

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

JANUARY 20, 2009

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by the acting chair, Ms. Street-Stewart, at 5:59 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Ms. Street-Stewart, Ms. Carroll, Mr. Conlon, Mr. Hardy, Mr. Goldstein,
Mr. Brodrick, Superintendent Carstarphen, Jeff Lalla, General Counsel,
Ms. Polsfuss, Assistant Clerk

ABSENT: Ms. Kong-Thao

III. APPROVAL OF THE ORDER OF THE AGENDA

1. Order of the Consent Agenda

MOTION: Mr. Goldstein moved approval of the order of the consent agenda with the exception of Item 16, page 54, the Monthly Operating Authority which was pulled from the agenda for separate consideration. Seconded by Ms. Carroll.

The motion was approved with the following roll call vote:

Ms. Street-Stewart	Yes
Ms. Carroll	Yes
Mr. Conlon	Yes
Mr. Hardy	Yes
Mr. Goldstein	Yes
Mr. Brodrick	Yes

2. Order of the Main Agenda

MOTION: Ms. Carroll moved approval of the order of the main agenda, motion seconded by Mr. Hardy.

The motion was approved with the following roll call vote:

Ms. Street-Stewart	Yes
Ms. Carroll	Yes
Mr. Conlon	Yes
Mr. Hardy	Yes
Mr. Goldstein	Yes
Mr. Brodrick	Yes

IV. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

1. Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of December 16, 2008

A correction to the minutes of the meeting was requested. The correction (on page 19 of the book) was to the vote on the motion passed at the December 9, 2008 closed board meeting; the correct vote should reflect 5 in favor and 0 opposed.

MOTION: Ms. Carroll moved the minutes of the regular meeting of the Board of Education for December 16, 2008 be approved as corrected. Motion seconded by Mr. Brodrick.

The motion was approved with the following roll call vote:

Ms. Street-Stewart	Yes
Ms. Carroll	Yes
Mr. Conlon	Yes
Mr. Hardy	Yes
Mr. Goldstein	Yes
Mr. Brodrick	Yes

2. Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Board of Education January 6, 2009

MOTION: Ms. Carroll moved the minutes of the Annual Meeting of January 6, 2009. be approved as published. Motion seconded by Mr. Hardy.

The motion was approved with the following roll call vote:

Ms. Street-Stewart	Yes
Ms. Carroll	Yes
Mr. Conlon	Yes
Mr. Hardy	Yes
Mr. Goldstein	Yes
Mr. Brodrick	Yes

V. COMMITTEE REPORTS -- None

VI. RECOGNITIONS

The Superintendent noted Governor Pawlenty had proclaimed the week of January 19-23 as Paraprofessionals Recognition Week. The Superintendent extended her thanks to all educational and teaching assistants in the district for their work.

BF 27849 Acknowledgement of Good Work Provided by Outstanding District Employees and Departments

- **Caleb Chisholm, Creative Arts High School**
Mr. Chisholm, a math teacher, was named KS95's Teacher of the Week for the week of November 10.
- **Delores Henderson, Ames Elementary School**
Ms. Henderson, principal at Ames, was nominated to the 2008 Neighborhood Honor Roll by the District 2 Community Council. The Honor Role is a citywide award honoring people who improve the quality of life in St. Paul.
- **Willie Taylor, Central High School**
Mr. Taylor, girls basketball coach, was named the 2008 Pioneer Press Sports Figure of the Year having led the Central team to their second straight girls basketball state championship in 2008.
- **Jaber Alsiddiqui and Michael Baumann, SPPS Business Department**
SPPS has been awarded the State of Minnesota Finance Award for 2009. School organizations are given the award because they exhibited fiscal health, sound fiscal management and accountability.

MOTION: Mr. Hardy moved that the Board of Education recognize the staff and departments acknowledged for their contributions and outstanding work. Motion seconded by Mr. Goldstein.

The motion was approved with the following roll call vote:

Ms. Street-Stewart	Yes
Ms. Carroll	Yes
Mr. Conlon	Yes

Mr. Hardy	Yes
Mr. Goldstein	Yes
Mr. Brodrick	Yes

BF 27850 Recognition of Schools Receiving the Superintendent's Academic Awards for School Improvement Banners for 2007-2008

The award is made to any school that meets or exceeds targets in the district's accountability plan. The targets are: MCA-II Apples to Apples, MCA-II Growth, percent of students absent 11 days or more, four-year dropout rate. 33 Schools received the award and all are repeat winners. Como Park Elementary School is the only school earning an academic banner for all 10 years the award has been in existence. Chelsea Heights and Horace Mann have earned banners for 9 out of the 10 years. The following schools received banners:

- **Elementary and K-8:** Adams Spanish Immersion, Battle Creek Elementary, Capitol Hill Magnet, Chelsea Heights, Como Park Elementary, Crossroad Montessori, Crossroads Science, Dayton's Bluff, Eastern Heights, Expo, Farnsworth, Frost lake, Hayden Heights, Highland Park Elementary, Highwood Hills, Horace Mann, J.J. Hill Montessori, Jackson, L'Etoile du Nord, Monroe, Museum Magnet, Nokomis Montessori, Prosperity Heights, Randolph Heights, Riverview and St. Anthony Park.
- **Middle/Junior High:** Battle Creek Middle, Cleveland, Hazel Park Middle, Highland Park Junior, Murray and Ramsay
- **Senior High:** Highland Park Senior

MOTION: **Ms. Carroll moved the Board of Education offer their congratulations to the schools receiving the Superintendent's Academic Award for School Improvement for 2007-2008 on meeting or exceeding targets in the district's accountability plan. Motion seconded by Mr. Goldstein.**

The motion was approved with the following roll call vote:

Ms. Street-Stewart	Yes
Ms. Carroll	Yes
Mr. Conlon	Yes
Mr. Hardy	Yes
Mr. Goldstein	Yes
Mr. Brodrick	Yes

VII. PUBLIC COMMENT

1. Kwasi Nate Russell -- Provided information on the Parents of African American Students Advisory Council
2. Aprill Mona – Spoke in support of Arlington BioSMART
3. Ger Yang -- Spoke in support of Arlington High School and BioSMART
4. FueChee Yang – Spoke in support of Arlington High School
5. Billy Moua – Spoke in support of Arlington High School and BioSMART

VIII. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

The Superintendent indicated she would be including, in her report, a school presentation on BioSMART, information on the parent information fair, an update on the district's budget shortfall and the human resource transactions, the only item requiring Board action.

1. BioSMART
The BioSMART Project Director and principals from Washington Technology Magnet Middle School and Arlington High School presented an overview of the BioSMART program, how the two schools are working together to articulate the program between the schools, the marketing efforts in place to promote the schools and the program and the connections that are being made between the schools and community partners..

QUESTIONS:

- The presenters were asked what outreach was provided to non-English speaking families to promote the program and make it understandable to them. A separate multicultural showcase is held at Arlington. This is a culturally focused showcase on the project; interpreters are on hand to address questions families may have. The Program Coordinator visits with different cultural group in the community and schools to provide materials and answer questions. Additionally, some of the materials are provided in various languages.
- A question was asked about the success of the marketing efforts. The response was that interest is increasing and the schools are optimistic about improved enrollment.
- How is the intimidation factor of “math and science” addressed? The first message to teachers, the educational community and families is that education can no longer be done in the same way it has been done in the past. The message is being conveyed primarily to students at this time and they take it home to parents. Students are being trained to be flexible in their thinking and because of that flexibility, it is hoped it will translate into communication and bring parents and community members on board.
- The question was posed as to what the connection is between Washington and Arlington. The program at Washington is broad to give students the opportunity to participate in many aspects of bio-technology/science and then, as they articulate to Arlington, they have had some experience in the field and are able to choose a focus and follow that pathway into specialized electives which will prepare them for future success in the business world.
- The Superintendent noted that the articulation is from 7-16 so the program connects beyond high school into higher education opportunities. The BioSMART program is building on demographic information about what careers will be the ones needed in future years and providing students with a curriculum that leads them into those pathways.
- How has BioSMART energized the teachers? In every area across the curriculum (electives and required course work) staff is integrating the concepts of bio-sciences and technology. The program pushes the staff to evolve their curriculum and technology abilities to meeting the students’ needs.

2. Parent Information Fair

The Superintendent stated approximately 2,800 people attended the Parent Information Fair on January 20, up about 350 people from last year. All of the schools were represented at the Fair along with 13 SPPS departments and the Student Placement Center. Seventeen charter schools and 17 private/parochial schools also participated. The Student Placement Center met with 226 families seeking help with the enrollment process. Several JROTC cadets worked at the Fair in a variety of areas including handing out maps, counting visitors, helping to gather evaluations and riding the shuttle buses to welcome families as they boarded.

The Superintendent reminded families of the deadlines for enrollment: Middle, Junior and High Schools being February 27 and elementary schools March 6. The enrollment process has become more centralized so that anyone wanting to enroll in any SPPS elementary school must fill out an application form for that school/program.

3. SPPS Budget Shortfall

The Chief Business Officer stated the District is expecting a \$25 million shortfall for the school year 2009-2010. She stated the shortfall was originally estimated to be \$15 million when first presented to the Board in August 2008. A decline in enrollment and the recent, downward adjustment to zero for expected state funding for the 2009-10 school year caused the shortfall to grow. Additional factors include the fact that in an economic downturn fewer staff are expected to retire changing the anticipated savings in turnover from experienced, higher-paid employees to newer, lower paid staff; also there will be no increase in state aid coming in as new revenue. In the area of expenses, a 2% COLA increase; a 3.5% increase

in Health Welfare Insurance and a 2% increase in supplies and equipment will impact the budget.

With past budget shortfalls, school and district officials have made every effort to keep the cuts as far from the classrooms as possible. This will continue to be the primary goal as district officials plan for the 2009-10 budget. However, a deficit of this size will touch all areas of SPPS. It was stated that with the previously mentioned factors, with transportation costs estimated to go up 7.6% (this is higher than the General Fund growth) and with salaries and benefits accounting for 84.4% of the General Fund, deficit reduction will impact staffing.

Other factors which would increase the shortfall include:

- Further downturn in the economy
- The state making direct cuts to education
- The shifting, by the state, of cash payouts may cause the district to incur short term borrowing costs due to reduced cash flow
- Further declines in enrollment beyond the current forecast.

4. Human Resource Transactions

MOTION: **Ms. Carroll moved approval of the Human Resource transactions occurring between November 21 and December 18, 2008 as presented in the Board Book . Motion seconded by Mr. Conlon.**

The motion was approved with the following roll call vote:

Ms. Street-Stewart	Yes
Ms. Carroll	Yes
Mr. Conlon	Yes
Mr. Hardy	Yes
Mr. Goldstein	Yes
Mr. Brodrick	Yes

IX. CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION: **Mr. Brodrick moved approval of all consent agenda items with the exception of Item 16, page 54, the Monthly Operating Authority which was pulled from the agenda for separate consideration. Motion seconded by Ms. Carroll.**

The motion was approved with the following roll call vote:

Ms. Street-Stewart	Yes
Ms. Carroll	Yes
Mr. Conlon	Yes
Mr. Hardy	Yes
Mr. Goldstein	Yes
Mr. Brodrick	Yes

Gifts

BF27851 Gift Acceptance from Capitol Hill Magnet School Parent Teacher Organization
That the Saint Paul Public Schools Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to allow Capitol Hill Magnet School to accept a monetary gift of \$33,502.16 from the Capitol Hill Magnet School Parent Teacher Organization. The total amount will be deposited in Intraschool Fund 19-494-000-0000-5096-0000.

BF 27852 Gift Acceptance from J.J. Hill Montessori Magnet Parent Teacher Organization
That the Saint Paul Public Schools Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to allow J.J. Hill Montessori Magnet School to accept a monetary gift of \$6,500.00 from the J.J. Hill Montessori Magnet School Parent Teacher Organization. The total amount will be deposited in Intraschool Fund 19-493-000-0000-5096-0000.

Grants

BF 27853 Request for Permission to Submit a Grant Application to the General Mills Champions for Kids Program

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to submit a grant application to General Mills for an aquatics-based physical fitness program at the On Track Alternative School; to accept funds, if awarded; and to implement the project as specified in the award documents.

BF 27854 Request for Permission to Submit a Grant Application to The Heart of America Foundation/Target Library Makeover Project

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to submit a grant application from Galtier Science and Math Technology Magnet, Maxfield Magnet, Jackson Preparatory Magnet and North End Elementary School to the Heart of America Foundation/Target Library Makeover project to accept funds and if awarded implement the project as specified in the award documents.

BF 27855 Request for Permission to Submit a Grant Application to the Minnesota Department Of Education (Phalen Lake)

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to submit a grant application to the Minnesota Department of Education for funds to collect and archive family stories, cultural traditions and folktales through the application of research strategies and informational literacy skills at Phalen Lake Hmong Studies Magnet School; to accept funds, if awarded; and to implement the project as specified in the award documents.

BF 27856 Request for Permission to Submit a Grant Application to the Minnesota Department Of Human Services for an American Indian State of Minnesota Chemical Health Division Grant

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to submit a grant application to the Department of Human Services for American Indian State of Minnesota Chemical Health Division grant in the district; to accept funds, if awarded; and to implement the project as specified in the award documents.

BF 27857 Request for Permission to Submit Grant Application to the Minnesota Schools Cutting Carbon Grant Program

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to submit grant applications from Central High School, Como Park High School, Harding High School, Humboldt Senior High School and IA/LEAP High School to the Minnesota Schools Cutting Carbon Grant Program to fund projects that save energy and reduce greenhouse emissions in the district, to accept funds, if awarded; and to implement the projects as specified in the award documents.

BF 27858 Request for Approval to Apply to the Minnesota State High School Leagues Foundation

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to submit an application to the Minnesota State High School Leagues Foundation for monies being awarded to high schools in the State of Minnesota; to accept funds, if awarded; and to implement the project as specified in the award documents.

BF 27859 Request for Permission to Submit a Grant Application to the Office Depot Classroom Makeover Contest Program

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to submit a grant application to Sanford L.P., Office Depot Inc.; for funds to have a classroom makeover performed on the biology classroom at Central High School; to accept funds, if awarded; and to implement the project as specified in the award documents.

BF 27860 Permission to Accept a 3M Foundation Grant for 3M East Side Partnership Program

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to accept a grant from the 3M Foundation to support the continuing education partnership in the district and to implement the project as specified in the award documents.

BF 27861 Permission to Accept a 3M Foundation Grant for the *Girls in Engineering Math and Science (GEMS)* and *Guys in Science and Engineering (GISE)* Afterschool Program

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to accept a grant from the 3M Foundation to implement the *Girls in Engineering, Math and Science (GEMS)* and *Guys in Science and Engineering (GISE)* afterschool science programs and to implement the project as specified in the award documents.

BF 27862 Request for Permission to Accept a 3M Foundation Grant for 3M Science Training Encouragement Program (STEP)

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to accept a grant from the 3M Foundation to support the STEP program in the district and to implement the project as specified in the award documents.

BF27863 Request for Permission to Submit and Partner Submitting Grant Applications for the 21st Century Community Learning Centers Grant Program

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to partner in submitting grant applications for the 21 CCLC Grant program; to accept funds, if awarded; and to implement the projects as specified in the award documents.

Administrative Items

BF 27864 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 29, 2009, should they not comply with Minnesota State Health Standards for Immunizations on or before that date.

BF 27865 Minnesota School Board's Insurance Trust Property and Liability Plan Annual Renewal

That the Board of Education approve the contract renewal for 2/1/09 through 2/1/10 for property and liability coverage with the Minnesota School Board's Insurance Trust, administered through Berkley Risk Administrators Co., LLC, at the proposed premium of \$1,085,456, a decrease of 3.3%.

Bids

BF 27866 Request for Proposal RFP No. A9288-M Telecom Services

That the Board of Education authorize award of Request for Proposal No. A9288-M for Voice Services for a two year period beginning July 1, 2009 with the ability to extend in one year increments, to the most responsive proposer, CP Telecom Inc. for an estimated cost of \$354,240.00.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS FOR SEPARATE CONSIDERATION

Mr. Hardy stated he had pulled this item because he was struggling with the amount of overtime which is being utilized within the district. He stated he would vote no due to the amount of overtime.

BF 27867 Monthly Operating Authority

MOTION: **Ms. Carroll moved that the Board of Education approve and ratify the following checks and wire transfers for the period December 1-December 31, 2008.**

(a) General Account	#444346-446478	\$48,837,068.14
	#3012809-3012933	

MOTION: Mr. Brodrick moved that the Board of Education recommends that a Project Labor Agreement be used on the science lab remodeling project at Como Park Senior High. Motion seconded by Mr. Hardy.

Mr. Conlon indicated he would vote no on this because of his belief putting additional restrictions on competition increases costs and the district is facing budgetary challenges right now; additionally administration is not recommending the use a PLA on this project.

Mr. Brodrick reviewed the reasons the process for use of PLAs was put in place.

Administration was asked to provide the reasons why they recommended not using a PLA for the project. Administration indicated the work would be done over the summer months, delay and work interruptions were not expected, educational programs were not expected to be impacted and there were no health or safety issues related to the project.

RESTATEMENT OF MOTION: Mr. Brodrick moved that the Board of Education recommends that a Project Labor Agreement be used on the science lab remodeling project at Como Park Senior High. Motion seconded by Mr. Hardy.

The motion was approved with the following roll call vote:

Ms. Street-Stewart	Yes
Ms. Carroll	Yes
Mr. Conlon	No
Mr. Hardy	Yes
Mr. Goldstein	Yes
Mr. Brodrick	Yes

XII. BOARD OF EDUCATION

1. Information Requests and Responses - None
2. Items for Future Agendas -- None
3. Board of Education Reports/Communications

- **Minnesota Minority Education Partnership (MMEP)**

Ms. Street-Stewart reported on the MMEP and its Covenant for Education Equity with Excellence with Students of Color and American Indian Students. n which they commit to changing Minnesota's perceptions, expanding early childhood education, transforming K-12 education, expanding college access, improving post-secondary participation, transforming teachers and faculty, investing in education and holding elected and appointed officials accountable.

- **Minnesota School Boards Association (MSBA) Annual Conference**

Ms. Street-Stewart then moved on to report on MSBA's winter leadership conference. She provided several handouts which included the MSBA's 2008 Delegate Assembly legislative resolutions (28 submitted, 15 passed). She presented board members with a copy of the *Capital Compass* which is available on the MSBA website and which outlines the status of various pieces of legislation and votes associated with them. She stated February 23-27 has been designated as School Board Recognition Week. She announced that on March 19 there will be a rally at the Capitol in connection with Voices for Child Advocacy Day. There will also be an "Education Day on the Hill" for schools and school board members with the date yet to be announced.

Ms. Carroll requested a referral of the MSBA's resolutions for consideration at an upcoming COB. The chair indicated it would be added for consideration by the Executive Team.

BF 27869 Presentation of Resolution

MOTION: Mr. Goldstein moved the following resolution in recognition of the inauguration of Barack Obama:

Be it resolved that the St. Paul Public Schools' Board of Education hereby extends its congratulations to President Barack Obama on his historic inauguration as the 44th President of the United States on this day, the 20th of January, 2009.

Further, that we wish him the best of luck in helping all communities realize the goal of providing a quality education for all children in America, regardless of their ethnic background or socioeconomic status.

Ms. Carroll seconded the motion.

Mr. Conlon offered a friendly amendment that President Bush be thanked for his contributions in the past as well. The amendment was not acceptable to the maker who stated the resolution was to recognize that this is the first African American president in the history of the United States, it is an extraordinarily historic day for the entire world and that as an urban school district with nearly 75-80% of its kids students of color, it was in that sense that the resolution was made. It is not intended to be a comment on performance. The Board Secretary was instructed to put the resolution into a formal correspondence and forward it to the White House.

The motion was approved with the following roll call vote:

Ms. Street-Stewart	Yes
Ms. Carroll	Yes
Mr. Conlon	Abstain
Mr. Hardy	Yes
Mr. Goldstein	Yes
Mr. Brodrick	Yes

XIII. FUTURE MEETINGS SCHEDULE

1. Board of Education Meetings
 - February 17
 - March 17
 - April 21
 - May 19
 - June 9 – 4:00 p.m. Special – Non-Renewals
 - June 16
 - July 21

MOTION: Ms. Carroll moved, seconded by Mr. Conlon, that a Special Closed Board of Education Meeting be scheduled for January 27, 2009 at 4:00 p.m. The subject will be negotiations.

The motion was approved with the following roll call vote:

Ms. Street-Stewart	Yes
Ms. Carroll	Yes
Mr. Conlon	Yes
Mr. Hardy	Yes
Mr. Goldstein	Yes
Mr. Brodrick	Yes

2. Committee of the Board Meetings
 - January 27
 - February 10
 - February 24
 - March 24
 - April 14

- May 5
- May 19, 2009 (4:45-5:30) – Special COB (Update on Health Care Renewal Process)
- June 9

The chair noted the April 28 and June 30 COB meetings had been cancelled.

IXV. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Mr. Brodrick moved the meeting adjourn; seconded by Mr. Conlon.

The motion was approved with the following roll call vote:

Ms. Street-Stewart	Yes
Ms. Carroll	Yes
Mr. Conlon	Yes
Mr. Hardy	Yes
Mr. Goldstein	Yes
Mr. Brodrick	Yes

The meeting adjourned at 8:16 p.m.

For clarity and to facilitate research, these minutes reflect the order of the 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