresh fruits and vegetables and that offer plenty of vegetarian, low fat, whole grain and non-dairy options.

## **VII. PUBLIC COMMENT (Time Certain 7:00 p.m.)**

- Kathleen Riley – Support for referendum
- Stephen Sylvander – Changes to education
- Kris Farmer-Lies – Support of tobacco policy
- Rose Lewis – Thanks for assistance with children
- Lisa Heyman – Support as parent, taxpayer and Central PAC for referendum
- Kevin M. – Data privacy issues at school
- Brent Trader – Thanks for allowing students to Breakfast with the Astronaut
- Danette Allrich-Osano – Importance of education to small children – support for referendum
- Cecilia Marquina – Thanks for support of the tobacco policy
- Greg Copeland – Opposition to referendum
- Bob Murray – Opposition to referendum (where is vocational aspect to plan)
- Bev Hanson – Targeting, bullying teachers
- Bob Zick – Cronyism and targeting
- Drew Johnson – Support for referendum
- Leslie Radloff – Plight of district media centers
- Jennifer Patrick – Support for referendum

## **VIII. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

### **A. 2012 Referendum Update**

The Superintendent stated the presentation would outline what has been done to ensure voters understand the referendum issues and the community initiatives that have been undertaken. She stated kids without technological literacy would not be prepared for the future workplace. SPPS is one of a few districts that needs a referendum to accomplish a technology initiative.

The Administrator of Strategic Initiatives stated the presentation would provide the Board an update on the 2012 referendum with additional information on the plan for integrated technology in instruction.

In review, at the July Board meeting the board voted to ask voters, in one question, to renew the current referendum levy of \$657 per pupil for eight years and to increase the levy by \$175 per pupil for eight years. 75% of the 2012 referendum funding would go to continuing current programs. These include:

- Early education – All day Kindergarten at all schools, Pre-Kindergarten and Early Childhood Family Education (ECFE)
- Elementary Schools – math and reading specialists in schools
- Secondary – reduce class sizes for math and science and additional guidance counselors for post-secondary preparation
- Specialized Learning – funding for mandated Special Education and English Language Learner programs and services that are not fully fund by the State (35% of these costs are not funded by the State)

Results from the current referendum investment include:

- 87% of SPPS pre-Kindergartners are on-track for reading
- Students who participated in all-day SPPS Kindergarten performed over 4 percentage points higher on third grade MCA math and reading tests than their classmates who did not attend SPPS Kindergarten
- Student performance on MCA's have increased 9.2 percentage points since 2007 and
- Graduation rates have increased for all student groups
- Dropout rates have been cut in half to 6%.

With the increased referendum funding (\$9 million for integrated technology), SPPS will invest in Learning Transformed by Technology, a personalized learning platform. This can be thought of as a “digital library” of teaching and learning tools. It will combine technology and curriculum in a simple system that works on personal digital devices. It empowers teachers with tools for differentiated instruction, networking with colleagues, sharing best practices and engaging with students and families. This will unleash the potential of students to learn anytime, anywhere, in a way that is customized to their pace and driven by their preferences. The investment will include investments in the platform, leadership and teacher training, classroom support and curriculum development.

Several examples of how students might utilize this system were provided along with demonstrations of technology-enhanced instruction that is already happening in pockets in various SPPS schools. Representatives from Battle Creek and Capitol Hill provided demonstrations of an earth science website and an interactive science blog. They noted the traditional definition of a classroom is gone it is no longer four walls but is expanding through technology to allow students to access learning experiences 24/7. They stated the differentiation piece is one of the greatest assets of this type of learning allowing students to access the instructional information from their comfort level and best learning stance. They indicated SPPS is poised to excel with technology resources, which will actually meet the needs of the students. Technology is important for student and adult learning, growth, accessibility and collaboration. It is data-driven providing additional resources for students and adult learners as well.

QUESTIONS/DISCUSSION:

- The Board thanked everyone for their presentations.
- Is it just the one class or are other blogs being done in other schools? Response: This is a new collaboration between science and ELL. It is just beginning to cascade into other areas and other classes.
- Looking at the materials provided and vocabulary words in color – does this increase vocabulary for students? Response: Yes, it has helped. How does this help other classmates? Are students sharing information, experiences? Do students talk about words and concepts? Response: Yes, they talk about it in class.
- Hope was expressed that this does not prevent students from learning together, that it does not isolate them.

- Is Dragon Speak being used for those with a hard time articulating pen to paper? Response: There are a great many tools out there and SPPS is testing them to find the most appropriate. This is an on-going fluid process. Several different tools are currently being used to promote learning.
- What are the challenges for teachers to replicate and do this type of work? Response: The number one challenge is fear of technology. There are tools available for teachers to make it easier to build sites. SPPS needs to spread and sustain the visions already happening and share this knowledge out to others in the district.
- What has been your return on investment over the four years of using of technology? Response: This is supplement to the actual class and was developed to meet the needs of some kids. One major benefit is the ability to use Google Analytics to track the use of the site, to know students are accessing it to supplement their learning.
- Has there been increased achievement in class? Response: Yes, especially with special ed students and ELL students.

The referendum will allow SPPS to coordinate and collaborate to bring these types of learning platforms across the entire district and offer support to those who are developing platforms as well.

#### B. Year End SSSC Review

The Administrator of Strategic Initiatives continued with an update on the SSSC Strategic Plan over the past year. She indicated the update would be provided in three areas: Planning/Project Management, Implementation/Actions Taken and Tracking/Reporting/Updates.

##### 1. Project Management

An implementation plan has been developed to manage the major changes that will occur for the 2013-14 school year. The plan is separated into five categories: School Choice/Transportation, School Programs, Aligned Learning, Infrastructure & Support and Middle Grades Transition.

- School Choice/Transportation – Community School Zones have been determined and a new school choice system will be launched.
- School Programs – several buildings will be transitioned and articulations, pathways and school-specific programs will be confirmed
- Aligned Learning – a framework has been developed and progress on implementation and professional development is being monitored
- Infrastructure and Support – accountability is being established, partnerships explored and budget/finance reviewed
- Middle Grades Transition – teacher certification, recruitment and placement is underway, the Parkway program is being developed, the building transitioned and curriculum and practice development are being implemented.

SSSC has increased the focus on the community with high schools and Grades 6-12 schools transitioned to area-based community schools. Community outreach has increased through various activities implemented this fall.

School allocations have increased with \$18.9 million more allocated directly to schools compared to FY 12. SPPS has met the SSSC class size targets for 2012-13 school allocation projections. SPPS has also met all of the aligned learning indicators in content areas, at all grade levels.

##### 2. Performance Management

More observations, evaluations and performance reviews were conducted than in recent years with approximately 8,000 classroom observations, the evaluation of all principals and 943 performance reviews for district administration.

District Action Teams were established in 2011 and provided recommendations to the District in several areas. The District is tracking the implementation of those recommendations on an on-going basis.

SSSC progress has been tracked through the use of eight vision cards. A one-year cycle has been completed and the schedule for year two has been established.

Some details of the plan have been changed: Regional IB changed from Parkway to Hazel Park due to the requirements of the IB organization. Como Park High School has been made an option for Area C Language Academy students for the 2012-13 school year.

The District will be preparing for major elements of the SSSC Plan that go into effect in the 2013-14 school year: Elementary schools will transition to grades K-5, middle schools will transition to grades 6-8 and community elementary schools will transition to area focus.

#### QUESTIONS/DISCUSSION

- Thanks were extended to staff for the clarification on the processes and the switch from Parkway to Hazel Park for IB
- How much of this report will be provided to the public? Response: It will be posted on the website. DAT teams are being kept informed through periodic updates. There is no plan for media advisories. Information will be shared at the upcoming community meetings in September and it will be shared with the various advisory groups. Principals are being encouraged to provide some of the information in their newsletters and cabinet members are presenting the information at their meetings with various community committees.
- The comment was made SPPS seems to be missing an opportunity here. Hope was expressed that the District might be thinking about a wider reach to communicate it out to the entire community.
- How are different pieces applicable to different audiences? Board members are meeting with district councils and sharing through those meetings.

#### B. Human Resource Transactions

**MOTION:** Ms. Carroll moved the Board of Education accept the Superintendent's Report and approve the Human Resource Transactions for the period July 31, 2012 through August 28, 2012. The motion was seconded by Ms. Street-Stewart.

The motion was approved with the following roll call vote:

Ms. Seeba	Yes
Mr. Hardy	Yes
Ms. O'Connell	Yes
Mr. Brodrick	Yes
Ms. Street-Stewart	Yes
Ms. Carroll	Yes
Ms. Doran	Yes

#### IX. CONSENT AGENDA.

**MOTION:** Ms. Carroll moved the Board approve all Consent Agenda Items with the exception of C1 -- Request for Permission of the Board of Education to Enter into a Contract with Riverside Publishing Company to Provide the CogAT7 (Cognitive Skills Test) to Provide Individualized Learning Outcomes for all Assessed Students and Gifted Identification Based on Local Norming which was pulled for separate consideration. Motion seconded by Ms. Seeba.

The motion was approved with the following roll call vote:

Ms. Seeba	Yes
Mr. Hardy	Yes



Ms. O'Connell	Yes
Mr. Brodrick	Yes
Ms. Street-Stewart	Yes
Ms. Carroll	Yes
Ms. Doran	Yes

A. Gifts

**BF 29144** Gift Acceptance of Automated External Defibrillators (AED)  
That the Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent (designee) to accept the donation and send a letter of appreciation to the Saint Paul Fire Foundation.

**BF 28145** Approval of Gift Accepted from Rondo Parent Group/Benjamin E. Mays PTA  
That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to allow Mays IB World School to accept a monetary gift of \$11,169.43 from the Rondo Parent Group/PTA. The total amount will be deposited into the Mays intra-school budget account: 19-424-000-000-5096-0000.

B. Grants

**BF 29146** Request for Permission to Submit Request for \$10,000 from Chelsea Heights Elementary to Allina Health School Health Connection for Funding for Playground Equipment  
That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to submit the application to Allina Health for the purpose of improving healthy lifestyles in the school community; to accept funds, if awarded; and to implement the project as specified in the award documents.

**BF 29147** Request for Permission to Submit Request for \$10,000 from Eastern Heights Elementary School to Allina Health School Health Connection for a Program Emphasizing a "Whole Life" Approach to Nutrition, Activity, and Overall Wellbeing  
That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to submit the application to Allina Health for the purpose of improving healthy lifestyles in the school community; to accept funds, if awarded; and to implement the project as specified in the award documents.

**BF 29148** Request for Permission to Submit Request for \$10,000 from Highland Park Elementary to Allina Health School Health Connection to Fund the Purchase of Circuit Training Equipment  
That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to submit the application to Allina Health for the purpose of improving healthy lifestyles in the school community; to accept funds, if awarded; and to implement the project as specified in the award documents.

**BF 29149** Request for Permission to Submit Request for \$10,000 from Randolph Heights Elementary School to Allina Health School Health Connection for Efforts to Encourage Healthy Lifestyles in Students, Families and Teachers  
That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to submit the application to Allina Health for the purpose of improving healthy lifestyles in the school community; to accept funds, if awarded; and to implement the project as specified in the award documents.

**BF 29150** Request for Permission to Submit Request for \$10,000 from St. Anthony Park Elementary School to Allina Health School Health Connection for

Student Voice, Student Choice, a Program That Will Fund the Purchase of Playground Equipment and Will Fund Efforts to Increase Gender Equity in Playground Activities

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to submit the application to Allina Health for the purpose of improving healthy lifestyles in the school community; to accept funds, if awarded; and to implement the project as specified in the award documents.

**BF 29151** Request for Permission to Submit Request for \$10,000 from Saint Paul Music Academy to Allina Health School Health Connection Fund the Purchase of Playground Equipment and Efforts to Increase Healthy Food Choices of Students and Families

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to submit the application to Allina Health for the purpose of improving healthy lifestyles in the school community; to accept funds, if awarded; and to implement the project as specified in the award documents.

**BF 29152** Request for Permission to Accept a Grant Award from the Capitol Region Watershed District, Saint Paul, MN

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to accept a grant award from Capitol Region Watershed District and to implement the project as specified in the award documents.

**BF 29153** Request Permission to Submit Grant Application and Required Reports for Supplemental Title I Funding Authorized by the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965) to the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE)

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (or designee) to submit the grant applications for supplemental Title I funding under ESEA/NCLB to the Minnesota Department of Education; to accept funds if awarded; and to implement the project as specified in the award documents.

**BF 29154** Request for Permission to Submit a Grant Application to the Minnesota Department of Education to Provide Carl D. Perkins Funding

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to submit an application to the Minnesota Department of Education for approximately \$563,893.20 for FY 2012-2013 from the Carl D. Perkins Vocational and Technology Education Act; to accept funds, if awarded; and to implement the project as specified in the award documents.

**BF 29155** Request to Accept Grant of \$15,000 from Target to Jackson Elementary for Updates to the School Library, Which Earlier Received a Target/Heart of America Library Makeover

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to accept the award from Target for the purpose of increasing literacy at Jackson through the activities noted above and to implement the project as specified in the award documents.

**BF 29156** Request to Accept Grant of \$15,000 from Target to Maxfield Elementary for Updates to the School Library, Which Earlier Received a Target/Heart of America Library Makeover

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to accept the award from Target for the purpose of increasing literacy at Maxfield through the activities noted above and to implement the project as specified in the award documents.

**BF 29157** Request to Accept Grant of \$15,000 from Target to Obama Elementary for Updates to the School Library, Which Earlier Received a Target/Heart of America Library Makeover

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to accept the award from Target for the purpose of increasing literacy at Obama and to implement the project as specified in the award documents.

**BF 29158** Request to Accept Grants of \$25,000 from Target to St. Paul Music Academy (SPMA) and Hancock-Hamline University Collaborative

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to accept the awards from Target to SPMA and Hancock-Hamline and to implement the project as specified in the award documents.

C. Contracts – Item pulled for separate consideration.

D. Agreements -- None

E. Administrative Items

**BF 29159** Active Employee and Early Retiree Health Insurance

That the Board of Education approve a contract for active employee and early retiree health insurance coverage with HealthPartners for plan years 2013 and 2014, effective January 1, 2013, at the proposed premium renewal rates.

**BF 29160** Employee Dental Insurance Annual Renewal

That the Board of Education approve the contract for employee dental insurance coverage with Delta Dental Plan of Minnesota effective January 1, 2013, at the proposed renewal rates with dental implant coverage.

**BF 29161** Employee Long-Term Disability Insurance

That the Board of Education continue the District's employee long-term disability contract with Hartford for calendar year 2013 at a monthly cost of \$.415 per \$100 of annual salary

**BF 29162** Employee Short-Term Disability Insurance Annual Renewal

That the Board of Education approve the contract for employee short-term disability coverage with Assurant with no change in premium renewal rates.

**BF 29163** 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, 2011 through June 30, 2013.

**BF 29164** Monthly Operating Authority

That the Board of Education approve and ratify the following checks and wire transfers for the period August 1 – August 31, 2012.

(a) General Account	#509383-510337	\$27,871,377.39
	#3016969-3017032	
(b) Debt Service	-0-	\$83,901.95
(c) Construction	-0-	<u>\$2,703,909.00</u>
		<u>\$30,659,188.34</u>

Included in the above disbursements are payrolls in the amount of \$14,859,363.83 and overtime of \$32,310.43 or 0.22% of payroll.

(d) Collateral Changes None

And, 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 December 18, 2012.

**BF 29165** Professional Services from Toltz, King, Duvall, Anderson (TKDA)  
That the Board of Education authorize the administration to procure professional architectural/engineering services from Toltz, King, Duvall, Anderson (TKDA) as needed, based on a schedule of fees not to exceed \$145.00 per hour.

**BF 29166** Professional Services from U+B Architecture & Design  
That the Board of Education authorize the administration to procure professional architectural/engineering services from U+B Architecture & Design, as needed, based on a schedule of rates not to exceed \$120.00 per hour.

**BF 29167** Revision of Policy Numbers for Bullying and Hazing Policies  
That the Board of Education authorize the Hazing Policy number be restored to 501.00 and that the Bullying Prohibition policy be numbered 505.00.

F. Bids

**BF 29168** Bid # A153981-E -- Frozen Breakfast Products  
That the Board of Education authorize award of bid No. A153981-E for furnishing and delivery of frozen breakfast products during the period of August 1, 2012 through June 30, 2013 to the lowest conforming bidder, Indianhead Foodservice Distribution in the amount of \$444,251.00.00.

**IX. CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS PULLED FOR SEPARATE CONSIDERATION**

**BF 29169** Request for Permission of the Board of Education to Enter into a Contract with Riverside Publishing Company to Provide the CogAT7 (Cognitive Skills Test) to Provide Individualized Learning Outcomes for all Assessed Students and Gifted Identification Based on Local Norming

Director Brodrick asked how this new test serves as a better identifier of gifted/talented (GT) children. Response: The Cognitive Skills Test is a switch from the Naglieri Nonverbal Ability Test that has been in use by SPPS for over a decade. SPPS has explored a number of options to provide more data by which to identify students for talent development and accelerated services. COGAT7 appears to be a much better test as it assesses three domains (verbal, quantitative and non-verbal) and creates an ability profile for each student taking the test. So rather than just getting a score back, COGAT7 provides parents and teachers with a full report outlining strengths and areas for improvement along with recommendations for resources for that development. The local norming is part of the task to improve the SPPS identification process. Since the SPPS student population is different from the population the test was normed on SPPS is working with Riverside to validate SPPS's own process in use of the assessment results. It is using the assessment in a different way from what it was originally identified for. Riverside will work with SPPS over the next three years to collect, store and share data. This change will also help by containing costs (they will be comparable to the NNAT) and contributing to the field by expanding the assessment for a different student population from what it was originally normed on. This is a test with a long history. SPPS is hoping to tie it to the SSSC plan to ensure that both equity and excellence are accomplished in the talent development and accelerated services program.

Could you expand on what is meant by gifted and talented, what kinds of different types of gifts and talents can be recognized with this test and how does SPPS plan to provide services to a child once they are assessed as GT? Response: In terms of assessment within the three domains, the assessment provides more information because it captures multiple types of activities that students are tested on. It tests verbal, quantitative and non-verbal (spatial). It helps identify areas of strengths and weaknesses and provides information on how to reinforce the strengths and build up the weaknesses. That information is available

to all teachers and the parents. Part of what has to be done is to use the data to best support the child taking the assessment (both parents and teachers). It is necessary for staff to look at not just the students identified GT but to look at all students who have taken the assessment and the data provided in a multi-tiered system of support for each. What has traditionally been seen, as GT services will be expanding in some ways and provide SPPS the ability to respond to the unique gifts all kids have through another source of information at an earlier point. This will allow SPPS to build capacity to use this effectively within the buildings. This will, however, be a process as this is a very different assessment than what has been used over the last decade.

Does this test actually measure a child's creativity so the teacher would recognize that this child, who may not score high in regular measures, is very, very creative? Does it measure characteristics of creativity in other areas or other talents? Does it allow SPPS to get at some creative aspects? Response: This assessment does allow SPPS to get at some of those creative aspects. It does have a verbal portion and this can be translated to a language to meet particular student needs. The verbal portion also has a creative portion incorporating paper folding. These two aspects get to some of the aspects asked about. Teachers will be able to see why a student was identified as gifted and talented, teachers will also have a profile with recommendations to keep talent areas high and recommendations on how to build up areas where they scored lower. This differentiates learning for each student who took the test through the profiles provided.

#### ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS/DISCUSSION:

- Is this a pilot program in certain schools or particular grades or is it an across the board implementation replacing the NNAT2? Response: This is an across the board implementation.
- The verbal assessment in other languages, how will that be implemented? Response: This will be coordinated with Translation Services with translators reading the exam. Building administration will be responsible for initiating it.
- Excitement was expressed about the partnership to look at norming around SPPS students and the contribution it will make to the field and improve the value of the tool.
- What are the costs to move traditional GT services from schools on that track into more schools? Response: The agreement with the vendor was that they had to come in at a cost similar to what is currently being utilized. The ROI is for the families who have chosen a school but, once the assessment results are provided, need to look for a school that will meet that profile. This change will mean that across the district families will get to stay in the school, they have chosen and they will have the understanding of how to advance their students learning both at home and at school. There are GT services in all of the schools already; this will provide more information to meet the students' needs. The cost is \$75,000 per year.
- What is an example of a non-verbal assessment? Response: Paper folding, picture recognition/definition are a couple.
- What grades are the tests given in? Are there other districts using the test? Response: The test is given universally in Kindergarten and 2<sup>nd</sup> grade. Additionally, anyone can refer a student in grades 1, 3 and 5 for assessment. Minneapolis, South Washington County, Eagan-Apple Valley-Rosemount, Madison, WI, Naperville, IL and Rochester, MN are some districts currently using the assessment.
- How are secondary students assessed? Response: There is no secondary assessment tool. Generally, through communication with counselors, teacher recommendations, students taking advance courses are considered GT eligible especially if they are passing advance courses with a B or better.

**MOTION:** Ms. Carroll moved the Board approve the request for permission of the Board of Education to Enter into a Contract with Riverside Publishing Company to provide the CogAT7 (Cognitive Skills Test) to provide individualized learning outcomes for all assessed students and gifted identification based on local norming. The total costs of services will be paid

for from the Talent Development & Accelerated Services budget # 01-005-218-388-6305-0000. Ms. Seeba seconded the motion.

The motion was approved with the following roll call vote:

Ms. Seeba	Yes
Mr. Hardy	Yes
Ms. O'Connell	Yes
Mr. Brodrick	Yes
Ms. Street-Stewart	Yes
Ms. Carroll	Yes
Ms. Doran	Yes

**X. OLD BUSINESS -- None**

**XI. NEW BUSINESS**

A. Recommendation for Project Labor Agreements on Winter Construction Projects

**BF 29170** Project Labor Agreement - Interior Renovation to Accommodate the L'Etoile Du Nord Program at the Ames Elementary School Building located at 1760 Ames Place

**BF 29171** Project Labor Agreement - Renovation of East Side Community Center - Replacement of Wood Shop Dust Collection System, Installation of Wood Shop Guarding & Construction of Ventilation Improvements in Industrial Arts Area - All at Harding High School, 1540 E. 6th Street

**BF 29172** Project Labor Agreement - Interior Renovations to Accommodate the L'Etoile du Nord Program at the Prosperity Heights Elementary School Building located at 1305 Prosperity Avenue

**BF 29173** Project Labor Agreement -- Interior Renovation of Sheridan Elementary School Building located at 525 North White Bear Avenue

It was noted these four projects all involve industrial arts and improvement to the safety and quality of products used by the students. This demonstrates the District's desire to give students the most up-to-date skills in their pursuit of vocational learning.

**MOTION: Ms. Seeba moved the Board accept the administrative recommendation to utilize PLAs on all four of the projects listed. Ms. Carroll seconded the motion.**

The motion was approved with the following roll call vote:

Ms. Seeba	Yes
Mr. Hardy	Yes
Ms. O'Connell	Yes
Mr. Brodrick	Yes
Ms. Street-Stewart	Yes
Ms. Carroll	Yes
Ms. Doran	Yes

B. First Reading: Policy 414.00 Tobacco-Free Environment

The Administrator of Policy, Planning and Intergovernmental Relations provided an overview of changes made to the policy. These included the addition of a purpose statement, definitions of prohibited items and additional prohibitions being added to policy.

**XII. BOARD OF EDUCATION**

A. Information Requests & Responses -- None

B. Items for Future Agendas

1. A request was made for an Update on Gifted and Talented. Where they are going, what the program is and clarification on the role of the GT Advisory Committee. A presentation from a couple of teachers would be beneficial as well.
2. An update on the process of middle school transitions was also requested.
3. An update on the transportation situation was requested. Response: Things are looking much better with things back to normal operation. The key performance indicator process as been revised to be reviewed on a daily basis. Administration continues to take action with Minnesota Central by moving routes to other companies as drivers become available. A further update will be provided in the Friday communication.

C. Board of Education Reports/Communications -- None

**XIII. FUTURE MEETING SCHEDULE**

A. Board of Education Meetings (5:45 unless otherwise noted)

- October 16
- November 13
- December 4 -- Truth-in-Taxation Hearing – 6:00 p.m.
- December 18
- January 15, 2013 – Annual Meeting 4:30 p.m.
- January 22
- February 19
- March 19
- April 16
- May 21
- June 4 -- Special Meeting (Non-Renewals) – 4:00 p.m.
- June 18
- July 16
- August 20
- September 17
- October 15
- November 12 -- Special Meeting (Canvass Votes) – 4:00 p.m.
- November 19
- December 17

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

- October 2
- October 30
- December 4
- January 15 (5:00 p.m.)
- February 5
- March 5
- April 2
- May 7
- June 11
- July 16
- July 30
- September 10
- October 1
- October 29
- December 3

**XIV. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION: Ms. Doran moved the meeting adjourn. Ms. Carroll second the motion.**

The motion was approved with the following roll call vote:

Ms. Seeba	Yes
Mr. Hardy	Yes
Ms. O'Connell	Yes
Mr. Brodrick	Yes
Ms. Street-Stewart	Yes
Ms. Carroll	Yes
Ms. Doran	Yes

The meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

For clarity and to facilitate research, these minutes reflect the order of the original Agenda and not necessarily the time during the meeting the items were discussed.

Prepared and submitted by  
Marilyn Polsfuss  
Assistant Clerk, St. Paul Public Schools Board of Education