

**INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 625**  
**Saint Paul, Minnesota**  
**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**December 14, 2010**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 6:02 p.m.

**II. ROLL CALL**

**PRESENT:** Ms. O'Connell, Ms. Varro, Mr. Brodrick, Ms. Street-Stewart, Ms. Carroll, Ms. Kong-Thao, Superintendent Silva, Mr. Lalla, General Counsel and Ms. Polsfuss, Assistant Clerk

Mr. Hardy (arrived at 6:06 p.m.)

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

A. Order of the Consent Agenda

**MOTION:** Mr. Brodrick moved approval of the Order of the Consent Agenda with the exception of Item C3: Request for Permission for a Continuation of a Contract with the American Indian Family Center for Collaboration on the Children's Trust Fund Grant for 2010-2011 which was pulled for separate consideration. Motion seconded by Ms. Carroll.

The motion was approved with the following roll call vote:

Ms. O'Connell	Yes
Ms. Varro	Yes
Mr. Brodrick	Yes
Ms. Street-Stewart	Yes
Ms. Carroll	Yes
Mr. Hardy	Absent
Ms. Kong-Thao	Yes

B. Order of the Main Agenda

The Chair indicated the agenda would be revised to accommodate a brief time for recognition of former Board member Tom Conlon who passed away on December 12, 2010.

**MOTION:** Ms. Carroll moved approval of the Main Agenda as revised; seconded by Mr. Brodrick.

The motion was approved with the following roll call vote:

Ms. O'Connell	Yes
Ms. Varro	Yes
Mr. Brodrick	Yes
Ms. Street-Stewart	Yes
Ms. Carroll	Yes
Mr. Hardy	Absent
Ms. Kong-Thao	Yes

C. Memoriam for Tom Conlon

The Board Chair called for a moment of silence for the passing of Tom Conlon. Mr. Conlon had served almost 18 years as an SPPS Board of Education member. Board members expressed condolences to his parents and family, acknowledged his service to the District and offered remembrances of him.

#### IV. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

- A. Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of November 16, 2010
- B. Minutes of the Special Closed Board of Education Meeting, December 7, 2010

**MOTION: Ms. Kong-Thao moved approval of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of November 16, 2010 and the Minutes of the Special Closed Board of Education Meeting, December 7, 2010. Motion seconded by Ms. Varro.**

The motion was approved with the following roll call vote:

Ms. O'Connell	Yes
Ms. Varro	Yes
Mr. Brodrick	Yes
Ms. Street-Stewart	Yes
Ms. Carroll	Yes
Mr. Hardy	Yes
Ms. Kong-Thao	Yes

#### V. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. Committee of the Board Meeting of November 30, 2010

- 1. **Financial Audit Report**

The draft audit report was prepared by the firm of KPMG who was retained by Saint Paul Public Schools (SPPS) to the audits.

Representatives from KPMG, LLP presented highlights from the financial statements and the opinion for the audit conducted for the year ending June 30, 2010. In their opinion, the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the respective financial position of the governmental activities, each major fund, the aggregate remaining fund information and the respective changes in financial position and, where applicable, cash flows thereof for the year ended June 30, 2010 in conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles or an "unqualified or clean opinion."

They stated they had also issued a report on the District's internal control over financial reporting and tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, grant agreements and other matters. Additionally they audited the District's compliance with the U.S. Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Circular A-133, which are applicable to major federal programs for the year ended June 30, 2010. Finally, they performed an audit of the financial transactions in accordance with statutory requirements embodied in the Minnesota Legal Compliance Checklist since SPPS is a political subdivision of the State of Minnesota.

Regarding the OMB Circular A-133 report, there are two reports, one on the consideration of internal control over financial reporting and compliance with laws and regulations. There were no instances of non-compliance with rules or regulations that would need to be reported relative to day-to-day activities. This was a "clean" report.

The second looks at internal controls over significant transactions that underlie the accounting records and the process used to present the financial statements in compliance with generally accepted accounting principles. This focuses more specifically on the District's administration of the Federal award programs themselves and compliance with established rules and regulations and terms of the grant documents. Any exceptions are called out as "findings." There was one finding this year relative to certifications for individuals working 100% on a particular grant. This finding is being addresses by staff.

**RECOMMENDED MOTION: That the Board of Education accept the FY 2010 Financial Audit information as provided, both the Financial Audit Report and the OMB Circular 133A Audit.**

The motion was approved with the following roll call vote:

Ms. O'Connell	Yes
Ms. Varro	Yes
Mr. Brodrick	Yes
Ms. Street-Stewart	Yes
Ms. Carroll	Yes
Mr. Hardy	Yes
Ms. Kong-Thao	Yes

**2. Report from Community Education Citywide Advisory Council**

The Council is to function, in coordination with the community education director, in an advisory capacity in the interest of promoting the goals and objectives of Minnesota Statutes 124D.18 and 124D.19. It also acts as an advocate for community needs; represents the viewpoints from other site councils/boards in Community Education (ABE, ECFE, Adults with Disabilities) and as stewards of accountability.

The mission of St. Paul Community Education is to seek to improve the quality of life by providing lifelong learning opportunities for all members of the community.

There was discussion of the work done by the Council and its plans for future work. Additional items the Council asked the Board to consider were:

- That for many, community education is the primary vehicle for staying connected to SPPS.
- Allow Community Education to be at the table in discussions on changes within the district.
- That access and appropriate space for unique learning needs in all parts of the District are considered during rightsizing scenarios, and
- That learning happens beyond a certain age in life or time of day and that it all contributes to student success and community livability. The adults, the children and the village are all connected.

**RECOMMENDED MOTION: That the Board of Education accept the Report from the Community Education Citywide Advisory Council with thanks.**

The motion was approved with the following roll call vote:

Ms. O'Connell	Yes
Ms. Varro	Yes
Mr. Brodrick	Yes
Ms. Street-Stewart	Yes
Ms. Carroll	Yes
Mr. Hardy	Yes
Ms. Kong-Thao	Yes

**3. Data Discussion**

There was additional discussion and clarification on the MAP and DataZone information provided to the Board at the November 16 Board meeting.

The meeting recessed at 6:22 p.m. so the Board could move to the Public Hearing on the Property Tax Levy and reconvened at 7:34 p.m. with a continuation of the data discussion.

**4. Standing Item: School & Program Changes – No report**

**5. Standing Item: Policy Update**

Revisions which had been suggested for Policy 403.00 Performance Management and Accountability and Policy 602.00 Curriculum Development, Instruction and Accountability were reviewed prior to being placed in the Board Book for their second reading.

6. **Standing Item: Operational Planning Update** – No update was provided.

7. **Work Session**

- The Budget and Finance Advisory Committee (BFAC) was discussed and the following motion brought forward:

**RECOMMENDED MOTION:** That the Board of Education place the Budget and Finance Advisory Committee (BFAC) on hiatus for the remainder of the 2010-11 and that a communication be sent to the applicants stating such and offering alternative options for them to pursue.

The motion was approved with the following roll call vote:

Ms. O'Connell	Yes
Ms. Varro	Yes
Mr. Brodrick	Yes
Ms. Street-Stewart	Yes
Ms. Carroll	Yes
Mr. Hardy	No
Ms. Kong-Thao	Yes

- The Chair read the letter of resignation received from Director Varro indicating she was resigning from the Board effective end of day December 14, 2010.

**RECOMMENDED MOTION:** That the Board of Education accept Director Varro's resignation, with congratulations for her new appointment and regrets on her loss from the Board,

The motion was approved with the following roll call vote:

Ms. O'Connell	Yes
Ms. Varro	Yes
Mr. Brodrick	Yes
Ms. Street-Stewart	Yes
Ms. Carroll	Yes
Mr. Hardy	Yes
Ms. Kong-Thao	Yes

A proposed process was outlined by the Board Chair.

- Winter Carnival Participation – Interested Board members will join the Farnsworth contingent in the Grand Day Parade of the St. Paul Winter Carnival.

**MOTION:** Mr. Hardy moved acceptance of the Report of the Committee of the Board meeting of November 30, 2010. Motion seconded by Ms. Kong-Thao.

The motion was approved with the following roll call vote:

Ms. O'Connell	Yes
Ms. Varro	Yes
Mr. Brodrick	Yes
Ms. Street-Stewart	Yes
Ms. Carroll	Yes
Mr. Hardy	Yes
Ms. Kong-Thao	Yes

VI. **RECOGNITIONS**

**BF 28500** Recognition of Director Vallay Varro

The Board of Education took the opportunity to thank Director Vallay Varro for her service to Saint Paul Public Schools over the past year and congratulated her on her new position as Executive Director of the Minnesota Campaign for Achievement Now (MinnCAN), a state-based advocacy organization focused on legislative policy and administrative strategies for public education reform. Board members offered their personal comments to Director Varro with a particular

emphasis on her focus on the importance of educating children to become the future leaders in the community and her passion for early childhood education and life-long learning for all.

Director Varro thanked the people of St. Paul for their confidence in her as a member of the school board. She thanked the Board, Superintendent and staff for the job they do every day, for their commitment to addressing the tough issues and for working everyday on behalf of kids and keeping children as the center of the District's focus.

**MOTION: Ms. Carroll moved the Board of Education recognize Director Vallay Varro for her contributions and outstanding work as a member of the Board. Motion seconded by Ms. O'Connell.**

The motion was approved with the following roll call vote:

Ms. O'Connell	Yes
Ms. Varro	Yes
Mr. Brodrick	Yes
Ms. Street-Stewart	Yes
Ms. Carroll	Yes
Mr. Hardy	Yes
Ms. Kong-Thao	Yes

**BF 28501** Acknowledgement of Good Work Provided by Outstanding District Partnerships  
The District recognized the **Rotary Club of Saint Paul** for their on-going support to the District over the years. The Rotary donated 2,896 dictionaries to third graders in 46 elementary schools this year including Spanish/English dictionaries for Adams Spanish Immersion and French/English for L'Etoile du Nord. Rotarians personally visited and presented the dictionaries at twenty-one schools.

**MOTION: Ms. O'Connell moved, seconded by Ms. Carroll, the Board of Education recognizes The Rotary Club of Saint Paul for their donation to the third grade students in Saint Paul Public Schools.**

The motion was approved with the following roll call vote:

Ms. O'Connell	Yes
Ms. Varro	Yes
Mr. Brodrick	Yes
Ms. Street-Stewart	Yes
Ms. Carroll	Yes
Mr. Hardy	Yes
Ms. Kong-Thao	Yes

## VII. PUBLIC COMMENT

- A. Leslie Dwight – Concern about the implementation of RTI at Adams
- B. Domonique Kanavati-Orth – RTI at Adams
- C. Sally Miller – RTI at Adams
- D. Stephanie Alden – RTI at Adams
- E. Kathryn Moellner – Concern about implementation of RTI at Adams
- F. Greg Copeland – Thanks for decision on closing school due to snow and concern about property tax levy.
- G. Kate Goodrich -- Concern about implementation of RTI at Adams and impact on lunch hour and exercise for students.
- H. Joel Chirhart – Implementation of RTI at Adams
- I. Lynn Shellenberger – Concern about loss of time for science and social studies at Adams due to implementation of RTI
- J. Teresa Delasario – Lack of resources for implementation of RTI at Adams and loss of time for recess during the day
- K. Richard Dodson – concern about RTI Tier II implementation at Adams
- L. Paul Pfeiffer – Changes to Adams program due to RTI implementation

- M. Grant Boulanger – Concern implementation of RTI will affect integrity of immersion setting at Adams.
- N. Pamela Strom – Spoke to strengths of Adams and why it excels.
- O. Bob Zick – spoke about hostile work environment in SPPS.

## VIII. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

### A. First Year Progress Report

The Superintendent presented a summary of accomplishments in the district during the first year of her tenure. She stated her focus has been on how to improve learning for ALL students and providing the best education possible for all.

- New climate, new energy, new focus
- New tools, new training, fewer mandates for teachers
- Greater emphasis on principal leadership
- Accountability to students first
- Meaningful partnerships

She stated she was working with a new vision for SPPS of putting the schools at the heart of the community. The District is reinventing itself to better serve students, families, business partners and communities. The District needs to refocus to get the results it should be getting; this will be a process of creating a cultural change.

She indicated that when she looks forward to 2014 she sees a district where enrollment is back up to 43,000; 70-75% of students are proficient or partially proficient. That no matter where a student goes or who a student is, they will receive a high-quality education. That student performance has grown across all groups; that SPPS is the premier choice for education, the staff is meeting the educational needs for the next generation. That students and staff are enriched by the cultural diversity of the district and that educational investment is a top priority for the Community and the State.

She went on to say the District must articulate a vision for the future. One that will:

- Increase student proficiency and significantly reduce the gaps within four years.
- Restructure SPPS to a robust, valued and market-leading neighborhood and specialty school system.
- Live within its means while minimizing traditional budget balancing choices.

This will be about thinking differently, about defining what equity really means and refocusing practices and resources. SPPS will move from a federation of schools to a school district which works together.

There will be strategic leadership provided through a roadmap for SPPS to reach the desired end. There will be immediate action to increase student learning through the introduction of essentials and expectations and an increase in accountability for student performance. Structures and systems will be created for long-term success through the Strong Schools, Strong Communities 2014 Strategic Plan. This is a plan for achievement, alignment and sustainability. A plan for community and staff engagement to explain and implement the Strategic Plan are in progress. The number one goal of this plan is achievement.

In the area of instructional leadership, the District has implemented *Measures for Academic Progress* (MAP) in reading and math at all sites, grades 3-9. This provides benchmark assessments and is administered three times a year. Over 18,000 tests per subject were administered in the fall. DataZone was introduced to support implementation of Readers Workshop and the Mondo Bookshop Program in grades K-5. This provides student, class, school and district level reports of reading progress that enable staff to provide the instruction that is needed by each child. Ultimately, this is how the gap will be closed; by knowing exactly what each student needs and adjusting instruction to meet those needs.

In the area of cultural leadership, the Office of Family Engagement and Community Partnerships was revitalized. All of staff completed the IDI Assessments; Courageous Conversations was brought to SPPS with additional cultural proficiency training in the works

for the following year. There are plans for an academy attuned to African-American student success. The Superintendent stated SPPS is already a “global community” with the largest populations of Hmong, Somali and Karen in the nation.

In the area of Human Resource Leadership, the District has retained and promoted people of color in District leadership positions; 29% of district administrators are people of color. A stronger relationship has been built with the St. Paul Federation on Teachers by working toward finding ways as a system to educate the children. The District has introduced a Performance Management System for Central Administration and the District plans to “spread the wealth” by replicating best practices or programs across the district, to recognize great teachers and implement improvement plans for ineffective teachers.

Managerial leadership has led to raising more than \$12 million in grants and philanthropic giving. The \$27.2 million shortfall was solved with community and staff input without huge cuts to schools. Eight programs were co-located within four buildings; one secondary program was discontinued; one secondary program was expanded; one elementary program was moved and two elementary programs were closed.

In the area of Communications, the District has launched *The Bridge* to address the need for better internal communication. Administration has implemented small group and individual meetings with Board members. Feedback from public and staff has been used to modify proposals. The Superintendent has brought the District’s message to the public in multiple venues within the District, the State, nationally and internationally, all in an effort to create a positive image of SPPS.

The Superintendent stated that in looking ahead 2011 is a critical year for the district. There is uncertainty about what will happen to education funding at the State and Federal level. It is known there will be greater accountability for results. During the next year, the District will:

- Launch the Strong Schools, Strong Community Strategic Plan
- Navigate the new legislative realities.
- Build a balanced budget for SY 2011 that maintains momentum and
- Improve achievement for all students.

This portion of the Superintendent’s report was ended with a viewing of the video on the St. Paul Promise Neighborhoods initiative.

**B. Parent Information Fair**

The Chief of Staff was asked to report on the upcoming Parent Fair. The Parent Fair is scheduled for Saturday, January 8, 2011 at RiverCenter starting at 9:30 a.m. She stated the *Public School Selection Guide* would be ready for distribution on January 3. The *Guide* has been printed in five languages this year. It will be distributed at places families and the community frequent and will be available at the Parent Fair rather than being sent out in a mass mailing as in the past. A media plan and direct mail brochures have been developed. A new on-line application will be available as a new convenient way to enroll. The District will continue its outreach efforts to ensure awareness of how to enroll in SPPS.

**C. Human Resource Transactions Inclusive of the Appointment of Director of Facilities Planning for SPPS**

**MOTION: Ms. Carroll moved approval of the Human Resource Transactions as published in the November 16 Board Book. The motion was seconded by Ms. Varro.**

The motion was approved with the following roll call vote:

Ms. O’Connell	Yes
Ms. Varro	No
Mr. Brodrick	Yes
Ms. Street-Stewart	Yes
Ms. Carroll	Yes
Mr. Hardy	No

Ms. Kong-Thao

Yes

Director Hardy stated he would vote no on the HR transactions as he disagrees with and has concerns about one of the actions.

## IX. CONSENT AGENDA

**MOTION:** Ms. Carroll moved approval of all Consent Agenda Items with the exception of Item C3: Request for Permission for a Continuation of a Contract with the American Indian Family Center for Collaboration on the Children's Trust Fund Grant for 2010-2011 which was pulled for separate consideration. Motion seconded by Ms. Kong-Thao.

The motion was approved with the following roll call vote:

Ms. O'Connell	Yes
Ms. Varro	Yes
Mr. Brodrick	Yes
Ms. Street-Stewart	Yes
Ms. Carroll	Yes
Mr. Hardy	Yes
Ms. Kong-Thao	Yes

### A. Gifts

#### **BF 28502 Gift Acceptance from Ceridian Corporation**

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to allow Central High School to accept a monetary gift from the Ceridian Corporation to be used as designated. The total give of \$8,000.00 will be deposited into the Central High School intra-school account: 19-210-000-000-5096-0000.

#### **BF 28503. L'Etoile du Nord French Immersion Parent/Teacher Organization (LNFI PTO) Gift of \$8,500.00 Toward Supplies**

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to accept the donation of \$8,500 from L'Etoile du Nord French Immersion's Parent/Teacher Organization for use at L'Etoile du Nord French Immersion School.

### B. Grants

#### **BF 28504. Approval to Enter into a Collaborative Grant Agreement with the Amherst H. Wilder Foundation**

That the Board of Education enter into a collaborative grant agreement with the Amherst H. Wilder Foundation to provide Special Education services for the 2010-2011 school year that a fully financed budget be established in the amount of \$504,231 for purposes of this agreement. The funding is made up of an Amherst H. Wilder Foundation grant of \$276,272 and \$227,959 earned in Special Education reimbursement, subject to state funding pattern pursuant to this agreement.

#### **BF 28505 Request for Permission to Submit a Grant Application to the Regional Comprehensive System of Personnel Development (CSPD)**

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to submit a grant to the Regional Comprehensive System of Personnel Development for funds to purchase assistive technology for Special Education students; to accept funds, if awarded; and to implement the project as specified in the award documents.

#### **BF 28506 Request for Permission to Submit and Accept, if Approved, a Grant Application to the Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED) for the FastTRAC-Program Design and Implementation Project Grant**

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to submit a grant application to Department of Employment and Economic Development to provide ABE Services to assist in providing adult learners the skills necessary for a career in Traditional or



Renewable Energy; to accept funds, if awarded; and to implement the project as specified in the award documents.

**BF 28507 Request for Permission to Accept a Grant from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources**

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to accept a grant from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources for archery program funding at Hancock-Hamline University Collaborative Magnet; to accept funds, if awarded; and to implement the project as specified in the award documents.

**BF 28508. Request for Permission to Submit and Accept, if Approved, a Grant Application to the Minnesota Literacy Council for the Technology Integration Project Grant**

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to submit a grant application to the Minnesota Literacy Council to provide ABE Services to adults to increase persistence in distance learning programs to achieve measurable gains in skills acquisition; to accept funds, if awarded; and to implement the project as specified in the award documents.

**BF 28509 Request for Permission to Submit Grant Applications to the Minnesota State Arts Board**

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to submit grants to the Minnesota State Arts Board for funds to implement arts-related learning projects at Linwood Monroe, L'Etoile du Nord French Immersion, Horace Mann School and Mississippi Creative Arts Magnet that support classroom curriculum; to accept funds, if awarded; and to implement the project as specified in the award documents

**BF 28510. Request for Permission to Submit a Grant Application to the Qwest Foundation**

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to submit a grant application to The Quest Foundation to support academic achievement through the use of technology; to accept funds, if awarded, and to implement the project as specified in the award documents.

C. Contracts

**BF 28511 Request for Permission for Saint Paul Public Schools Adult Basic Education Program to Enter into a Contract with the Goodwill/Easter Seals Minnesota (Child Development Pathway Program)**

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to enter into a contract with the Goodwill/Easter Seals Minnesota to provide ABE instructional and support services to adult learners participating in the Child Development Pathway Program.

**BF 28512 Request for Permission for Saint Paul Public Schools Adult Basic Education Program to Enter into a Contract with the Goodwill/Easter Seals Minnesota (Medical Career Pathways Program)**

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to enter into a contract with the Goodwill/Easter Seals Minnesota to provide ABE instructional and support services to adult learners participating in the Medical Career Pathway Program.

D. Agreements

**BF 28513 Approval of Employment Agreement between Independent School District No. 625 and Minnesota School Employees Association, Representing Classified Confidential Employees Association**

That the Board of Education of Independent School District No. 625 enter into an Agreement concerning the terms and conditions of employment of those classified confidential employees in this school district for whom the Minnesota School Employees

Association is the exclusive representative; duration of said Agreement is for the period of July 1, 2010 through June 30, 2012.

**BF 28514 Approval of Employment Agreement Between Independent School District No. 625 and International Union of Operating Engineers, Local No. 70, Exclusive Representative for Custodians**

That the Board of Education of Independent School District No. 625 enter into an agreement concerning the terms and conditions of employment for International Union of Operating Engineers, Local No. 70; duration of said Agreement is for the period of July 1, 2010, through June 30, 2012.

**BF 28515 Approval of Employment Agreement between Independent School District No. 625 and Minnesota Teamsters Public and Law Enforcement Employees Local No. 320 Representing Teaching Assistants**

That the Board of Education of Independent School District No. 625 approve and adopt the Agreement concerning the terms and conditions of employment for teaching assistant employees in this school district for whom the Minnesota Teamsters Public and Law Enforcement Employees Local No. 320 is the exclusive representative; duration of said Agreement is for the period of July 1, 2010, through June 30, 2012.

E. Administrative Items

**BF 28516 Annual Report on Curriculum, Instruction and Student Achievement**

That the Board of Education approve the deadline extension for the 2009-10 Annual Report on Curriculum, Instruction and Student Achievement through the end of January 2011 and submit notice to the Minnesota Department of Education of the Board's action.

**BF 28517 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 January 4, 2011, should they not comply with Minnesota State Health Standards for Immunization on or before this date.

**BF 28518 Monthly Operating Authority**

That the Board of Education approve and ratify the following checks and wire transfers for the period November 1 – November 30, 2010.

(a) General Account	#479800-481189	48,573,538.05
	#3015071-3015158	
(b) Debt Service	-0-	81,111.18
(c) Construction	-0-	4,952,569.05
		\$53,607,218.28

Included in the above disbursements are payrolls in the amount of \$33,858,189.67 and overtime of \$119,834.20 or .35% of total payroll.

(d) Collateral Changes

Released:

Custodian	Cusip	Security	Maturity
Wells Fargo	83164JV45	Small Business Admin Pool	
		#507835	9/25/2031

Additions:

Custodian	Cusip	Security	Maturity
Wells Fargo	880591CW0	Tennessee Valley Auth Ser C	3/15/2013
US Bank	31412QSF7	FNMA Pool 932118	11/1/2024

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 March 15, 2011.

F. Bids

**BF 28519 Bid No. A9404-K: Fire Alarm Inspection and Maintenance**

That the Board of Education authorize award of Bid No. A9404-K for fire alarm inspection and maintenance services at all district facilities for the two (2) year term commencing January 1, 2011 and ending December 31, 2012, to Egan Company for the lump sum base bid of \$205,400.00, plus unit prices no. 1 through 14.

**CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS FOR SEPARATE CONSIDERATION:**

**BF 28520 Request for Permission for a Continuation of a Contract with the American Indian Family Center for Collaboration on the Children's Trust Fund Grant for 2010-2011**

The Board Chair indicated she served as the Chair of Board of the American Indian Family Center and wanted to make that public prior to a vote on this item.

**MOTION: Ms. Carroll moved the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to enter into a contract with the American Indian Family Center for Collaboration on the Children's Trust Fund Grant for 2010-2011. Motion was seconded by Ms. Varro.**

The motion was approved with the following roll call vote:

Ms. O'Connell	Yes
Ms. Varro	Yes
Mr. Brodrick	Yes
Ms. Street-Stewart	Yes
Ms. Carroll	Yes
Mr. Hardy	Yes
Ms. Kong-Thao	Yes

X. **OLD BUSINESS**

**BF 28521 Final Approval of the 2010 Payable 2011 Property Tax Levy**

The Chief Business Officer provided a brief review of facts related to the levy indicating the State determines property tax based calculations for SPPS to cover funding the State does not provide fully (equity, transition, integration, operating capital, etc.). The levied funds also cover mandates from the State and Federal governments which require additional funding (alternative maintenance); leased space support; health care support, pension support and operating costs. Some of the levies contain penalties if not levied fully.

Property tax levy laws are established by the Legislature of the State of Minnesota and Boards of Education set the overall levy for school districts up to the maximum set by the State. The 2011 levy will be paid by taxpayers in May and October of 2011. The proceeds of the 2011 levy will provide funds for the 2011-12 school year. Ramsey County administers the calculations for individual property taxes. City, County and District increase percents cannot be added together to determine property tax increase/decrease.

There are three categories of levies that comprise the total SPPS levy: General Fund, Community Education and Debt Service.

There are three reasons for the levy increase this year:

- OPEB (Other Post Employment Benefits) which is a levy to help cover the costs of retiree health insurance. The District is continuing to take steps to control these costs.
- Debt Levy costs and adjustments to maintain district building infrastructure
- Re-employment Insurance from staff layoffs.

At the September 21, 2010 Board meeting the levy ceiling of a 9.4% increase was adopted in the amount of \$122,230,862. Following this meeting, finance staff conducted a follow-up review which resulted in Administration recommending a .4% reduction to the originally proposed levy figure through a reduction in the General Fund category. The new figure of \$121,744,538 represents a 9% increase for the Pay 11 amount from the Pay 10 levy.

The Board is required to adopt and certify the Pay 11 Levy prior to the end of December 2010. Administration recommended that the Board adopt and certify the 9% figure proposed.

**QUESTIONS:**

- Appreciation was expressed for the reduction and regret that public education is continuing to be funded in this manner by the legislature. Thanks were extended to the St. Paul community for its continued willingness to fund the education of its children.
- What would be the increase on the "average" house from the \$55 figure originally provided? Response: The new amount will have minimal affect on that number.
- The statement was made it is difficult with property valuations going down and other related economic issues to take this vote lightly. This funding is extremely important for students and the District's ability to provide services to them and their families. It was suggested the District look at how to handle capital projects in future, so capital is spent in the right place for the long-term benefit of SPPS students.
- Another statement was made that the needs of students should be kept foremost in mind by providing a quality education while keeping the impact on taxpayers in mind. It is a challenge every year to provide better services and sustain quality of education as funding is continually reduced. As the District moves forward it will ask for community support to provide and sustain quality education for the children of St. Paul.
- When looking at what the State provides funding for, sometimes through taxes, it must be kept in mind that the best use is to provide education to the children as their abilities will impact the future of the State. The Board has charged administration to use the money wisely. This increase needs to make happen because the children are important human capital that needs to be nourished for the future.

**MOTION:**                    **Mr. Brodrick moved, seconded by Ms. Carroll, that the Board of Education certify the Pay 11 Levy for Saint Paul Public Schools at \$121,744,538 or an overall 9.0% increase from the Pay 10 levy.**

The motion was approved with the following roll call vote:

Ms. O'Connell	Yes
Ms. Varro	Yes
Mr. Brodrick	Yes
Ms. Street-Stewart	Yes
Ms. Carroll	Yes
Mr. Hardy	Yes
Ms. Kong-Thao	Yes

- B. SECOND READING: Policy 601.00: Educational Programming
- C. SECOND READING: Policy 602.00: Curriculum Development, Instruction and Accountability
- D. SECOND READING: Policy 403.00: Performance Management and Accountability

The Board Chair announced the second reading for the above listed policies. Third and final reading will occur at the regular meeting of the Board on January 18, 2010. The Vice Chair stated there would be a Policy Subcommittee meeting on December 22 at 1:00 p.m. for final input on policies.

**XI. NEW BUSINESS**

**A. Report on Superintendent's Evaluation**

The Board Chair stated the Board met in a closed meeting on December 7 to evaluate the Superintendent. She then read the following statement relative to that evaluation:

"For 2010, the Superintendent has met or exceeded the Board's expectations in strategic leadership, instructional leadership, cultural leadership, human resource leadership, managerial leadership, and communications leadership. The Board is particularly pleased with her work in strategic visioning. It appreciates her leadership and clarity in setting high expectations for student achievement and support her to further push this issue. She has

proactively told the District's story, highlighting successes and accomplishments from all areas in the district. The Superintendent has presented herself in a positive and sincere manner throughout the community. This is a real strength. In this next year of accelerated strategic change, the Board looks forward to continued improvements in internal and external communications, aligning resources, and deepening the implementation to achieve District goals."

B. Process for Filling Board of Education Vacancy

The Board Chair provided a summary of the process on filling the board vacancy as follows:

- Formal acceptance of Director Varro's resignation – December 14
- Posting of vacancy/opening of application process – December 15, 2010
- Closing date of application process – January 3, 2011 at Noon
- Applicants provided with informational packet – January 4
- First Interview – Board Meeting (Televised) – January 12 5:30 p.m.
- Second Interviews – Board Meeting (Televised) – February 2 5:30 p.m.
- Seating of interim board member – February 15

XII. **BOARD OF EDUCATION**

A. Information Requests & Responses -- None

B. Items for Future Agendas - None

C. Board of Education Reports/Communications

1. **Council of Great City Schools Report**

The Board Chair, Directors O'Connell and Varro and the Superintendent all provided input to the report on the 2010 Council of Great City Schools Annual Conference particularly on the newly released study on the severity of the issues surrounding male African American students.

XIII. **FUTURE MEETING SCHEDULE**

A. Action to Schedule Special Board of Education Meetings for the Purpose of a First and Second Interview in the Process to Fill Board Vacancy

**MOTION:** Ms. O'Connell moved That the Board of Education schedule the following Special Board of Education Meetings for the purpose of interviewing candidates to fill the vacancy on the Board: **First Interview: Wednesday, January 12, 2011 5:30 p.m.; Second Interview: Wednesday, February 2, 2011 5:30 p.m.** Motion seconded by Ms. Kong-Thao.

The motion was approved with the following roll call vote:

Ms. O'Connell	Yes
Ms. Varro	Yes
Mr. Brodrick	Yes
Ms. Street-Stewart	Yes
Ms. Carroll	Yes
Mr. Hardy	Yes
Ms. Kong-Thao	Yes

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

- January 4 – Annual Meeting
- January 12 – Special 5:30 p.m.
- January 18
- February 2 – Special 5:30 p.m.
- February 15
- March 15
- April 19
- May 17
- June 7 – Special 4:30 p.m.
- June 21
- July 19

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

- January 11
- February 1
- March 1
- April 5
- May 3
- June 28
- July 19

**XIV. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION:**                    **Ms. Varro moved the meeting adjourn; seconded by Mr. Brodrick.**

The motion was approved with the following roll call vote:

Ms. O'Connell	Yes
Ms. Varro	Yes
Mr. Brodrick	Yes
Ms. Street-Stewart	Yes
Ms. Carroll	Yes
Mr. Hardy	Yes
Ms. Kong-Thao	Yes

The meeting adjourned at 9:48 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