INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 625
Saint Paul, Minnesota
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
April 14, 2009

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by the Chair, Ms. Kong-Thao, at 5:55 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

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

ABSENT: Mr. Hardy –joined the meeting at 6:18 p.m.

III. APPROVAL OF THE ORDER OF THE AGENDA

1. Order of the Consent Agenda

MOTION: Ms. Carroll moved the approval of the order of the consent agenda. Motion seconded by Ms. Street-Stewart.

The motion passed with the following roll call vote:

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

2. Order of the Main Agenda

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

The motion passed with the following roll call vote:

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

IV. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

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

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

The motion passed with the following roll call vote:

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

V. COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Committee of the Board Meeting of March 24, 2009
   The agenda concentrated on two primary areas: Legislative Update and an Update and Recommendations for Administrative Budget Reductions

   - **Legislative Update**
     The three areas to be covered in the legislative update included: statewide employee health coverage legislation; an update on the current legislative session and MSBA Resolutions.

     o Statewide Employee Health Coverage Legislation
     There are two bills in the House applicable to a school insurance program. House Bill File No. 866 – which creates a single purchasing pool for all school districts in the State of Minnesota. It is designed to have mandatory participation by all districts in the state. It is leveraged against the PEIP Program and the existing programs PEIP has to offer. House, House Bill File No 867, mandates that the service cooperatives provide information so the proposed program could be successful.

     A third bill, House File No. 992, which allows school districts to join the State of Minnesota Advantage Health Insurance Plan. Districts would participate voluntarily if passed doesn't appear to have a great deal of support.

     o Update from District Lobbyist & MSBA Resolutions
     The District Lobbyist stated both the Senate and House have announced their targets. The Senate has an across-the-board cut and will use some of the federal stimulus money to replace cuts in the first two years of the biennium. The House budget target was not as low as the Senate's and they will use some of the federal stimulus money to backfill as well. There is also the Governor's supplemental budget which is not yet fully complete; so far $28 million is proposed in the supplemental budget and there might be a slight formula increase subject to further action. It appears all three entities will be using the stimulus funds to offset reductions.

     The Finance Committee deadline is April 15. At that time there will be a better idea what is actually being proposed in the House and Senate and how the Federal stimulus money fits in to it all.

     Some provisions of the MSBA resolutions have been heard in committee (wind energy, green buildings, charter school authorization, care and treatment language). Anything that has a fiscal note of any sort is in trouble. The Committee Chair is still trying to put some implementation of the Minnesota Miracle in place.

   - **Update on Recommendations for Administrative Budget Reductions**
     Administration brought forward a proposal to modify three areas within the $25 million structural deficit. The changes being addressed in its recommendation reflected changes in the lines Central Administration, Itinerant Instrumental Music Teachers and Athletics.

     In an effort to provide more flexibility and potentially offset other proposed reductions, Administration brought forward a proposal for Central Administration reductions totaling

$2.3 million or $900,000 more than previously recommended. The proposal includes both direct cuts to the General Fund and shifts from the General Fund to other budgets, as allowable in law. The $2.3 million reductions include the elimination of 16.3 FTE central admin positions totaling $1.7 million. It will also include reduction to services (shifts from General Fund to other budgets as allowed) and a few other additional Central Administration positions that will actually bring the Central Administrative reduction to 19.3 total positions.

If the administrative reductions are approved, the difference in funding ($900,000) may be applied to help offset reductions to the itinerant instrumental music program and athletics. The itinerant instrumental music reduction would be offset by half from $1.4 million to $700,000. Rather than cutting the 19.3 FTEs from instrumental itinerant music teachers, 10.95 FTEs will be cut and 8.35 FTEs will be kept. While the design is still being finalized, what this will do is provide one day of instrumental music at every elementary school based on specific guidelines and expectations from the Office of Academics. Support for the four elementary schools with a focus on music (Mississippi Creative Arts Magnet, Linwood Monroe Arts Plus, Four Seasons A+ Elementary and Franklin Music Magnet) would remain at the same number of FTEs they had in 2008-09, they would be held harmless for one year.

The athletics reduction would be offset from $650,000 to $450,000. The revision includes 1 FTE, some assistant coach reductions and eliminates three sports that have extremely low participation (alpine skiing, danceline and cheerleading), a reduction in transportation expenditures and a $10 increase in fees for all students.

These reductions will affect employees in the form of lost jobs or changed jobs and some because of workload changes.

The Superintendent stated SPPS central administration runs very lean at 3.4% of the total budget expenditure. This compares to 4.2% across Minnesota and nationally there are ranges up to 10%. Additional administrative cuts will affect schools both directly and indirectly in their ability to carry out needed improvements, support to schools, data collection and reporting.

Another important issue discussed was that some employees will have rights to similar positions due to seniority or contracts; this will affect other departments and schools. Human Resources will work with employees affected by the cuts to inform them of their rights and notify supervisors if staffing changes result from cuts elsewhere in the organization.

Other items which will affect the impact of the reduction solution include the Federal stimulus package, actions taken by the State legislature and Governor, the economic crisis as it continues to play out and school enrollments in the spring.

Implementation and guiding principles within the recommendation being proposed include:
- The decision made by the Board would need to be maintained for further action at the April 14 Board of Education meeting and continue through the June adoption (hold the line on the reductions recommended for action at this meeting).
- Nutrition services fees for families must be cost neutral
- There would be no reductions in custodial supports to buildings and schools
- Where appropriate and allowable by law functions and positions would be charged to Title I to better support Title I schools (schools in poverty)
- Administration would examine the realignment of departments in three areas: information technology, family engagement, accounting.

The planning assumptions used in formulating the proposed reductions were:
- The proposal addressed reductions to the General Fund budget ONLY

- o If a position did not exist in the FY 09 budget it was not projected to the FY 10 budget.
- o Personnel cuts recommended in the proposal will be sustained into the future
- o HR conducted a personnel review to aid the assessment
- o Other-than-personnel reductions are considered feasible and sustainable over time
- o Allocations for program budgets will be predicated on the proposed reductions
- o Further reductions in State funding for FY 10 could result in additional reductions.

Proposed additional reductions to central administration are recommended as:

- o 3.0 FTEs in Academics
- o 1.3 FTEs in Accountability
- o 2.0 FTEs in Business
- o 1.0 FTE in Community Relations
- o 6.0 FTEs in Operations
- o 3.0 FTEs in Superintendency (including HR)

Other administrative dollar savings were reviewed as well.

RECOMMENDED MOTION: That the Board of Education approve the recommendations for the 2009-10 central administrative reduction line items as presented by administration. Further that the Board of Education not alter this line item after the Board vote on April 14, 2009.

The motion passed with the following roll call vote:

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

Mr. Brodrick stated he would abstain as he questioned the advisability of locking the Board into an action before final adoption of the budget in June.

Clarification was made that the board can make revisions at its pleasure.

RECOMMENDED MOTION: That the Board of Education approve that $700,000 of the additional central administration cuts be used to offset the proposed cuts to itinerant instrumental music teachers from $1.4 million to a total cut of no more than $700,000.

The motion passed with the following roll call vote:

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

Mr. Goldstein stated he would abstain as he doesn't like any of the options facing the district. He stated there is an on-going problem with the legislature and governor not placing value on education so school boards are left to make choices between unacceptable options. He encouraged the public to contact their representatives and the governor to express their dissatisfaction with their funding for education.

RECOMMENDED MOTION: That the Board of Education approve that $200,000 of the additional central administration cuts be used to offset the proposed cuts to Athletics from $650,000 to a total cut of no more than $450,000.

The motion passed with the following roll call vote:

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

One Board member expressed the wish that athletic cuts could be lessened beyond the amount proposed. The Superintendent responded that as the economy worsens and the legislative actions move forward, it appears the District will need to cut an additional $10.4 million above the $25 million already being cut. The District is looking for ways to fund everything. District partners are also affected by the poor economy so there is less funding available from those sources as well. The Superintendent stated the District will plan for the worst and hold the line until it has a complete picture of what the legislature is going to do.

Mr. Goldstein stated he would vote no as he is concerned that athletics is not consistently aligned with academics across the district. He encouraged the public to direct its ire at the state legislature and the governor for not solving the State budget crisis but just balancing budget with, it appears, very negative impacts for education.

A concern was raised on how these cuts would affect enrollments; it is something which should be considered.

RECOMMENDED MOTION: That the Board of Education request, relative to Appendix 1, Exhibit C, Attachment B (the "Possible but not recommended cuts) of the information package issued for the COB of February 10", that information be provided (prior to the next COB session) for each item on that list which would inform the Board of the rationale as to why these items were placed on the not recommended list.

The motion passed with the following roll call vote:

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

The Board also made a referral that, by Fall, administration begin serious conversations about how to more appropriately incorporate athletics into the Strategic Plan and establishing long-range goals around athletics and student achievement.

- There were no reports on the Standing Items: School and Program Changes Update and Policy Update

  A referral was made to the Policy Team that it begin development of a policy around SPPS graduation requirements and what it means to receive an SPPS diploma as well as honorary diplomas.

- Work Session
  The Board received a brief report on

- **Board Development --** The Board is in the process of completing the development contract and processing it through the Business Office to be implemented in April.
- **Superintendent Transition –** The Board stated: The initial search will be a local/regional search; there are no plans to hire a national search firm at this point; there is a strong desire to have a new superintendent in place for the 2009-10 school year; it will be an open search process; the process will incorporate inclusive community involvement and within ten days to two weeks the Board hopes to be able to announce an interim superintendent to serve between the end of current superintendent's tenure and the start of the new and also have a basic job description prepared.

2. Committee of the Board Meeting of April 7, 2009

The lengthy agenda included discussions on an update and recommendations on the Federal Stimulus Package; the presentation of the American Indian Education Program Resolution of Concurrence, an update by the Capital Expenditure Advisory Committee (CEAC) on the work they are doing on the capital bonding process; a brief report from the Policy Team and a work session on the phase in of BoardBook and a brief reminder to Board members on items relative to the transition.

- **Federal Stimulus Package Update & Recommendations**

The Superintendent stated the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act (ARRA) stimulus package combined with the Large Scale System Change (LSSC) recommendations is the culmination of the last three years of study, data gathering, planning, design and implementation.

The Chief Accountability Officer was asked to provide the overview of the ARRA. She stated this represents an unprecedented investment in which Education. Public education will be reshaped for the next 30 years within the next 5 years. The funds must be used for reform, not to maintain the status quo. The guiding principles of ARRA are:

- Spend quickly to save and create jobs
- Ensure transparency and accountability
- Thoughtful investment of the one-time funds
- Advance effective reform.

She noted the first and fourth principle may be at odds with one another over the life of the funds. She went on to state recipients of funding must advance effective reforms in the areas of:

- College and career-ready standards and high quality, valid and reliable assessments for all students including ELLs and students with disabilities.
- Pre-K to higher education data systems which meet the 10 principles in the America Competes Act
- Teacher effectiveness and equitable distribution (placement) of effective teachers
- Intensive support and effective interventions for lowest-performing schools

There are four major sources of ARRA funding for K-12 education:

- State fiscal stabilization funds, $667 million for Minnesota, an amount to be determined for St. Paul Public Schools (SPPS) which supplants state general fund monies; additional information will be provided as it becomes available.
- Title I, Part A, $18 million for SPPS over two years
- IDEA, Part B, $11 million for SPPS, and
- School construction, $30-32 million for SPPS bond authority (tax credit structure) which translates to $17 million of interest saved for the taxpayers.

Other revenue sources within ARRA funding are: several other grants SPPS may be able to access; some are only available to states; others to school districts through competitive grants. It is unclear how much, if any, of these funds SPPS will be available to the District.

The timeline for entitlement programs has over 50% of the formula funds arriving within the next 30 days (SFSF-67%; Title I, Part A-50% and IDEA, Part B-50%). The remaining formula driven funds will arrive not later than September 30, 2009. Distribution by the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) is still to be determined (many funds are likely to start July 1, 2009).

The competitive grants will follow many different timelines with many grants to districts available within the next 12 months from MDE or USED. MDE will administer over $30 million in Title I school improvement grants within the next two years. USED will offer competitive grants to districts as well through the "Teacher Incentive Fund" and "Investing in What Works and Innovation".

Additional Federal guidance has been provided on transparency, accountability and risk management. It is apparent SPPS will have to provide intensive oversight of these funds.

The District recognizes this is only two year money. The money will be used to leverage for sustainable long-term district-wide change.

The District's proposed Federal Stimulus Initiatives will focus on four areas:
- o College and Career Readiness
- o Student and School Interventions
- o Teacher Effectiveness
- o Education Data Systems

One of the primary directives is to create or save jobs. The stimulus monies will not offset or impact the needed $25 million reductions the District must make. In order to do the stimulus work, it may be necessary to create new, short-term positions to get the work underway. Staff impacted by recent budget cuts may qualify for these new positions and may participate in the application process for them.

RECOMMENDED MOTION: That the Board of Education accept the report on the Federal stimulus package and proposed recommendations.

The motion passed with the following roll call vote:

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

- **Presentation of American Indian Education Program Resolution**

  The recommendations/requests brought forward by the committee were:
  - o Align resource allocation to District priorities: American Indian Studies**:** Meet the budget expansion request of the Committee for continued funding of the American Indian Studies Program; move the American Indian Studies Program budget and program management to the Office of Professional Development as a separate program from Indian Education. This has been accomplished and explore and discuss the possibility of a K-8 program or another option for meeting articulation within the schools.
  - o Ensure high academic achievement for all students and raise expectations for accountability: Increase American Indian student attendance: continuation and monitoring of the attendance letter and template for the next two years to determine the impact of the strategy on American Indian attendance; provide an update on the District's work surrounding attendance and truancy goals.

- Ensure high academic achievement for all students: American Indian suspensions: provide an update report of American Indian student suspension offenses on an on-going basis.; allow continual input into the development of the new K-12 classroom behavior model and *Rights and Responsibilities Handbooks* and provide information on how the District will address the seriousness of the current suspension data.
- Ensure high academic achievement for all students: Increase American Indian academic support: indicate how schools with low American Indian student achievement are addressing the academic needs of American Indian students, particularly those schools with too few American Indian students to reflect a sub-group on the data dashboards.
- Ensure high academic achievement for all students: The District's curriculum must be more inclusive of American Indian history, language, people and cultures: implement an accountability system to ensure that new anchor lessons are actually being taught in the classroom and increase the awareness of professional development opportunities in Culturally Responsive Teaching and anchor lessons available to staff.

SPPS is seen as a leader in this collaboration across the state and has many other Indian Education programs calling for assistance.

RECOMMENDED MOTION: That the Board of Education accept the Parent Committee on American Indian Education report on the 2008 Resolution of Concurrence.

The motion passed with the following roll call vote:

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

- **Update on Capital Bonding Process**

  The CEAC Chair reported that while waiting for the release of the Facilities Condition and Education Adequacy Assessments (FCA/EAA), the CEAC committee members devoted themselves to:
  - Reviewing and understanding the scope and limitations of their charge
  - Reviewing the District's draft addressing rightsizing
  - Discussion on the implications of the District's Large Scale Systems Change on the committee's work
  - Reviewing the history of the previous CLRSPEC and CEAC committees
  - Reviewing the previous process by which CEAC solicited capital requests from the schools.
  - Reviewing the $7 million in spending which had previously been identified by the Administration and CEAC as critical for the 2008-09 school year
  - Reviewing the District's technology standards and discussing their possible role in the Educational Adequacy Assessment
  - Meeting with CBFAC for a presentation on the Facilities Condition and Education Adequacy assessments.
  - Discussing the Board's stated desire for school principal involvement in any new capital bond process
  - Attending a presentation by the State's demographer, learning of population trends that might inform their decisions.

  The process the Committee used was reviewed including questions they wanted to address as well as other realities and concerns the committee has considered. There was an in-depth review of the previous capital bonding process and an overview of the proposed new process. CEAC wants data driven decisions which focus on the data, within

other parameters established, in order to bring forward better decisions and recommendations.

RECOMMENDED MOTION: That the Board of Education accept the CEAC report with many thanks.

The motion passed with the following roll call vote:

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

- **Standing Item: School and Program Changes Update**
  A request was made that information be provided to the Board on how school and program changes are progressing.

- **Standing Item: Policy Update**
  The Policy Team met and discussed policies on honorary diplomas; it will work on a policy outlining what it means to receive an SPPS diploma and expectations leading to graduation in order to establish consistency in expectations; it will review policies relative to LSSC as soon as specific details become available and procedures relating to the Wellness Policy are under development and will be brought forward soon.

- **Work Session**
  - Discussion on Implementation/Phase in of BoardBook: The Board expressed a consensus for a "soft start" for the public and a "hard start" for the Board to be implemented in July, 2009.
  - Superintendent Transition: The Board Chair asked board members to reserve the date of Thursday, May 7 for a farewell reception for the Superintendent and Board members were reminded of their retreat date.

3. Acceptance of the Minutes of the Committee Meetings Reported

MOTION: Ms. Street-Stewart moved, seconded by Ms. Carroll, that the Board accept the report of the minutes of the Committee of the Board meetings of March 24 and April 7, 2009.

The motion passed with the following roll call vote:

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

VI. RECOGNITIONS

1. **BF 27913** Acknowledgement of Good Work Provided by Outstanding District Employees and Departments
   - **Jayne Ropella**, Eastern Heights Elementary – 2009 Minnesota Elementary School Principals' Association Division Leadership Award
   - **SPPS Nutrition Services** – District of Excellence Distinction in School Nutrition

- SPPS Office of Community Relations – Minnesota School Public Relations Star Award In Publications and Electronic Media
- **SPPS 2009 Fund for Teacher Grants Recipients**: Paul Creager, Gordon Parks High School; Rebecca Hansing at Phalen Lake Hmong Studies; Clara Hutchinson & Anthony Jacobs, Central Senior High School; Pang V Kang, Phalen Lake Hmong Studies; Nathan Kellar-Long, Ames Elementary; Tim Larson, Humboldt Senior High School; David McGill, Capitol Hill Gifted and Talented Magnet and Ian Keith, Randolph Heights Elementary; James Migley, Highland Park Junior High School; Lequyen Tran, L'Etoile du Nord French Immersion School and Kua Vang, International Academy-LEAP

MOTION: Ms. Street-Stewart moved that the Board of Education recognize these employees and departments for their contributions and outstanding work. Motion seconded by Mr. Hardy.

The motion passed with the following roll call vote:

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

2. **BF 27914** Acknowledgement of Good Work by Schools
   - **Central Senior High School** – General Mills Celebrating Communities of Color Grant
   - **Hayden Heights Elementar**y – Pennies for Patients Fundraiser

MOTION: Ms. Street-Stewart moved that the Board of Education recognize Central Senior High School and Hayden Heights Elementary for their contributions and outstanding work. Motion seconded by Ms. Carroll.

The motion passed with the following roll call vote:

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

VII. PUBLIC COMMENT

1. Kathrine Ketter & Megan Morris -- Stated *Hands on Twin Cities* received a grant to work with Johnson & Harding High Schools in a school beautification process. The program also offers an after school student leadership program at Johnson & Harding connected to service learning.
2. Tom Cross -- spoke to the value of the instrumental music program
3. Eryn Ekegren -- spoke to the value of the instrumental music program
4. Ken Freed -- member of the MN Orchestra and President of Learning for Music Consulting Group, spoke of music as a window into multiple aspects of learning
5. Jacqueline Perez -- spoke to the value of the instrumental music program
6. Dave Perry -- spoke to the value of the instrumental music program
7. Ruthann Thiesberg – spoke to the importance of instrumental music program
8. Ana Jeaneth Zapata -- spoke to the value of the instrumental music program
9. Tomas & Theo Lucy – spoke of their support for the instrumental music program
10. Marilyn Maaritz -- spoke of her support for the athletic program-
11. Jacquelyn Thomas – spoke to closing the achievement gap for African American students and the need to hold the District, as a whole, accountable for achieving this

12. Colleen Haney – spoke of support for the instrumental music program

VIII. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

1. School Presentation: Battle Creek Middle School
   The Battle Creek Principal presented the school mission: To prepare our young men and women for middle school, high school and beyond. Staff members and students presented various aspects of the school: it is set apart by having single gender classrooms. (a Boys Academy and a Girls Academy); their transition plan for moving from 6th to 7th grade; how the program has led to reductions in dismissals and suspensions and a description of the various programs utilized to move students toward success.

2. Federal Stimulus Package Update and Recommendations
   The Chief Accountability Officer provided additional update on the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act (ARRA). She encouraged the public to participate in the budget survey which is provided on the SPPS website.

   She reviewed the estimated spending plan and the limitations placed on the used of the funds to Title I and IDEA. She also reviewed the cautions on the interpretation of the use of funds stating the ARRA funding guidelines are explicit regarding the use of funds. She reiterated the fact that ARRA funding is not a solution to the budget deficit and cannot be used to offset General Education cuts and if SPPS must make additional budget cuts for 2009-10, based on Minnesota legislative action, the additional cuts cannot be resolved through ARRA funds, other General Fund program cuts will need to be made. Stimulus funding is to advance effective supports and accelerate some reforms already implemented. She also cautioned that new positions will be short-term positions.

   The question was raised if the programs implemented with stimulus funds would grow into an unfunded mandate when the funds ended? The Superintendent responded the expectation is that a district should be able to assess with certainty whether the programs and investments already made and the initiatives the stimulus money will be used for are going to get in very short order outcomes around graduation rates and early interventions for special education. What has been indicated relative to stimulus funds is that anything that doesn't show results districts should get rid of and invest for the long-term with those existing freed up dollars. This may cost more in expanding the successful initiatives but would be offset through freeing up funds by letting go of what is not working.

   The Superintendent went on to state what the Federal government is expecting districts to do is to use best practices to make sure that data systems are in place and can provide accurate results in order to measure the impact of programs on students for better outcomes. They expect districts to invest in things which work and build jobs around those and continue to eliminate all ineffective designs/programs which have not successfully created improvements. They are asking for reform. The spirit of what they are doing is that districts should not incur additional costs if they use the money for the intended purposes.

   The question was posed whether in the short timeframe for implementing use of these funds, how will the staff and community be involved? The Superintendent responded administration has already presented the budget reductions and the proposed plans for the ARRA funds to the Board and staff. There is a survey on line for the staff and community to provide input. The information was presented at the Administrators' Academy on March 19; to the Principals over the period of March 20-25; to the Special Education Advisory Group and to the Professional Issues Committee on April 8. Upcoming presentations will be to the Title I Advisory Panel, the Labor Management Committee (the heads of all unions); to the various Parent Advisory Committees and there are the LSSC staff and public engagement meetings in May.

   The statement was made that the Federal stimulus money is challenging the district to take some risk and make changes in the way education is delivered to students over the next year

or two. Concern was expressed that efforts need to be made to be sure there is as complete a "buy-in" as is possible by the people doing the work (the people in the buildings and the classrooms).

The Superintendent responded the entire country saw many shortcomings under NCLB. Unlike the previous administration the current administration is looking for huge outcomes with the stimulus money. They believe it will not only create jobs but it will drive educational reform, particularly in urban districts. Staff is seeing fewer arbitrary requirements. Districts have access to the Secretary of Education and the Department of Education staff; there is a whole different expectation around this effort and the initiative is being funded, unlike NCLB. Decisions made in the next five years will change the face of education for the next 30 years. Outcomes are expected for communities; this is a turn around effort for the country. It is being left up to districts to use the money responsibly and do the best for kids as is possible at this point in time.

3. Legislative Update

The ARRA funds are not a solution to the $25 million shortfall and there is concern that some State legislators may interpret the money as a way to cut State allocated revenue for education. This would be problematic for the District in that (1) Title I funds cannot be used to supplant core district-wide programs; it must be used as prescribed by law to serve specific groups of students. (2) Federal grant funds are subjected to numerous statutory set-asides that may not have been reflected in the estimates for the districts. (3) For special education funding there is a required maintenance of effort for the general fund. And (4) ARRA funds are a one time appropriation intended to promote reforms for struggling students and struggling schools to meet standards and for students identified for special education services. So, compounding the complexities of the challenges already being faced around the $25 million deficit and the limited use of Federal stimulus funding is the fact the District may need to cut even more from the 2009-10 budget.

Last week the Minnesota Senate passed its Education Omnibus Bill which called for cuts to education funding across the state. This would mean an additional $10.4 million in cuts for 2009-10 should the Senate version of the bill make it through conference committee and should the Governor sign it into law. The House bill which was released today will be acted on for final action on April 15 in the K-12 Finance Division and move to Finance Ways and Means and Taxes by Saturday. The major funding provisions of that bill include no changes to current law for base budgeting for K-12 which means no cuts from current law or changes in the education formulas for FY 2010-2013 other than forecast changes.

The District used current law as its basis for its budget shortfall solutions to date.

Beginning in 2014 the bill makes all necessary changes to formulas to phase in the new Minnesota Miracle over four years. Beginning in FY 2010, shift aid payments to schools and levy recognition of 49.1% ($600 million) can be used to balance the budget. $275 million of the Federal stabilization monies will be used to offset the same amount in general education. The bill includes no new mandates; therefore the compulsory attendance age change was not included. The bill includes the majority of the provisions that were included in the Policy Bill including an alternative pathway for student who do not pass the new reading or math GRAD, SPPS provisions related to care and treatment, transportation and options for districts on school closing hearings.

The Superintendent stated another $10.4 million would mean additional cuts to programs and more staffing cuts. She stressed cuts are already being made across the district (including within the schools); so far over 100 teachers will be laid off in content areas such as math, science, reading. Adding $10.4 million more will mean the District will go deeper into budget reductions. The Superintendent urged the Governor to consider balancing the budget with a combination of administrative cuts, reform and revenue increases.

SPPS administration is reviewing the proposed shortfall solutions again to determine how to make another layer of cuts as a contingency for what may happen as the legislature continues to work through compromises in the State budget. Administration is using the shortfall solution contingency list; those items are being prioritized and further reductions will come from that list. This is a bleak prospect as these cuts will disrupt the way the District was hoping to open the 2009-10 school year.

The Superintendent stated that at the May 5 COB meeting when Administration presents the budget proposals for 2009-10 it will also bring forward proposals for the additional cuts should they be required. Leading up to May 5, the Board will see information about the proposals Administration plans to bring forward. The Superintendent asked that no assumptions be made about what the bottom line will be in proposals to the public; the information that will be provided is the start of the conversations. She asked the public for patience and understanding as it allows the Board and Administration to work through things systematically leading up to May 5 when all the big pieces can be looked in relation to the shortfall. She reminded the Board that the hard discussions need to begin now in case the worst case scenario (the Senate bill) materializes and, if it does not materialize, the discussion needs to occur anyway because the structural deficit is not going away and the same issues will need be to be addressed for 2010-11.

A board member asked the public to contact their State Representatives, Senators and the Governor to let them know how they feel about funding for public education.

4. State Testing
   The Superintendent stated this week is the start of the spring series of State tests. A video was presented advertising the tests.

5. Human Resource Transactions

MOTION: Mr. Conlon moved approval of the Human Resource transactions occurring between February 24 and March 22, 2009 as presented in the Board Book. Motion seconded by Ms. Carroll.

The motion passed with the following roll call vote:

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

IX. CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION: Ms. Carroll moved, seconded by Mr. Conlon, that the Board of Education approve the items on the Consent Agenda as published

The motion passed with the following roll call vote:

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

1. Gifts

BF 27915. Gift Acceptance from the Central High School Parent Advisory Council

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to allow Central High School to accept a monetary gift from the Central High School Parent Advisory Council to be used as designated. The total gift of $10,000.00 will be deposited into the Central High School intra-school account, 19-210-000-000-5096-0000.

BF 27916 Gift Acceptance from Ecolab (First Robotics) to Humboldt Senior High School

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to allow Humboldt Senior High School to accept this gift from ECOLAB, Inc. The $12,000.00 will be deposited in the Fully Financed Fund: 29-225-260-000-XXXX-3551.

BF 27917 Gift Acceptance from Ecolab (Misc. Projects) to Humboldt Senior High School

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to allow Humboldt Senior High School to accept this gift from ECOLAB, Inc. The $12,000.00 will be deposited in the principal's fund: 19-225-298-000-XXXX-0000.

BF 27918 Acceptance of Scholarship from the Kopp Family Foundation in Partnership with KOPP Investment Advisors (Arlington)

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to allow Arlington Senior High School to accept a gift of $6,000.00 from the Kopp Family Foundation in partnership with Kopp Investment Advisors. The $6,000.00 will be deposited in Intra-School Fund: 19-240-291-000-5096-0000.

BF 27919 Gift Acceptance from the Kopp Family Foundation (Central)

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to allow Central High School to accept a monetary gift from the Kopp Family Foundation to be used as designated. The total gift of $6,000.00 will be deposited into the Central High School intra-school account, 19-210-000-000-5096-0000.

BF 27920 Gift Acceptance of Scholarship from the Kopp Family Foundation in Partnership with KOPP Investment Advisors (Johnson)

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to allow Johnson Senior High School to accept this grant from the Kopp Family Foundation in partnership with Kopp Investment Advisors. This grant of $5,000.00 will be deposited into the Intra-School Fund: 19-230-000-000-5096-0000.

BF 27921 Gift Acceptance from Macy's Foundation

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to allow Eastern Heights Elementary School to accept a monetary gift of $5,000.00 from Macy's Foundation. The total amount will be deposited in Intra-school Fund 19-452-000-000-5096-0000.

BF 27922 Money Received from Wal-Mart Stores, Inc.

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to give Highwood Hills permission to order ball chairs for our intermediate students.

2. Grants

BF 27923 Request for Permission to Submit a Grant Application to Citigroup Foundation for Academics of Finance at Arlington, Como Park and Johnson High School

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to submit a grant application to Citigroup Foundation for the continued implementation of Academy of Finance at Arlington, Como Park and Johnson High Schools in the district; to accept funds, if awarded; and to implement the project as specified in the award documents.

BF 27924 Request for Permission to Submit a Grant Application to Dollar General for the Homecroft Family Literacy Program

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to submit a grant application to Dollar General for funds to promote family literacy through the Homecroft Family Literacy Program; to accept funds, if awarded; and to implement the project as specified in the award documents.

BF 27925 Request for Permission to Accept Grants from the Ecolab Foundation

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to accept grants from The ECOLAB Foundation to support school program changes for schools in restructuring, particularly the Humboldt Complex and to augment classroom curriculum for students in grades K-12 by providing additional classroom materials and learning opportunities to help reach learning goals through the *Vision for Learning* grant program; and to implement the projects as specified in the award documents.

BF 27926 Request for Permission to Submit a Grant Application to the Minnesota Department of Education for an Adult Basic Education (ABE) for the English Literacy and Civics Education Program Grant

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to submit a grant application to the Minnesota Department of Education ABE to provide an integrated program of services in order for limited English proficient persons to be able to understand and navigate governmental, educational and workplace systems; to accept funds, if awarded; and to implement the project as specified in the award documents.

BF 27927 Request for Permission to Submit a Grant Application to the Minnesota Department of Education for an Adult Basic Education (ABE) Supplemental Services Grant

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to submit a grant application to the Minnesota Department of Education for funds to provide specialized supplemental ABE services to adult students; to accept funds, if awarded, and to implement the project as specified in the award documents.

BF 27928 Request for Permission to Submit an Application to the Panasonic Corporation of North America for the Panasonic National School Change Award

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to submit an application to the Panasonic Corporation of North America for the National School Change Award; to accept funds, if awarded; and to implement the project as specified in the award documents.

BF 27929 Permission to Submit an Adult Basic Education Proposal for 2009-2010 and Distribute Funds to Saint Paul Literacy Consortium Members

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to submit a grant application to the Minnesota Department of Education to provide Adult Basic Education services for the 2009-2010 year, to accept funds, if awarded, and to disburse funds to Saint Paul Community Literacy Consortium members based on the adult basic education formula.

BF 27930 Request for Permission to Submit Grant Applications to the Minnesota State Arts Board for Arts in Education School Support

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to submit grant applications to the Minnesota State Arts Board for funds to implement arts residency programs at seven schools; to accept funds, if awarded; and to implement the projects as specified in the award documents.

BF 27931 Request for Permission to Submit a Grant Application to the State Library Services for Phalen lake Hmong Studies Magnet

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to submit a grant application to State Library Services for Phalen Lake Hmong Magnet; to accept funds, if awarded; and to implement the project as specified in the award documents.

BF 27932 Request for Permission to Submit a Grant Pre-Application to the United States Department of Education for Early Reading First Programs at Saint Paul Public Schools

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to submit a grant pre-application to the United State Department of Education for a grant to expand and enhance opportunities for low-income preschool-age children to participate in literacy-based early childhood programs; to accept funds, if awarded; and to implement the project(s) as specified in the award documents.

BF 27933 Request for Permission to Submit a Grant Application to the Weesner Foundation

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to submit a grant application to the Weesner Foundation; to accept funds and to implement the project as specified in the award documents.

3. Agreements

BF 27934 Approval to Enter into an Agreement with AVID Center

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to enter into an agreement with AVID Center for the continued implementation of the AVID program at the secondary level and at the elementary level.

BF 27935 Authorization for Agreement with Carl Bolander and Sons Company for Specialized Transition Employment Planning (STEP) Program

That the Board of Education authorize execution by the Chair and Clerk of a lease agreement between the district and Carl Bohlander and Sons Company for suites 126 and 127 at 251 Starkey Street, Saint Paul, for the term August 1, 2009 through July 31, 2010 for the Specialized Transition Employment Plan (STEP) program, and subject to all other terms and conditions of said agreement.

BF 27936 Authorization for Agreement with Carl Bolander and Sons Company for a Transition Plus Program

That the Board of Education authorize execution by the Chair and Clerk of a lease agreement between the district and Carl Bohlander and Sons Company for suite 128 at 251 Starkey Street, Saint Paul, for the term August 1, 2009 through July 31, 2010 for the Transition Plus Program, and subject to all other terms and conditions of said agreement.

BF 27937 Request for Permission to Enter into a Food Service Agreement with Various Schools And Programs

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to enter into agreements to provide food service for non-Saint Paul district schools and programs.

BF 27938 Authorization to Enter into a Joint Purchase Agreement

That the Board of Education authorize the Administration to enter into an individual Joint Purchasing Agreement with the Cooperative Purchasing Network in order to enhance the district's buying power by participating in cooperative purchases, bid and contracts.

4. Contracts

BF 27939 Authorization for an Amendment to the Contract with Public Consulting Group, Inc.

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to approve the Amendment to the contract with Public Consulting Group, Inc. to add the Easy IEP module in accordance with the terms and conditions of the Amendment.

BF 27940 Request to Amend the 2008-09 Project Early Kindergarten Contract with Resources For Child Caring

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to amend the Project Early Kindergarten contract with Resources for Child Caring to provide the mentioned services for the period of July 1, 2008 – June 30, 2009 at the cost of $263,377.00

5. Administrative Items

BF 27941 Establishment of the Unclassified Position of Legal Assistant for Independent School District No. 625 and Relevant Terms and Conditions of Employment

That the Board of Education of Independent School District No. 625 approve the establishment of the Legal Assistant job classification effective April 14, 2009; that the Board of Education declare this position as unclassified; and that the pay rate be Grade 36 of the Minnesota School Employees Association standard ranges.

BF 27942 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 April 23, 2009, should they not comply with Minnesota State Health Standards for Immunizations on or before this date.

BF 27943 Literacy Materials Selection Recommendation

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent to formally adopt the textbooks recommended by the Textbook Selection Committee for Elementary Literacy.

BF 27944 Request for Permission to Submit an Application to the State for School Breakfast, School Lunch and After School Snack and Kindergarten Milk Funds

That the Saint Paul Public Schools' Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to submit a consolidated application for school breakfast, school lunch, after school snack and Kindergarten milk funds for the 2009-2010 school year and, if granted, to accept such funds.

BF 27945 Request for Permission to Submit an Application to the State for Summer Food Service Program Funds

That the Saint Paul Public Schools' Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to submit a application for Summer Food Service Program, and if awarded, to accept such funds.

BF 27946 Establishment of the Unclassified Position of Project Manager for Independent School District No. 625 and Relevant Terms and Conditions of Employment

That the Board of Education of Independent School District No. 625 approve the establishment of the Project Manager job classification effective April 14, 2009, that the Board of Education declare the position of Project Manager unclassified; and that the pay rate be Grade 25 of the 2008-2009 Saint Paul Supervisors Organization standard ranges.

6. Bids

BF 27947 RFP No. A9304-M – District Audit Services

That the Board of Education authorize award of RFP No. A9304-M and designate the superintendent to enter into a contract with KPMG, LLP for District Audit Services for a three year period in the amount of $338,250.00.

BF 27948 Bid No. A9309-M Piping Replacement at North End Elementary School

That the Board of Education authorize award of Bid No. A9309-M for the piping replacement at North End Elementary School to the lowest responsible bidder, Schreiber Mullaney Construction for $471,353.00, the lump sum base bid plus alternates no. 1, 2 and 3.

BF 27949 Bid No. A9311-M Piping Replacement at Battle Creek Elementary School

That the Board of Education authorize award of Bid No. kA9311-M for the piping replacement at Battle Creek Elementary School to the lowest responsible bidder, Parkos Construction Company, Inc., for $338,900.00, the lump sum base bid plus alternates no. 2 and 3.

BF 27950 Bid No. A9312-M Roof Replacement at District Service Facility, 1930 Como Avenue

That the Board of Education authorize award of Bid No. A9312-M for the roof replacement at District Service Facility to the lowest responsible bidder, John A. Daisin & Son, Inc. for $975,787.00, the lump sum base bid plus alternate no. 1.

X. OLD BUSINESS

XI. NEW BUSINESS

1. **BF 27951** Statement in Support of Early Childhood Education

Board of Education Directors and Administrators from the Minneapolis and Saint Paul Public Schools, along with the Presidents of the Minneapolis and St. Paul Federations of Teachers, have come together to issue this joint statement on behalf of our students about the importance of early childhood education.

We support well-funded, culturally-responsive, quality early childhood education programs for the following reasons:

- Current brain research shows that the early years – birth to five – are the most critical years for the over-all development of our children.
- Research shows that participation in high quality care and education programs before kindergarten has a dramatic impact on a child's future school success.
- The achievement gap is an issue facing every school district in Minnesota, but especially districts with high numbers of low income students, students of color, American Indians, and English Language Learners. High quality pre-school programs available to three and four year olds, regardless of income, can effectively help to overcome the gap.
- Early childhood education allows for early identification of and intervention with children who have special needs or other barriers to school readiness.
- Working with young children and their families builds an early partnership that is essential to future school success.

For too long, the K-12 system and the community of early childhood education and care have not worked together as well as we could. We have often functioned in separate silos, seeing ourselves as competitors, rather than partners for our children. While both Minneapolis and Saint Paul Public Schools are making substantial investments in early education, intervention and screening, we realize there is still a long way to go.

As we move forward we are eager to:

- Form a stronger partnership between the K-12 system and community providers of care and education for young children and their families.

- Work within our school districts to build appreciation for the importance of early education
- Strengthen our own early childhood programs and early intervention strategies.
- Facilitate a strong and seamless transition to kindergarten.
- Work with the state legislature and the federal government to increase funding for early childhood education in order to enhance quality and improve access.
- Create a strong collaborative from pre-kindergarten through third grade to ensure that all children are supported and successful.

Minnesota business, government, nonprofit and education leaders have been advocating for public and private investments in early childhood education for quite some time. President Obama has declared his firm support for early childhood education as part of his vision of improving education in the United States. We look forward to working with the state and federal government, as well as the private sector, to make Minnesota a leader in the education of young children. We have a historic opportunity to improve the lives of our youngest community members.

MOTION: Ms. Carroll moved, seconded by Mr. Brodrick, that the Board of Education accept and approve the Statement in Support of Early Childhood Education.

The motion passed with the following roll call vote:

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

2. Project Labor Agreements
   - **Pavement Remediation at Johnson Senior High School**
   - **Partial Roof Replacement at Mississippi Elementary School**

MOTION: Ms. Carroll moved, seconded by Mr. Conlon, that the administrative recommendation be accepted and that no PLAs be used in conjunction with the Pavement Remediation at Johnson Senior High School or the Partial Roof Replacement at Mississippi Elementary School

The motion passed with the following roll call vote:

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

XII. BOARD OF EDUCATION

1. Information Requests and Responses
   - **Request for Overtime Analysis**
   - **Request for Job Analysis provide chart of information**

   The Superintendent provided a chart which addressed the questions raised on these issues.

2. Items for Future Agendas - None
3. Board of Education Reports/Communications

Ms. Street-Stewart indicated she would be scheduling a report on the recent NSBA/CUBE Conferences which she attended.

4. Transition Update

The Board Chair reported the Board is committed to finding the best candidate to serve as the new superintendent in order to move the district to the next level while building on the foundation of success that has already been put in place. As part of the commitment the Board recently met with a representative of the BROAD Foundation who provided guidance and best practices to most effectively and efficiently conduct a superintendent search. The next steps will be to communicate the process and timeline in more detail to the various stakeholders. To that end a portion of the Board website will be devoted to the Superintendent Search so that information will be readily available as the search progresses. A full communication and engagement plan will be in place soon which will guide how stakeholders are informed and included in the process.

She announced the evening of Thursday, May 7 would see a community open house to bid farewell to Superintendent Carstarphen as she moves on to the next chapter of her career.

A press release will be provided when the Superintendent Search website is up and running.

XIII. FUTURE MEETINGS SCHEDULE

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

2. Committee of the Board Meetings
   - May 5
   - May 19, 2009 (4:45-5:30) – Special COB (Update on Health Care Renewal Process)
   - June 9

3. Action to schedule Board and Committee of the Board meetings for remainder of 2009
   - Board of Education Meetings
     - August 18
     - September 22
     - October 20
     - November 10 4:30 p.m. (Canvass Election Results)
     - November 17
     - December 15
     - January 5, 2010 Annual Meeting
     - January 19

   - Committee of the Board Meetings
     - July 14
     - August 4
     - September 1
     - October 6
     - November 10 – 5:00 p.m.
     - December 1

MOTION: Mr. Conlon moved that the Board of Education adopt the schedule of dates for Board of Education and Committee of the Board meetings as published. Motion seconded by Ms. Carroll.

The motion passed with the following roll call vote:

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

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Mr. Brodrick moved, seconded by Ms. Carroll, the meeting adjourn.

The meeting adjourned at 9:18 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