I. CALL TO ORDER

The hearing was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Board Chair Street-Stewart. Following an explanation of the purpose of the meeting she stated one of the primary jobs of the Board of Education is to balance the educational needs of St. Paul's children with the property tax impact. The District has cut $27.2 million from the 10-11 budget, including over $10 million in direct funding to schools and $17.2 million in cuts to centrally funded programs, district administration and excess fund balance. She went on to state the District is facing a shortfall of approximately $23 to $28 million in its budget in the 2011-12 school year.

She then turned the meeting over to the Chief Business Officer who noted the State of Minnesota has authorized SPPS to levy a maximum of $122.2 million which is a 9.4% increase from the Pay10 District Levy. He then presented a PowerPoint presentation which highlighted the following points:

A. Why does SPPS levy?
   He noted that some levies contain penalties impacting SPPS if not levied fully.

B. General information on the property tax levy.
   The Chief Business Officer noted Spring is the time for stakeholders to affect their individual property tax assessments. The Ramsey County materials provides information about refunds and assessments.

C. Points of interest on the Pay11 proposed levy including three reasons for the levy increase.

The Board Chair then provided information on the process for the public hearing and turned the microphone over to the those of the community in attendance. Fifteen individuals out of the approximately 35 in attendance spoke to the proposed levy.

2. ADJOURNMENT

The hearing was adjourned at 7:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Marilyn Polsfuss
Assistant Clerk