

**INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 625  
SAINT PAUL, MN  
MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING**

**JUNE 15, 2009**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 5:45 p.m.

**II. ROLL CALL**

PRESENT: Ms. Street-Stewart, Ms. Carroll, Mr. Conlon, Mr. Hardy, Ms. Kong-Thao, Mr. Goldstein, Mr. Brodrick, Chief of Staff, Ms. Kelly and Assistant Clerk, Ms. Polsfuss

**III ORDER OF THE AGENDA**

The Chair stated the meeting had been called to provide an opportunity for the board to listen to the public's comments on the temporary closing of Longfellow and Roosevelt Elementary Schools and the repurposing of Sheridan Elementary School. She then described the process to be utilized for the public comments.

The Chief of Staff stated the Large Scale System Change (LSSC) proposal addresses several areas: academic reform, rightsizing/consolidation, employee effectiveness and development and school choice. In the area of rightsizing/consolidation administration has recommended the following timeline for Board actions:

- On June 16 but no later than July 21, 2009 – action on the temporary closure of Longfellow and Roosevelt for up to three years to allow time for administration to determine future use of the facilities. If approved, the temporary closure would take effect on June 15, 2010, the day after the last day for staff.
- On June 16 but no later than July 21, 2009– action to approve the repurposing of Sheridan Elementary, ending the current elementary school program at the site and providing a different academic program for students at the site. If approved, the repurposing would take effect June 15, 2010, the day after the last day for staff. The repurposing may require additional Board action, as noted under District policy, regarding grade reconfiguration if the new program has grades other than preK-6.
- By August 18, 2009 – Action to approve the attendance area changes needed as a result of temporary school closures Longfellow and Roosevelt and the repurposing of Sheridan.

Administration was called upon to provide a brief overview of the process by which the decision was arrived at on these three schools. The Chief of Schools indicated elementary enrollments have been declining for the past ten years and fewer elementary kids means fewer students in the junior high grades a few years later. The decline has just begun in the senior high schools. This decline has lead to the current structural deficit where the District has fixed costs that exceed revenue from enrollment. Elementary should remain steady over the next four years, middle school enrollment is projected to show a slight decline over the next three years and the high schools a rather significant decline over the next five years.

Administration looked at facility conditions, functional capacity, fixed capacity. Capacity calculations from the Facilities conditions and Educational Adequacy Assessments used SY 08-09 enrollment to identify district surplus capacity. Targets for eliminations of district surplus capacity were based on an average of the overall functional and fixed capacity. The elementary goal for reducing capacity is 1,560. The Chief of Schools then went on to review the criteria matrix which utilized academic performance (meeting or exceeding district targets

and making AYP), the facility condition index and enrollment levels and capacity comparisons (steady to increasing enrollment trends and the ratio of student enrollment to fixed capacity). Academic performance from prior years was also reviewed. The review focused on growth measures in reading and math for all identified subgroups, as well as the District Accountability School Summary Score.

**QUESTIONS:**

- Clarification was sought on the matrix. AYP figures were based on only one year. The School Accountability Summary and the subgroup data within that report on reading and math (whether exceeding, progressing or declining/static) were also considered in the matrix. The growth measures from the accountability summer were used because it measures growth between schools in the district (it is an apples to apples comparison factor).
- If a school had made average yearly progress for several years but did not in 07-08 that school would receive a zero? Yes
- The enrollment level and capacity comparison, what are the cut-offs which would determine the point whether a school is under steadily increasing enrollment trends and ratios of enrollment to capacity? Administration responded that information was not available at the meeting; administration would be able to provide it. The steady to increase would be based on? Several years of enrollment trend data compared to other schools.

Upon completion of the presentation public comment began.

- There were 3 individuals who spoke in support of keeping Longfellow open.
- 8 spoke in support of keeping Roosevelt open, and
- 7 spoke in favor of keeping current programming at Sheridan and not repurposing the building.

**IV ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION: Ms. Carroll moved he meeting adjourn. Motion seconded by Ms. Street-Stewart.**

The motion passed with the following roll call vote:

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

The meeting adjourned at 6:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Marilyn Polsfuss  
Assistant Clerk