

INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 625
Saint Paul, Minnesota
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
March 17, 2009

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Board Chair, Ms. Kong-Thao, called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

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

Ms. Carroll left the meeting at 11:00 p.m.

III. APPROVAL OF THE ORDER OF THE AGENDA

1. Order of the Consent Agenda

Mr. Hardy requested that Item 10 and Item 18 be pulled for separate consideration.

MOTION: Ms. Carroll moved the approval of the order of the consent agenda with the exception of Item 10, Page 59, The Monthly Operating Authority and Item 18, Page 67-76, Bid No. A9302-M Pupil Transportation – Summer 2009 which were pulled for separate consideration. Motion seconded by Ms. Street-Stewart.

The motion passed with the following roll call vote:

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

2. Order of the Main Agenda

MOTION: Ms. Carroll moved approval of the order of the main agenda as revised. Motion seconded by Mr. Conlon.

The motion passed with the following roll call vote:

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

IV. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

1. Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of February 17, 2009

MOTION: Ms. Carroll moved approval of the minutes of the regular meeting of the Board of Education for February 17, 2009. Motion seconded by Ms. Street-Stewart.

The motion passed with the following roll call vote:

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

V. COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Committee of the Board (COB) Meeting of February 24, 2009

• **Report on Findings of the Facilities Assessment and Educational Adequacy Assessment**

It was stated the information provided in the Facilities Assessment and Educational Adequacy Assessment will help guide recommendations and decisions on facilities for many years to come. The assessment process was about data gathering. The review presented was an overview of the district as a whole.

Areas covered included:

- A review of the assessment objectives: (1) to assess the educational adequacy of all instructional spaces district-wide; (2) to identify current building conditions and educational adequacy deficiencies district-wide; (3) to understand the future life-cycle capital renewal requirements for the district's existing facility portfolio and (4) to provide the data necessary to maintain all facilities in a safe and secure manner.
- Information on the M.A.P.P.S™ assessment database where all the data will be housed.
- Discussion on the key findings of the assessments. The deficiencies identified in the assessments when combined with district enrollment projections can be used to provide an overall Facilities Master Plan which can then be the basis for a district-wide capital improvement funding strategy.
- A review of the priorities which had been assigned to deficiencies
- A look at school improvement categories
- A discussion on the educational adequacy or the degree to which a school's facilities can adequately support the instructional mission, methods and purpose.
- A discussion on the eight areas in which educational adequacy was reviewed which were: capacity, support for programs, technology, supervision and security, instructional aids, physical characteristics, the learning environment and the relationship of spaces.
- An explanation of life cycle renewal, which looks out into the future to understand what might become needs over the next five years and, finally
- Capacity, both fixed capacity (the sum of permanent classroom space in a school building- the bones) and functional capacity (which is the most accurate measure of how school space is currently utilized) was reviewed... It was found SPPS has a deficit in space at the high school level.

The Chief Operations Officer extended his thanks to everyone involved in the collaborative, district-wide assessment process.

- He reiterated the objectives of the assessment;
- Reviewed the data gathering and the planning process;
- Discussed district funding mechanisms;
- Described data utilization for development of: a facilities master plan; an informed capital bonding process and its use in informing the Large Scale System Change discussion/decision process; and
- Stressed the value of data-driven recommendations.

RECOMMENDED MOTION: That the Board of Education accept the complete *Report on Findings of the Facilities Assessment and Educational Adequacy Assessment*.

The motion passed with the following roll call vote:

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

- **Preview of 2009 Summer School Plans**

The ALC summer session 2009 will provide programs and classes to increase proficiency and credit recovery for graduation. The program will support student learning at elementary levels in both academics and enrichment; in middle school in credit recovery, academics and enrichment and in high school credit recovery and test preparation for the MCA-II and GRAD testing.

Summer school will run 5 days a week, 6 hours per day for 3 weeks for a total of 96.5 instructional hours (the same number of hours as in 2008). There will also be opportunity for enrichment due to the extended time.

Proposed dates are:

- June 22 – July 14, 2009 – Regular Ed (full days at 41 sites)
- June 22 – July 24, 2009 – Special Ed (half days at 9 sites)
- June 22 – July 17, 2009 – On Track (full days at 1 site)
- July 20 – August 17, 2009 – High School (full days at 1 site)

Benefits of this schedule include additional time for enrichment opportunities (longer days but fewer weeks allowing families to better plan their summer schedules) and families will have more access to summer instruction and enrichment through the summer sessions and Community Education. Community Education is planning Education Camps beginning July 18 at four sites in collaboration with the City of St. Paul. There will be three weeks of camps families can sign up for. Thus, in total, there will be six to eight weeks of instruction or learning opportunities for students. A pilot program for serving breakfast in the classroom is being implemented. Start times are also being revised with middle and high school classes starting at 9:00 a.m. and younger students between 7:45 and 8:15 a.m.

Cost savings will be made in transportation, facilities with reduced utility and maintenance costs and the shorter sessions will give Operations an additional two weeks for maintenance and cleaning prior to Fall school opening.

RECOMMENDED MOTION: That the Board of Education approve the proposed revisions to the 2009-2010 calendar.

The motion passed with the following roll call vote:

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

- **Standing Item: School and Program Changes Update** -- No report.
- **Standing Item: Policy Update** -- No report.
- **Work Session**
 - Assignments for board representation on outside committees were agreed upon.
 - Graduation coverage by Board members was scheduled.
 - Next steps were discussed in identifying resources and contract development for the Board development work.

- The Latino Consent Decree and Indian Education Committees report dates were discussed and agreed upon.
 - An additional COB was suggested for April 7, 2009 at 4:30 p.m.
2. Committee of the Board Meeting of March 3, 2009

The purpose of the meeting was to begin to lay out the process for transitions of leadership, timeframes and expectations around the superintendency and St. Paul Public Schools (SPPS). Work has been ongoing with the Superintendent to prepare for the end of the school year, summer school and the start of the next school year. Additionally the District is in the middle of the budget process which must continue.

The meeting included a review of calendars of upcoming meetings and the various engagement opportunities; a review of the past two superintendent search processes and a discussion of Board availability.

3. Acceptance of the Minutes of the Committee Meetings Reported

MOTION: Ms. Street-Stewart moved, seconded by Mr. Brodrick, that the Board accept the report of the minutes of the Committee of the Board Meeting of February 24, 2009 and the Committee of the Board Meeting of March 3, 2009.

The motion passed with the following roll call vote:

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

VI. RECOGNITIONS

1. Recognition of Schools, Teams, Individuals and Coaches in Our Saint Paul Public Schools That Have Won Athletic Awards and Championships

- Highland Park Junior High School – Girl’s Basketball Team, City Champion
- Humboldt Junior High School – Wrestling Team, City Co-Champion
- Ramsey Junior High School – Wrestling Team, City Co-Champion
- Washington Technology Middle School – Wrestling Team, City Co-Champion
- Central Senior High School – Girls’ Basketball Team, City Champion
- Central Senior High School – Boys’ Nordic Ski Team, City Champions
- Central Senior High School – Boys’ Swim Team, City Champion
- Como Park Senior High School – Girls’ Nordic Ski Team, City Champion
- Harding Senior High School – Wrestling Team, City Champion
- Highland Park Senior High School – Gymnastics Team, City Champion
- Humboldt Senior High School – Devon Bonds, a member of the Humboldt wrestling team, won Class AA State Championship at 130 lbs.
- Johnson Senior High School – Boys’ Basketball Team, City Champion

MOTION: Mr. Conlon moved that the Board of Education recognize and congratulate the coaches, teams and individuals for their accomplishments. Motion second by Ms. Street-Stewart.

The motion passed with the following roll call vote:

Mr. Conlon	Yes
Mr. Hardy	Yes
Ms. Kong-Thao	Yes
Mr. Goldstein	Yes
Mr. Brodrick	Yes
Ms. Street-Stewart	Yes

2. Acknowledgement of Good Work Provided by Outstanding District Employees and Departments
 - **Dr. Fatima Lawson**, L'Etoile du Nord French Immersion was recognized by the Minnesota Elementary School Principals' Association (MESPA) for her hard work and dedication in leading the school toward validation as a Minnesota School of Excellence.
 - **Michelle Leba**, Washington Technology Magnet Middle School social studies teacher and curriculum coordinator, was named the Middle Level Teacher of the Year for 2009 by the Minnesota Council for the Social Studies (MCSS).
3. Acknowledgement of Good Work by Schools
 - **Yvonne Schneider's 4th and 5th grade group** at the Rondo Discovery Club were among 200 winners in the Scholastic Book Club's "Care Where You Are" Sweepstakes. About 16,000 classrooms nationwide qualified for the sweepstakes by having students read 100 books in the fall. They received 500 books to donate to local organizations.

MOTION: Mr. Hardy moved that the Board of Education recognize the staff, departments and schools acknowledged at the meeting for the contributions and outstanding work. Motion seconded by Mr. Conlon.

The motion passed with the following roll call vote:

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

VII. PUBLIC COMMENT

1. Mary Reis -- Spoke about the Superintendent search
2. Rohn Anderson --Chelsea Heights parent spoke on the value of music education
3. Anne Brataas spoke to music education and asked administration to look for creative solutions
4. Jim Bartsch (Homecroft & Highland alumnus and Ed. Director with MN Orchestra) commented on the value of music education
5. Sally Berremann (parent - Horace Mann) spoke to the dedication of the music teachers and the value of music in education
6. Wendy Bjorkland -- (parent Highland Jr. High) asked administration to find a continued source of funding for elementary music/arts
7. Thomas Chervenak -- (MN State College & Capitol Hill/Chelsea Heights parent) spoke to the fact music strengthens skills and enriches life
8. Dorian Cotton Herron -- (alumni Webster, Ramsey and Central) spoke to the value of starting music education at younger ages
9. Clair Ganzel -- (volunteer music teacher) spoke to the value of music education and its value in strengthening other areas of life and learning
10. Dyane Garvey -- (Director of Hmong Arts/parent French Immersion) spoke to the value of music education to students in poverty and financially challenged families.
11. Chris Garvey -- (parent French Immersion) spoke to how music is closely connected to mathematics and provides an opportunity to excel and enhances studies in other areas.
12. Victoria Garvey -- (student French Immersion) spoke to keeping music education in the schools
13. May Garvey -- (student French Immersion) spoke to keeping music teachers in the schools
14. Victoria Hopwood -- (Central graduate, classical musician) spoke to restoring music, increasing funding for music as it empowers its practitioners and as a universal language.
15. Kevin Huepenbecker -- (parent Chelsea Heights) spoke to elementary school as a chance for students to experiment and learn their likes and dislikes, to find a path and music enhances this journey
16. Devante Jackson -- spoke to how music helped him achieve maturity

17. DeWayne Jackson – (parent) spoke to the Twin Cities being a leading area for music nationally and that music is a core of Twin Cities' society.
18. Benjamin Jacobson – (Webster, Mounds Park Academy alumnus) spoke to music as a craft vital in life, the benefit of music to life and to music as a form of being
19. Paul Jacobson -- (Baroque orchestra founder/performer) spoke to music as educational outreach and its value in enhancing learning and skills
20. Patricia Kelly – spoke about how many ways music affects people's lives and asked that administration not pit art against academics. Music is a discipline applied to many facets of life.
21. Gebriel Khadar & Seanne Thomas – (Crossroad student & his parent) spoke on how music makes a better person and student and the value of music in the public school to families who cannot afford private lessons in music and what a loss it would be if it went away...
22. Kao Lee -- (Cross Roads graduate/Macalester student) spoke to how music is valued by different people in different ways and its value as a stress reliever.
23. Dr. Scott Lipscomb – (U of MN) spoke about expanding music and arts further into learning by infusing it into curriculums. He spoke about the association of music and learning, academic achievement, social and emotional development and success rates among students practicing music.
24. Ahna Logan – (teacher) stated music is a language children can speak and understand that it provides for self expression, independence as well as collaboration and that music improves language and art skills.
25. Vicky Lynn – spoke to the neurological aspects of music.
26. Thor Cramer Berremann – (Horace Mann student) spoke to how music helps learning in different ways; it helps a person think better and in reading and motor skills
27. Itly Thavieng – (Murray student) explained why she would be choosing a charter school instead of SPPS.
28. Sandra Vazquez-Thorpe – stated her children are looking forward to the opportunity of learning music as they move into 4th grade.
29. Theresa Westcott – (vocal music teacher Franklin Music Magnet) spoke to finding other ways to balance the budget rather than cut music from the students, she went on to list all SPPS schools without vocal instructors.
30. Kris Ohnsorg – spoke to the importance of music at Mann Elementary stating it is the culture of the school and brings it together as a community.
31. Jeff Koon – presented Relating to the NCLB...Unless and Until It Gets Changed
32. John Waddle – spoke of starting music early at the elementary level and music as a tool to unite different ages and cultures.
33. Laura Smidzile – (Monroe Linwood & Ramsey parent) spoke to the pride of achievement music provides to students and the necessity of having professionals teaching music.
34. John Krenik – asked administration to make room for music program in the budget even though faced with many challenges.
35. Al Oertwig – spoke to the superintendent search process and its history and asked the board to consider programs which develop strong connections between individuals and that the next superintendent have a strong commitment to St. Paul.
36. Michael Gay – asked the board to consider utilizing public transportation for getting children to and from school.
37. Mark Fredell – (Franklin Music Magnet School) spoke to the ongoing reductions schools have been faced with over the past many budget cycles and that it somehow needs to stop.
38. Darrell Baggenstass – (Four Seasons music instructor) spoke to the value of music, its role in improved test scores and that the loss of music might lead to the loss of students/families to the district. He stated music is a legacy in St. Paul.
39. Corey Needlamm – (Ramsey) stated he didn't want to see a degradation of quality of music instruction in St. Paul which is a national music capital.

The Superintendent stated there was a need to have a discussion across St. Paul about what it would mean to embark on large scale system changes to fundamentally change the way the District does business. She stated the \$25 million budget shortfall for the upcoming year is just the beginning. The District is facing a structural deficit in each of the next six years which will, in the end, result in a total of \$103 million in reductions. Birth rates are down and there is no class coming up through the system that will be as big as the classes of the baby boomer's babies.

She stated cuts can be made differently, there are other areas which can be cut, the question to St. Paul and SPPS parents and families is how fast do they want to go in making the structural difference in where the money will come from. Business as usual is not sustainable, the infrastructure was built for 45,000 students, there are currently 38,005 and this will continue to decline at the secondary level over the next several years.

If a decision is made to switch where the money comes from, there are things which can be done – choice and transportation can be changed, when school starts, how secondary vs. elementary are done. Recommendations will be brought forward on all of these this Spring, they can be triggered for the 09-10 school year or it can be done in 10-11 which would give the community time to talk about reduction in facilities, changing the extremely expensive choice system in the District, etc. Administration will bring the ideas to the table, the Board and the community will need to decide if they are comfortable with making those changes before the start of this upcoming school year. It can be done but there must be a will to do it in this timeframe.

The Superintendent stressed the cycle of cutting is no where near the end. The Federal Stimulus Package will not save the jobs being discussed. Salvation is about finding new sources of funding through partnerships, grants, federal and state programs; giving up things in order to be able to support the academic design and fundamentally changing the way the district does business. The community has a voice in this, engagement sessions have been scheduled in order for the public to provide input and hear ideas being brought forward. The Board will need to make tough decisions soon that can be triggered as soon as 09-10 but definitely must be done by 2010-11 in order to be able to balance the budget.

VIII. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

1. School Presentation

The Principal of Linwood Monroe Arts Plus gave a presentation on the school's accomplishments, progress and changes which have been made to enhance its programming.

The Superintendent thanked the Board for supporting the changes made at Linwood Monroe as it enhanced and expanded its program.

2. Music and Art in SPPS

The Superintendent, just prior to the start of public comment, talked about music and art in SPPS. She stated the Board supports, as much as is possible, doing as much as can be done with extracurricular and other core curricular designs that better support children and their achievement; art, music, athletics are all part of that. She stated there seemed to be some confusion about the itinerant instrumental music program and what has been proposed for the 2009-10 school year.

She proceeded to clarify where the District and State is in the budget deficit and what is being done to reshape and reinvest in arts, music and athletics. When administration recommended solutions for the \$25 million dollar budget shortfall at the February 10 COB meeting, part of the solution did include reducing the amount of centrally funded allocations for itinerant instrumental music by \$1.4 million. Since that time, the Office of Academics looked at itinerant instrumental music programs in order to restructure it from the current delivery model to ensure that all teachers follow the same standards and pedagogy across the district. Making the reductions does not mean the District is eliminating music in the elementary, middle and high schools. It is a restructuring of the current program so that it can equally serve all music students in the district. Restructuring it and reducing numbers so it can be funded differently does mean that reductions must be shown in the general fund to rethink it, put different codes to it, redesign and make other reductions in the district (central admin) in order to redefine this.

The purpose of the instrumental music programs at the elementary level is to help students learn about how to play an instrument and give students a broader context about the importance of instrumental music as a form of expression throughout time and cultures. The

arts are a core academic subject as defined by NCLB and there are national and Minnesota State Arts Standards as benchmarks that students must meet.

Administration will bring forward proposal details for \$2 million in cuts specific to the line item regarding centrally funded budgets. The opportunity to adjust other proposed cuts (other programs funded centrally) will be dependent on two key factors: (1) Board action regarding central administrative cuts being presented at the March 24 COB meeting and (2) action by the State legislature and the Governor regarding education funding.

If the Board adopts the proposed administrative reductions at the March 24 COB meeting, the difference in funding can be applied to offset reductions in itinerant instrumental music programs. If that occurs, administration will continue revising the model in each building so that a full day of band lessons per week paid out of the centrally fund budget can be retained. This means that principals, classroom teachers and instrumental teachers will collaborate and plan for how this day can be used to give each student the optimal music experience. Attention to meeting student academic needs, including music, will be at the core of every change presented. The Superintendent went on to emphasize the budget must be balanced at the end of the year. She stated the District can get this done, the challenge is around student enrollment, the District is losing students at the middle and secondary levels and those services must be right-sized.

3. Report on Findings of the Facilities Assessment and Educational Adequacy Assessment
The Superintendent stated that since the details of this report are in the minutes of the COB meeting of February 24 and the PowerPoint presentation will be put onto the website she would forego her report in the interest of time.
4. Update on 2009 Summer School Plans
The Superintendent indicated she would not report on this as it had already been covered by the COB Chair in the Committee Reports.
5. Spring Testing Season
The Superintendent presented a quick overview of preparations underway to move the District into the testing season (April 14 – May 22). She outlined what was contained in the newly developed “testing tool kit” and the roll out schedule for these materials. The Superintendent extended the District’s thanks to the Saint Paul Pioneer Press for their support in the development of the online “Testing Guide”.
6. Update on Federal Stimulus Package (American Reinvestment and Recovery Act [ARRA])
The Superintendent stated that while at the Council of Great City Schools Legislative and Policy Conference additional information was provided to districts on the stimulus package. There are key dates and benchmarks which the District will need to meet within the next month-45 days, 6 months and before the end of the next school year to stay on target. The District will receive the first round of funding this school year; the second round of funding will depend on how districts utilize the first round.

Guiding principles for the stimulus monies have been established as follows:

- Spend quickly to save and create jobs
 - Increase graduation rates
 - Avert layoffs and save/create jobs
 - Improve student achievement through school improvement and reform -- this piece creates challenges because the status quo must not be maintained, things MUST be done differently.
- Ensure transparency and accountability –
 - Prevent fraud and abuse
 - Support the most effective uses of the funds
 - Accurately measure and track results
 - Publicly report on how the funds are used (more rigorous reporting will be required)
- Thoughtfully investment of the one-time funds
- Advance effective reforms

- Making progress toward rigorous college and career-ready standards and high quality, valid and reliable assessments for all students including ELLs and students with disabilities – this is the number one priority in order to get the second round of funding
- Pre-K to higher education data systems that meet the 10 principles in the America Competes Act
- Teacher effectiveness and equitable distributions of effective teachers (districts should be deliberate in assigning the best teachers to the most challenged schools)
- Intensive support and effective interventions for lowest-performing schools

Depending on the program, funds will be available for only two, perhaps three years. Funds must be invested in such a way that they do not result in unsustainable and continuing commitments after the funding expires. Decisions around these funds must result in a change in the way a district does its business. Second round funds will go only to districts that demonstrate fundamental reforms (big reforms) for these dollars.

There will be specific requirements for the ARRA fund reporting & transparency.

- Funds must be tracked separately through descriptions of use of funds, quarterly reports on both financial and program outcome/results; estimated number of jobs created; subcontracts and sub-grants will be required to comply with the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act.
- Reporting templates are being developed for use by States to capture the required information
- Regulations are likely to allow reasonable adjustments to the limitations on State administration expenditures to defray ARRA data collection costs for Title I and IDEA.

The allocations will be rolled out on the following timeline:

- \$44 billion will be available across the country in 45 days
- An additional \$48 billion in 6 months
- \$5 billion more in Fall 2009 and Spring 2010
 - 2010 grant awards will be made in two rounds in late Fall 2009 and Summer 2010
 - These grants will be contingent on demonstrated progress toward the goals of the act

Districts on the cutting edge of the reform piece and who can show very aggressive results in the early deep intervention will be able to have access to the second competitive \$5 billion grant awards which are contingent upon demonstrated progress toward the goals of the act. For those districts that can demonstrate matching partnership dollars designated toward the big reforms, ARRA money can be used not only for the system but for the supporting partners as well.

Districts will be required to follow very specific Federal guidelines regarding the revenue. Current requirements for Title I and IDEA (Special Education) will guide ARRA use. However, the U.S. Department of Education (ED) will allow some level of flexibility, with the exception that dollars cannot be supplanted.

In regard to Title I, Part A, the ED will consider requests for waivers for set aside requirements that apply to the use of funds for LEAs, per-pupil funding amounts for Supplemental Education Services (SES) and carryover limitations. ED may not waive the “supplement not supplant requirements.” ED will consider requests to count state stabilization funds as non-federal for purposes of maintenance of effort (MOE) requirements. States must reserve 4% for school improvement efforts of which at least 95% must be allocated to LEAs.

For IDEA, Part B, under certain circumstances, the LEA may reduce the level of State and local expenditures by up to 50% of the amount of the increase, as long as the LEA uses those freed-up funds for activities that could be supported under ESEA. Under certain circumstances, the LEA may use up to 15% of its total Part B grant for early intervention services for children who are currently not identified as children with disabilities. ED will consider waivers to State MOE requirements for exceptional circumstances and to count SFSF as non-federal for MOE.

SPPS has already begun planning uses for the funding:

- Currently already under development are all of the adjustments the District wants to make on the revised Federal requirements and expectations
- The District will address all four Federal reform areas
- The District will align with its key power action items previously identified as part of the Strategic Plan, and
- The District will be ready for presentation on ARRA to the Committee of the Board meeting on April 7.

The Superintendent stressed the funds will have to be used for reform, not to maintain the status quo and the monies will be tracked and reviewed with the second round of funding dependent upon achieved results. The second round will be limited and will go to efforts that incent reform and can show evidence that it motivates staff to get very quick and rigorous student outcomes. It must be used to drive fundamental and dramatic change. These funds will not buy down the \$25 million deficit, but it does mean different jobs and designs can be created.

QUESTIONS/DISCUSSION

- A question was raised about how Governor Pawlenty will handle ARRA funds in light of the fact several states are considering refusing funds. The Superintendent responded that are several states (SC, LA, TX, MN, CA are a few) that are debating use of the funds. For Minnesota the latest message seems to be that the money will be received. Federal guidelines are being formulated so states don't take the money and use it to supplant what they should be doing to fund education (fair allocation) in their states.
- With such a short timeline to prepare a proposal, will the District have time to allow principals and teachers to provide input and buy in to the proposal? The Superintendent indicated the District is on it. SPPS is ahead of the game in that there are a number of things already lined up that these funds can be used to drive forward, particularly the private and public partnerships.
- How will the district differentiate between jobs maintained and jobs created? This will be important for Board governance. How will tracking and measuring be accomplished? What about those who provide supplemental services the district can't provide (counselors, nurses) do those jobs qualify?

7. Human Resource Transactions

MOTION: Ms. Carroll moved approval of the Human Resource transactions occurring between January 23 and February 23, 2009 as presented in the Board Book . Motion seconded by Mr. Hardy.

The motion passed with the following roll call vote:

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

IX. BOARD OF EDUCATION

3. Board of Education Reports/Communications

The Board Chair shared information on her participation in the recent Council of Great City Schools (CGCS) Legislative and Policy Conference. She reviewed the structure of the organization, the agenda for the conference and touched on staff presentations made to the conference.

The Chair asked Director Carroll to cover the brainstorming sessions which were held in conjunction with the conference. The sessions were directed specifically toward the ARRA

funds and the appropriate uses for them. It is critical to remember that these funds are one-time-only so there is a need to find ways to measurably impact student achievement while being sustainable over time once the stimulus funding ends. She then provided examples such as creating a system for individualized education plans for all students; developing classroom level interim assessment that could be used with all students to guide instruction; professional development that includes a train-the-trainer element for sustainability; program evaluation structures that could be used over time. The ideas generated are being compiled by CGCS staff and will be shared among all member districts.

The SPPS group along with the Minneapolis district group met with Representative Betty McCollum, staff from Representative Keith Ellison's office and Senator Klobuchar to discuss priority issues for Minnesota education.

Priority issues which were communicated to the legislators for their support included:

- Continued equitable use of Federal aid to urban schools and in the NCLB reauthorization that specific targets for the population the districts' serve be included
- Increase key education appropriations including Title I and IDEA base funding
- Support full funding of IDEA and co-sponsor HR 1120.
- Withdraw regulations cutting school-based Medicaid reimbursement and a roll-back of school-based Medicaid legislation
- Authorization to fund school repair grants
- Oppose private school vouchers
- Make school technology improvement through e-rate discounts
- Encourage flexibility in the use of stimulus funds.

The Superintendent reminded everyone that the CGCS ELL and Bilingual Education Committee is about to complete a study done among four member districts: St. Paul, New York City, San Francisco and Dallas. The study looked at 1) promising practices that are most successful in those districts; 2) limiting factors for the students; and 3) shared challenges that all districts experienced. She announced that on May 6-8 SPPS is hosting the Bi-Lingual Immigrant Refugee Education Conference here in St. Paul.

QUESTIONS/DISCUSSION

- Administration was asked to be sure that American Indian Native languages were considered as part of the discussion of bi-lingual at the conference because if not it is always excluded and in the State of Minnesota that cannot be done.
- Will Medicaid extension be pushed out beyond July. Response was that everyone spoken with indicated they were aware of the issue and either the regulations will be fixed or it will be extended.

X. CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION: Ms. Carroll moved the approval of the consent agenda items with the exception of Item 10, Page 59, The Monthly Operating Authority and Item 18, Page 67-76, Bid No. A9302-M Pupil Transportation – Summer 2009 which were pulled for separate consideration. Motion seconded by Mr. Conlon.

The motion passed with the following roll call vote:

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

1. GRANTS

BF 27888

Request for Permission to Submit a Grant Application to the Bush Foundation

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to submit a grant application to the Bush Foundation for *Connected Counseling IV* programs that facilitate increased high school graduation rates and the transition from high school to higher education in the district; to accept funds, if awarded; and to implement the project as specified in the award documents.

BF27889 Request for Permission to Accept a Grant from the McNeely Foundation
That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to accept a grant from the McNeely Foundation for funds to implement the credit completion programming at Washington Technology Middle School and Battle Creek Middle School; to accept funds, if awarded; and to implement the project as specified in the award documents.

BF 27890 Request for Permission to Submit a Grant Application to the Minnesota Department of Education Fruit and Vegetable Grant Program
That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to submit grant applications to the Minnesota Department of Education for funds to introduce and increase fresh fruit and vegetables at Bruce F. Vento Elementary and Cherokee Heights Elementary schools; to accept funds, if awarded; and to implement the projects as specified in the award documents.

BF 27891 Request for Permission to Submit a Grant Application to the National Science Foundation
That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to submit a grant application to the National Science Foundation for funds to procure and install SMART board technology at Como Park Elementary School; to accept funds, if awarded; and to implement the project as specified in the award documents.

BF 27892 Request for Permission to Submit a Grant Application to the U.S. Department of Education, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and the U.S. Department of Justice for the Safe Schools/Healthy Students Initiative
That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to submit a grant application to the U.S. Department of Education, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and the U.S. Department of Justice for funds to create and implement a comprehensive and dynamic Safe Schools/Healthy Students Program in the district; to accept funds, if awarded; and to implement the project as specified in the award documents.

2. AGREEMENTS

BF 27893 Authorization for Amendment No. 2 to Lease Agreement for Space at 1919 University Avenue for Program for Social Development (PSD)
That the Board of Education authorize the Chair and Clerk to execute Amendment No. 2 to the lease agreement for space in Suite 100 at 1919 University Avenue, Saint Paul, MN, for a fourteen (14) month term, commencing May 1, 2009 and terminating June 30, 2010 in accordance with all terms and conditions of said agreement.

BF 27894 Authorization for Amendment No. 2 to Lease Agreement for Space at 1919 University Avenue for Special Education
That the Board of Education authorize the Chair and Clerk to execute Amendment No. 3 to the lease agreement for space in Suite 185 at 1919 University Avenue, Saint Paul, MN, for a one year term, commencing July 1, 2009 and terminating June 30, 2010 in accordance with all terms and conditions of said agreement.

3. ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

BF 27895 Approval of New Community Education Citywide Advisory Council Members
That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to approve Marcie Brooke and Erik Skold for membership on the Saint Paul Community Education Citywide Advisory Council

BF 27896 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 March 26, 2009, should they not comply with Minnesota State Health Standards for Immunizations on or before this date.

BF 27897 Professional Services from Wold Architects and Engineers

That the Board of Education authorize the administration to procure professional architectural/engineering services from Wold Architects and Engineers as needed, based on a schedule of rates not to exceed \$125.00 per hour, depending on the level of expertise provided, for the period March 1, 2009 through December 31, 2009 or for additional extended periods at the same terms and conditions.

BF 27898 Sponsorship Contract Renewal for Achieve Language Academy

That the Board of Education renew the Achieve Language Academy sponsorship contract for a 3 year period.

BF 27899 Independent School District No. 625 403(b) Tax-Deferred Retirement Plan for Sheltering Severance and Vacation Pay

That, effective July 1, 2009, the Board of Education award the contract for severance pay contributions to ING Financial Advisors and cease such payments to TIAA/CREF. That the Board of Education adopt the revised Independent School District No. 625 403(b) Tax-Deferred Retirement Plan for Sheltering Severance Pay and Vacation Pay. That the Board of Education authorize and direct the District's Chief Business Officer, on the District's behalf, to execute the revised Plan document, to execute additional agreements and documents as necessary to carry out the purposes of the Plan and to award the severance pay contract to ING Financial Advisors, and to take all actions necessary or advisable to effectuate the Plan's purposes and to ensure the Plan's compliance with law.

4. BIDS

BF 27900 Extension of Bid No. A9008-W Anti-Virus Software

That the Board of Education authorize extension of Bid No. A9008-W for the provision of comprehensive anti-virus software covering all computers on the Saint Paul Public Schools network during the period of June 1, 2009 through May 31, 2012 to Creative Business Solutions, for the total cost of \$185,500.00.

BF 27901 Amendment of Request for Proposal No. A9224-W Prime Vendor Contract for Groceries

That the Board of Education authorize the amendment of Request for Proposal No. A9224-W to increase the amount of the prime vendor contract with U.S. Foodservice for furnishing and delivery of groceries for a one-year period starting August 1, 2008 for Nutrition Services to \$1,453,805.75.

BF 27902 Bid No. A9297-M Technology Infrastructure Upgrades at St. Anthony Park Elementary School

That the Board of Education authorize award of Bid No. A9297-M for the technology infrastructure upgrades at St. Anthony Park Elementary School to the lowest responsible bidder; Appollo Systems, Inc. for \$379,958.00, the lump sum base bid plus alternates no. 1, 3 and 4 and unit price no. 1.

BF 27903 Bid No. A9298-M Technology Infrastructure Upgrades at Chelsea Heights Elementary School

That the Board of Education authorize award of Bid No. A9298-M for the technology infrastructure upgrades at Chelsea Heights Elementary School to the lowest responsible bidder, Appollo Systems, Inc. for \$431,384.00, the lump sum base bid plus alternates no. 1,3,4,5,6 and 7.

BF 27904

Bid No. A9305-M Science Lab Remodeling at Como Park Senior High School

That the Board of Education authorize award of Bid No. A9305-M for the science lab remodel at Como Park Senior High School to the lowest responsible bidder, Schreiber Mullaney Construction Co., Inc. for \$720,104.00, the lump sum base bid plus alternates no. 1,2 , 3, 4, 5 and 6.

X. CONSENT AGENDA – SEPARATE CONSIDERATION

BF 27905

Monthly Operating Authority

Director Hardy indicated he had pulled the item due to the overtime monies; he indicated this was an opportunity to look at how employees are asked to work. He stated he would be voting no on the item. He requested overtime be put on the agenda at an upcoming COB in order to look at overtime in light of the upcoming budget approval and how staffing is affected by the use of overtime. The Chair indicated this would be put on the Executive Team Agenda for discussion.

DISCUSSION/QUESTIONS

- One director stated it might be better to look at staff time use on a larger scale to assure that staff is working within contacts, that there is no abuses occurring, that time is used and managed properly; this would be appropriate as a governance function. This could be reported back in the weekly update.
- Another director stated it would be beneficial to the Board to hear the overtime issue as information in order to understand where/when it is used and to satisfy members that it is not the result of excess or poor planning but an adaptation to short-term needs.
- The Superintendent indicated that this information had been provided once in August '08. She stated they could run the same again and compare two points in time; if it is something beyond that guidance from the Board on what exactly is being sought will be needed.

MOTION

Mr. Conlon moved, seconded by Ms. Carroll, that the Board of Education

approve and ratify the following checks and wire transfers for the period January 1 – February 28, 2009.

(a) General Account	#446479-449694	
	#3012934-3013146	\$112,469,655.87
(b) Debt Service	-0-	37,998,541.36
(c) Construction	-0-	2,343,723.19
		<u>\$152,811,920.42</u>

Included in the above disbursements are payrolls in the amount of \$43,663,577.40 and overtime of \$273,957.12.

(d) Collateral Changes

Wells Fargo Bank N.A. – Securities Released		
\$325,000.00 @6:00%	FNCL 886149	Due 8/1/36
\$390,000.00 @6.00%	FNCL887650	Due 7/1/36
\$1,825,000.00 @ 6.50%	G2SF 3274	Due 8/20/32
Western Bank – Released Depository Bond		
\$1,500,000.00	DG 3173 MN014	
Western Bank – Issued Letter of Credit		
\$1,500,000.00	No. 2236-16	

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 June 16, 2009.

The motion passed with the following roll call vote:

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

Ms. Carroll

Yes

BF 27906 Bid No. A-9302-M Pupil Transportation – Summer 2009

Mr. Hardy stated this is the second time transportation bids have come forward featuring a new company. He stated he would be interested in seeing evaluations of this company's performance. He indicated he would vote no based on this. The Superintendent indicated information would have to be gathered on this question and would be provided to the Board.

QUESTIONS/DISCUSSION

- It was noted this was a time critical matter as the bids need to be acted upon so all of the various related items can begin to move forward for summer school.

MOTION: **Ms. Carroll moved, seconded by Mr. Goldstein, that the Board of Education accept the bid rates as submitted.**

The motion passed with the following roll call vote:

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

Ms. Carroll left the meeting at 11:00 p.m.

XI. OLD BUSINESS

XII. NEW BUSINESS

BF 27907 Resolution to Appoint Assistant Treasurer

MOTION: **Mr. Brodrick moved that the Board of Education approve the resolution appointing Michael Baumann, Interim Chief Financial Officer, as the Assistant Treasurer for the school district for 2009. Motion seconded by Mr. Goldstein.**

The motion passed with the following roll call vote:

Mr. Conlon	Yes
Mr. Hardy	Yes
Ms. Kong-Thao	Yes
Mr. Goldstein	Yes
Mr. Brodrick	Yes
Ms. Street-Stewart	Yes

BF 27908 Confirmation of Board Appointments to Outside Committees

MOTION: **Mr. Conlon moved that the Board of Education of Independent School District No. 625, approve the appointment of board members, as listed in the March Board Book, as representatives to the listed organizations for the year 2009. Motion seconded by Ms. Street-Stewart.**

The motion passed with the following roll call vote:

Mr. Conlon	Yes
Mr. Hardy	Yes
Ms. Kong-Thao	Yes
Mr. Goldstein	Yes
Mr. Brodrick	Yes
Ms. Street-Stewart	Yes

3. Project Labor Agreements
PLAs will be used on:

<u>BF 27909</u>	Piping Replacement at Battle Creek Elementary School
<u>BF 27910</u>	Piping Replacement at North End Elementary School
<u>BF 27911</u>	Roof Replacement at the District Service Facility
<u>BF 27912</u>	Roof Replacement at L'Etoile du Nord French Immersion School

No PLA will be used on the following projects:

- Fire Alarm System Replacement at Highland Park Junior High School and Highland Park Senior High School
- Air Handling Unit Replacement at Roosevelt Elementary School
- Boiler Replacement at Wheelock School

MOTION: Ms. Street-Stewart moved the Board of Education approve administration recommendations regarding PLAs on Piping Replacement at Battle Creek Elementary School (a PLA will be used); Piping Replacement at North End Elementary School (a PLA will be used) and Fire Alarm System Replacement at Highland Park Junior High School and Highland Park Senior High School (no PLA will be used). Motion seconded by Mr. Goldstein.

Mr. Conlon stated he would vote no on these items as he felt PLAs add cost to construction and restrict bidding, particularly if it's non-union contractors.

The motion passed with the following roll call vote:

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

Mr. Brodrick stated he would like to see PLAs used on the two roof replacement jobs because he felt the project were beyond the monetary threshold and they involve multiple crafts and trades. He was also interest in the length of the projects and he expressed concern relative to the fact that SPPS employees are members of the same trade unions, particularly at 1930 Como, should there be a work stoppage. Administration responded the roof at the district service facility would take 4 months and the French Immersion at Parkway would take 2 months. No problem relative to the trades was foreseen. The General Council stated there would be no need for a double gate should a work stoppage occur.

MOTION: Mr. Brodrick moved, seconded by Mr. Hardy, that administration recommendations be accepted and that no PLAs be used on the Air Handling Unit Replacement at Roosevelt Elementary School or the Boiler Replacement at Wheelock School but that PLAs be used for the Roof Replacement at the District Service Facility and the Roof Replacement at L'Etoile du Nord French Immersion School.

The maker and seconder of the motion, upon request, agreed to the separation of the motion.

MOTION: Mr. Brodrick moved, seconded by Mr. Hardy, that administration recommendations be accepted and that no PLA be used on the Air Handling Unit Replacement at Roosevelt Elementary School or the Boiler Replacement at Wheelock School

The motion passed with the following roll call vote:

Mr. Conlon	Yes
Mr. Hardy	Yes
Ms. Kong-Thao	Yes
Mr. Goldstein	Yes
Mr. Brodrick	Yes
Ms. Street-Stewart	Yes

MOTION: Mr. Conlon moved that administration's recommendation be accepted and no PLAs be utilized on the two roofing projects. The motion failed for lack of a second.

MOTION: Ms. Street-Stewart moved, seconded by Mr. Hardy, that PLAs be used on the Roof Replacement at the District Service Facility and on the Roof Replacement at L'Etoile du Nord French Immersion School.

The motion passed with the following roll call vote:

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

XIII. BOARD OF EDUCATION

1. Information Requests and Responses

Director Brodrick submitted a request for information asking Human Resources for assistance in providing the Board with some transparency in terms of the actual overall job assignments in the district that are considered "support" or those jobs that do not have direct contact with students (i.e., administration, principals/teachers on special assignments, coordinators, content coaches); what these positions involve and why they are essential to the academic mission. This would help board members convey to the community why some cuts are being made and not others. There are accusations that administration is full of jobs that are not vital or essential to the central mission.

The Superintendent restated the request as an accounting of the TOSA, POSA to ensure HR transparency of job assignments that are not directly supportive of student contact time in order to understand what they do. She indicated this type of information has been supplied a number of times in the past but it will be pulled together again for the Board in a form that will be useful for the budget discussion as well. However, if the issue is communicating the facts, that is a different. She stated the most important priorities for the next period are (1) being sure the District receives the Federal stimulus monies; (2) the school year is closed out correctly; (3) that testing is completed and (4) the budget is completed.

2. Items for Future Agendas

Director Goldstein asked if information on the statewide health care coverage legislation could be provided. The Chair indicated that this is already being discussed.

XIV. FUTURE MEETINGS SCHEDULE

1. Board of Education Meetings

- April 14
- May 19
- June 9 – 4:00 p.m. Special – Non-Renewals
- June 16
- July 21

2. Action to Schedule an Additional Committee of the Board Meeting

MOTION: Mr. Conlon moved that a Committee of the Board meeting be scheduled for April 7, 2009 at 4:30 p.m. Motion seconded by Ms. Street-Stewart

The motion passed with the following roll call vote:

Mr. Conlon	Yes
Mr. Hardy	Yes
Ms. Kong-Thao	Yes
Mr. Goldstein	Yes
Mr. Brodrick	Yes
Ms. Street-Stewart	Yes

3. Committee of the Board Meetings

- March 24

- April 7
- May 5
- May 19, 2009 (4:45-5:30) – Special COB (Update on Health Care Renewal Process)
- June 9

XV. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Mr. Conlon moved the meeting adjourn, seconded by Ms. Street-Stewart.

The motion passed with the following roll call vote:

Mr. Conlon	Yes
Mr. Hardy	Yes
Ms. Kong-Thao	Yes
Mr. Goldstein	Yes
Mr. Brodrick	Yes
Ms. Street-Stewart	Yes

The meeting adjourned at 11:39 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